

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: CONFIDENCE BY OBEDIENCE

HEBREWS 10:22FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. Through the shed blood of Jesus, we can have confidence in our relationship with God and hope of heaven.
2. There is a comparison between the ineffective sacrifices of the Old Testament, and the sacrifice of Christ. (Heb. 9.22; 10.4,14,18)
2. In the second half of the chapter, our confidence rests on our remaining faithful and obedient. (Heb. 10.35,36)

I. DESCRIPTION OF FORGIVENESS

- A. Forgiveness is described as being cleansed.
 1. **HEBREWS 10.2:** "*For the worshippers once purified*"
 2. Baptism applies the blood. (Acts 22.16; Titus 3.5)
- B. Forgiveness is described as no longer thinking about sin.
 1. **HEBREWS 10.2:** "*no more consciousness of sin.*"
 2. We no longer have to think about our past. (Heb. 10.17)
- C. Forgiveness is described as taking away sins.
 1. **HEBREWS 10.4:** "*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*"
 2. Take Away: Literally, to choose away from.
- D. Forgiveness is described as being sanctified. (Heb. 10.10)
- E. Forgiveness is described as being able to draw near to God.
 1. **HEBREWS 10.1:** "*make those who approach perfect.*"
 2. **HEBREWS 10.22:** "*let us draw near to God.*"

II. CONFIDENCE COMES FROM LIVES OF OBEDIENCE

- A. Harmony with God's people.
 1. Three "let us" statements. (Heb. 10.22-24)
 2. **HEBREWS 10.24:** "*Let us consider one another...*"
 3. **HEBREWS 10.25:** "*not forsaking the assembling...*"
- B. Hell as a fear of the disobedient.
 1. **HEBREWS 10.26:** "*For if we sin willfully...*"
 2. **HEBREWS 10.27:** "*fearful expectation of judgment*"
 3. **HEBREWS 10.28-31:** "*it is a fearful thing...*"
- C. Heaven as an assurance of the obedient.
 1. **HEBREWS 10.32-34:** "*better and enduring possession*"
 2. **HEBREWS 10.35.36:** "*you may receive the promise*"

CONCLUSION: Be careful not to be like "*those who draw back to perdition*" (Heb. 10.29).

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"

-Mark 16.15

April 4, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

ARE YOU SPIRITUAL?

Occasionally, someone will claim, "I am spiritual, but I'm not religious." The meaning behind such a statement is that one has spiritual awareness but is not bound to the restraints imposed by religion. One has a connection with God but does not follow a strictness of religious doctrines. If we are honest with the Bible, it becomes clear one cannot be spiritual without being religious. It is impossible to have a relationship with God without adhering to His will. What does the Bible say about being spiritual?

In Romans 8, I find that I am saved based on two conditions. First, salvation belongs "*to those who are in Christ Jesus*" (Rom. 8.1). Second, salvation belongs to those "*who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*" (Rom. 8.1). I am spiritual when I walk according to the Spirit. But what does that mean? To walk according to the Spirit is to allow the Spirit to direct my thoughts (Rom. 8.5,6). To walk according to the Spirit is to allow the Spirit to direct my actions (Rom. 8.13,14). A comprehensive study of the New Testament will reveal that the Spirit is the means by which the word of God is revealed. Thus to live by the Spirit is to direct your mind and actions by the word of God (John 14.12-15).

I am not spiritual because I oppose the doctrines of religion. Those who do not listen to scripture are told that "*this one's religion is useless*" (James 1.26,27). I am spiritual because my religion conforms to the commandments and teachings of the Bible. CLP

HAS GOD DISAPPOINTED YOU?

HEBREWS 12:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. When tragedy hits home, it can leave us feeling disappointed and let down by God.
2. From the very beginning, people have been disappointed by God. (Gen. 4.25; 35.18; 40.15; 2 Sam. 12.16; Matt. 26.36; 27.46)
3. Sometimes God, in His infinite wisdom, allows things to happen for our benefit.

I. GOD IS IN CONTROL

- A. Consider what God does. (Job 5.17-20)
 1. **JOB 5.18:** "*For He bruises, but binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.*"
 2. In context, Job had suffered great tragedy losing everything he held dear. (Job 1.13-17; 2.7)
 3. It was God who was ultimately responsible for Job's loss. (Job 1.12; 2.6)
 4. **DEUTERONOMY 32.39:** "*There is no God beside Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal*"
- B. Consider why God does what He does.
 1. **JOB 5.17:** "*Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects*"
 2. Trust in the One who is in control. (Prov. 3.5)

II. GOD IS LOVE

- A. There are times when life can be so difficult, you don't know how to move forward with your life.
 1. **HEBREWS 12.3:** "...*lest you become discouraged in your souls.*" Are you feeling discouraged?
 2. **HEBREWS 12.12,13:** "*Strengthen the hands that hang down and the feeble knees.*" Are your knees weak?
 3. Right in the middle of the context of being discouraged and weak, God explains why we suffer. (Heb. 12.5,6)
- B. God allows tragedy to come into our lives out of love to help us become stronger Christians.
 1. **ROMANS 5.3,4:** "*And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations...*" Tribulations build character.
 2. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.16,17:** Afflictions "*working for us.*"

CONCLUSION: Tragedy is part of the process of God helping you.

WHEN GOD SAYS "NO"

God promises "*I will never leave you nor forsake you*" (Heb. 13.5). But it can be hard to feel like God is there for you when He does not grant your petitions. If you pray with all your heart and God does not give you the things you have asked Him, it can be tempting to question God. Is God really concerned about my welfare? Is God really involved in my life? Knowing that God is all loving and involved in our lives, we might even be tempted to question ourselves. Have I done something wrong that has caused God to turn His ear away from my prayers (1 Pet. 3.12)? God hears the prayers of the righteous (James 5.16). Maybe I am not righteous in the eyes of God. If after careful self-examination, there is no sin in your life, why would God not grant your request?

The first thing to keep in mind when God says "no" is to consider things from His perspective. God can look at the past with perfect clarity and memory. God knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen (Rom. 4.17). He knows everything that is in the heart of every human being (Ps. 139.1-4). He then listens to my prayers and responds to them with His infinite knowledge and understanding (Rom. 11.33). From my limited knowledge and point of view, I may not understand why God would tell me no. But I have to trust that God sees things that I cannot see. So I have to trust in God and believe that He knows best.

The second thing to keep in mind when God says "no" is to be ready for something that is better. Sometimes God grants our request. Sometimes God denies our requests. And sometimes God denies our request because He has something better in mind. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul prayed three times for his infirmity to be removed, and three times God denied his request (2 Cor. 12.7-9). Why? God had something better in mind. In 2 Corinthians 12.9, Paul was told, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*" Instead of having his infirmities removed and developing self-confidence (v. 7), Paul was being told that by his infirmities remaining in place, it helped him to depend on the grace and strength of God.

Countless times in our lives, God has not only heard our prayers, but has been kind and gracious to grant our requests. Don't let the times when God says "no" to weaken your faith. Trust in the wisdom of God (Prov. 3.5), and look for the blessings God offers that you would not enjoy if God said "yes."

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