

HOW TO ACQUIRE A STEADFAST FAITH

(Heb. 10:19-25)

Introduction:

1. What a blessing our young people are to us. The title of this morning's lesson comes from a sermon request from one of our young people. How good that the acquiring of a steadfast faith is what is desired instead of the tickling of ears.
2. The Bible is literally filled with admonitions to and prescriptions how to acquire a steadfast faith, but this morning let us focus on a message from the book of Hebrews. This book was written to brethren considering departing from the faith, and thus is ideal for addressing this question.
3. Let us consider the powerful teaching in Heb. 10:19-25, the Bible salad of a steadfast faith: let us draw near, let us hold fast, and let us consider one another.

Discussion:

I. Let us draw near (Heb. 10:22).

- A. Sin separates mankind from God (Is. 59:1, 2).
 1. Faithful obedience (especially animal sacrifice) was the means under the Patriarchal System by which man could approach God.
 2. The book of Leviticus is the means by which the Israelites could remain in special fellowship with God (note Ex. 33:1-5).
 3. Under the Christian System we have a "new and living way" (Heb. 10:19-21) to draw near (be reconciled) to God.
- B. With a true heart.
 1. With a heart that is the "opposite of fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated, or pretended"-Thayer. A heart that "bears not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name"-Thayer.
 2. Why a true heart? Because "with the heart one believes unto righteousness" (Rom. 10:9).
 3. A person with a false or divided heart cannot draw near to God (Matt. 15:8 = Is. 29:13; Matt. 6:24; Jas. 1:6-8).
- C. In full assurance of faith.
 1. Assured of the messenger (Heb. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:5, 6).
 2. Assured of the message (Heb. 6:17-20).
- D. Washed with pure water.
 1. The water is pure because of God's command (Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5).
 2. Our hearts are "sprinkled" from an evil conscience because we have obeyed God's word and are thus accounted righteous (Heb. 9:11-14; cp. 1 Pet. 3:21).

II. Let us hold fast (Heb. 10:23).

- A. Literally to "hold down" (*katecho*-Strong), figuratively to keep from moving as a ship-Thayer (remember Heb. 6:19).
- B. Hold fast the confession (the *homologia* = the saying of the same thing) of hope (*elpis* = expectation of evil or good-Thayer).
 1. Heb. 6:17-20 says it all again.
 2. So much is implied in this command/exhortation.
 - a. It is possible to let go of that hope (shipwreck of faith-1 Tim. 1:19).
 - b. It is possible to trust our anchor and never be lost (2 Tim. 4:7).
- C. Hold fast the confession of hop without wavering (*klino* = incline or recline-Thayer). Our faith ought not be tossed to and fro (Eph. 4:14). This is done via 1 Tim. 4:12-16 and 2 Pet. 1:3-11.
- D. One last thing, consider the inspiration of the Holy Spirit pleading with us to remain saved, washed, near to God. Consider the love and affection inherent in that.

III. Let us consider one another (Heb. 10:24).

- A. Consider = *katanoeo* = think towards. Christians are to be mindful of one another.
- B. For the purpose of...

1. Stirring one another up to love and good works (cp. 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 16:2; Eph. 4:11-16).
2. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some.
 - a. In context, this is speaking of those leaving Christianity to go back to Judaism.
 - b. But in principle, it speaks of those leaving the “called out” in order to “go back in”, whether completely or in part.
 - c. Consider 1 Cor. 12:14-27 and what it teaches about Christians who refuse to assemble or work with the body of Christ (cp. 1 John 2:19).
3. Exhorting (parakaleo = calling to one’s side to instruct-Thayer) one another.
4. And so much more!!!! As you see the Day (of judgment) approaching (cp. Rom. 13:7-14; 1 Thess. 4:1, 10; Luke 6:38). Following verse warn of the coming judgment upon those who willfully ignore the instructions of the Lord.

Conclusion:

1. Such a simple message and yet it encompasses all the Christian faith: consider the truth and avail yourself of it; once you have the truth and are walking in it do not forsake it, and help others walking in the light. Sounds a lot like love God with all and love your neighbor as yourself.
2. Invitation.

MORE ON “HOW TO ACQUIRE A STEADFAST FAITH”

1. Steadfast = *sterizo* (to make stable, place firmly, set fast, to render constant) Luke 9:51; Rom. 1:11; Col. 2:5; 1 Thess. 3:2; 2 Pet. 1:12; 3:17; et al.

And *hedraios* (sitting, sedentary, firm, immovable) 1 Cor. 7:37; 15:58; Col. 1:23; 1 Tim. 3:15.

2. Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth teaches us how to acquire a steadfast faith. He encouraged their faith in and love of God; he confronted their problems one by one and addressed the root of all the problems (lack of love), he taught them to love (God and brethren) more perfectly, dealt with an insipient heresy that was springing up in the church (re: the resurrection of the dead), and then summarized it all in that wonderful last verse of chapter 15.
3. Consider Eph. 4:11-16 and what it teaches about how to acquire a steadfast faith.
4. How about Eph. 6:10-17 = *histemi* = to cause or make to stand, to place, to put, to set (cp. *sterizo*). Think of kubb setting of blocks.
5. Consider Rom. 8 which says and teaches it all.

-VV 1-4 = Where and how salvation is available “in Christ”.

-VV 5-17 = How one lives by the Spirit and how it saves us.

-VV 18-25 = the hope that makes our striving to live by the Spirit worth while.

-VV 26-39 = the help we have regarding salvation: Holy Spirit; Jesus Christ; and God the Father.