

“Active Faith That Preserves The Soul”
Hebrews 10:26-39

Context: The author continues to call his readers away from returning to the pomp of the Jewish rituals in the midst persecution. He describes the danger involved in consciously as well as actively rejecting the authority of Christ in their lives. He precedes the passage with a reminder of Christ’s work and what confidence in that work should look like in the believer’s life. Specifically, his exhortation mirrors his words in 6:1-12 warning of the apostates actions and the expected judgment. He ends the chapter with a call back to the faith that one demonstrated when first meeting Christ in hope of the promised reward. The writer follows it in chapter 11 with examples of faith from the Old Testament who “fixed their eyes” on the future promise (Jesus) of God. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Life Principle: Focusing on the hope God’s future promise can alleviate the trials of the day (cf. Hebrews 10:32-36).

1. Willful Destruction – Hebrews 10:26-39

The willful, continuous sin of one who professes Christ negates his profession. By continuing to sin (reject the will, call, and commands of God), the apostate rejects the authority of Christ in his/her life therefore rejecting Christ’s sacrifice for life. This is emphasized by the imagery in v.29 “trampled under foot the Son of God” (NASB). This imagery refers to the days of conquerors who would place their foot on the throat on the king or ruler of the conquered city (Barnes, Hebrews, p.241). The apostate despises Christ by rejecting His authority in life.

2. Faith that preserves – Hebrews 10:32-39

The author begins the section with a call to remember the things that once demonstrated their love for Christ. He recalls how they suffered together and took care of one another. The community willingly suffered all things for the sake of Christ, but somewhere became tired of the suffering. The writer then calls the church to endure by keeping their eyes focused on the promise of Christ’s return by using Old Testament prophecy that speaks of judgment. It serves as a reminder that those who are faithful to God will obtain a reward while those who despise Christ must face judgment.

For Further Study:

- Verse 26 starts out with admonition against “sinning willfully” to the one who has received the “knowledge of the truth.” As a Bible study exercise look up these two phrases in the Greek. What is different about this type of knowledge (*epignosis*) and other uses of the word knowledge (*gnosis*)? What does this mean for the one who confesses Christ with their words but not with willful actions or thoughts?

- Hebrews 10:37-38 uses quotes from Old Testament prophets and applies them to the New Testament believer. Look at these quotations in their original context (Is. 26:20; Hag. 2:6; Hab. 2:3,4). How can we apply these to current struggles or hurts? How can these promises help us to hold fast in a faith perseveres?

- Hebrews 10:32-39 discusses a faith that preserves our souls. As you read throughout this section make note of the things that characterized the believers when they were first “enlightened.” Verse 34 gives thought to the community struggling together. How should this be applied to GracePoint and your walk with the body? Think about your own spiritual walk; was there anything that once characterized your walk that you need to return to? As you reflect, is there anything God has called you to that has been refused or deemed too difficult? How can we overcome these difficulties as a unified body of Christ?

Transformation exercise:

Reflect on Hebrews 10:36. Ask the Spirit to search your heart to reveal anything of God’s will that needs to be done or has been neglected. In recognizing God’s grace and the sufficiency of Christ, ask for His power to accomplish His will.