



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

SAME FAITH.
SAME GOD.
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW.

WE DON'T GO BACK

HEBREWS 10:36-39

Pastor
MIKE HOLLOWAY

PREACHING • TEACHING • EQUIPPING
FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW



HOLD FAST.
KEEP BELIEVING.
PRESS ON.



Hebrews 10:36-39

For you have need of endurance, so that **after** you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

The Context: Hebrews 10:26–39

10:26–31 — A severe warning against deliberate apostasy.

10:32–34 — Remember your former endurance under suffering.

10:35 — Do not throw away your confidence.

10:36–39 — Endure, expect Christ, live by faith, and do not shrink back.

The Warning Behind the Teaching

The danger is not ordinary weakness or a momentary stumble.

The warning concerns repudiating Christ after knowing the sufficiency of His sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:29 describes apostasy as treating the Son of God with contempt.

There is no alternative sacrifice outside of Christ.

Remember What You Already Endured

They endured a “great struggle with sufferings” — 10:32.

They experienced public reproach and affliction — 10:33.

They identified with other suffering believers — 10:33.

They accepted the plundering of their possessions — 10:34.

The call is: do not abandon now what you previously suffered to confess.

Verse 36 — The Need

“For you have need of endurance...”

Greek: ὑπομονή (hypomonē) — steadfastness, perseverance, patient endurance.

It describes remaining under pressure without abandoning one’s commitment.

Their greatest immediate need was not novelty—it was endurance.

Verse 36 — The Need

They already knew the truth; their need was to **remain faithful to what they already believed.**

Their greatest need was not something new; they needed the endurance to remain faithful to what they already knew and believed.

Endurance: Staying Under the Load

Biblical endurance is not passive resignation.

It is faithful persistence while pressure continues.

The pressure says: RETREAT.

Faith says: REMAIN.

Perseverance keeps trusting God when obedience becomes costly.

The Connection to Verse 35

Verse 35: “Do not cast away your confidence.”

Verse 36: “For you have need of endurance.”

Confidence must be protected by perseverance.

Do not throw away what persecution is trying to take away.

“After You Have Done the Will of God”

Doing God’s will does not mean earning salvation by works.

Hebrews 10:14: Christ’s one offering is sufficient.

Here, doing God’s will means remaining faithfully aligned with God under pressure.

Obedient perseverance is the fruit of faith—not the purchase price of salvation.

“You May Receive the Promise”

Hebrews looks forward to the believer’s final inheritance.

Hebrews 6:12 — inherit the promises through faith and patience.

Hebrews 9:15 — promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 10:34 — a better and enduring possession.

Promise given → faith exercised → endurance required → inheritance received.

A Crucial Distinction

Endurance does not purchase God's promise.

Endurance carries faith forward until the promise is fully realized.

Grace establishes the promise.

Faith receives the promise.

Perseverance continues trusting the Promiser.

Verse 37 — The Coming One

“For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.”

The author draws from Habakkuk 2:3–4.

Hebrews applies the expectation to Christ.

The foundation for endurance is not optimism—it is the certainty of Christ’s coming.

Habakkuk in Its Original Setting

Habakkuk wrestled with evil, injustice, and apparent divine delay.

God assured the prophet that the appointed vision would surely come.

The righteous were called to trust God while waiting.

Hebrews applies that same pattern to Christians facing pressure.

“He Who Is Coming”

Christ has already appeared to deal with sin.

Hebrews 9:28 says He will appear a second time for salvation.

The suffering church lives between Christ's first and second appearing.

The first coming guarantees the certainty of the second.

“Yet a Little While”

Present suffering is temporary; God’s promised future is enduring.

The phrase gives eschatological perspective to present hardship.

Do not interpret temporary pressure as permanent defeat.

What hurts now does not have the final word.

“He Will Not Tarry”

Habakkuk holds together apparent delay and divine punctuality.

From our perspective, fulfillment may seem delayed.

From God’s appointed timetable, His promise will not be late.

God may not operate according to our timetable, but He is never late according to His.

Verse 38 — The Righteous Live by Faith

“Now the just shall live by faith...”

Greek: πίστις (pistis) — faith, trust, faithfulness.

Faith is not merely intellectual agreement.

In Hebrews, faith continues trusting God when retreat would be easier.

Habakkuk 2:4 in the New Testament

Romans 1:17 — emphasizes righteousness and faith.

Galatians 3:11 — contrasts faith with justification by law.

Hebrews 10:38 — emphasizes persevering faith under pressure.

The same text serves different arguments without changing its essential truth.

Faith Is More Than a Beginning

Faith is how the Christian life begins—and how it continues.

Saving faith looks to Christ.

Persevering faith keeps looking to Christ.

Faith continues believing the promise when circumstances argue against it.

Faith + Endurance

Hebrews 6:12 joins “faith and patience.”

Faith believes God.

Endurance keeps believing God when believing becomes costly.

Perseverance is faith stretched across time and tested by pressure.

Verse 38 — “If Anyone Draws Back”

Greek: ὑποστέλλω (hypostellō) — withdraw, shrink back, retreat.

The image is movement backward under pressure.

The readers are being warned against abandoning Christ.

The danger is apostasy—not simply having a difficult spiritual season.

The Direction of Apostasy

They had confessed Christ.

They had suffered for Christ.

Pressure now tempted them to retreat from Christ.

Hebrews says: do not go backward to perceived safety at the cost of abandoning the Son.

“My Soul Has No Pleasure in Him”

God does not approve the one who abandons faith.

Hebrews 11:6: “without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

Hebrews 10:38 and 11:6 intentionally fit together.

Faith pleases God; apostate retreat does not.

Verse 39 — The Pastoral Reassurance

“But we are not of those who draw back to perdition...”

After issuing the warning, the author expresses confidence concerning his readers.

He includes himself: “WE are not...”

The warning is serious, but despair is not the author’s final word.

Two Trajectories

Shrinking back → ἀπώλεια (apōleia): destruction, ruin, perdition.

Believing → preservation/saving of the soul.

The contrast is not strong Christians versus weak Christians.

The contrast is apostate retreat versus persevering faith.

“To the Saving of the Soul”

Greek phrase: πίστεως εἰς περιποίησιν ψυχῆς.

περιποίησις can convey preservation, obtaining, or possession.

The author describes faith moving toward final preservation.

Faith does not abandon the Christ in whom it rests.

Weakness Is Not the Same as Apostasy

Believers may struggle, stumble, grieve, doubt, and become discouraged.

The passage addresses something more decisive: shrinking back from Christ.

The opposite of apostasy in verse 39 is not sinless perfection.

The opposite of apostasy is continuing faith.

Hebrews 6 and Hebrews 10

Hebrews 6 gives a severe warning, then says: “we are confident of better things concerning you.”

Hebrews 10 gives a severe warning, then says: “we are not of those who draw back.”

Both passages combine real warning with pastoral confidence.

The warnings call the church to perseverance.

Warnings and Perseverance

Biblical warnings are real and must not be softened.

Yet warnings can function as God's means of keeping His people vigilant.

The proper response to a warning is not presumption or despair.

The proper response is renewed faith, obedience, and endurance.

Why Hebrews 11 Comes Next

10:38 — “The just shall live by faith.”

10:39 — “We are...of those who believe.”

11:1 — “Now faith is...”

11:4 onward — Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and others demonstrate enduring faith.

Hebrews 11 illustrates the command of Hebrews 10:38–39.

Hebrews 11 Is Not a Detached Hall of Fame

The examples answer a practical question: What does persevering faith look like?

Faith obeys before it sees the outcome.

Faith waits for what God has promised.

Faith accepts present cost because it values God's future reward.

The Already / Not Yet

Christ has already offered the perfect sacrifice.

Christ has already inaugurated the New Covenant.

Christ has already entered the heavenly sanctuary.

Christ has already sat down at God's right hand.

But believers still await His appearing and the consummation of salvation.

WE ARE NOT GOING BACK!

Hebrews 10:36–39

“...we are not of those who draw back...”