

WORD

²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

“Do not stop!” This is the bottom line of the passage above. Indeed, the writer tells the Hebrews at that time to not stop living the faith. By simply persevering, a believer can overcome a lot of challenges. And what was true in the early times is still true for us today. Here are some ways to help us persevere and overcome in this faith walk.

• **Sustain the hope.**

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

The writer of Hebrews exhorts the readers to stay on the course that leads to their ultimate hope in Christ. He said this despite being aware that the people were in great trial—he probably knew that this was most needed. What happens if one abandons faith in God and faces his or her trials alone?

• **Continue meeting together.**

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing . . .

Hebrews 10:25

To detach one’s self from the community of faith is not a good idea. It usually starts with the unwillingness to meet with other believers and the writer of Hebrews exhorts the believers to fight the temptation of not meeting together. Why is community in the form of our worship services and small groups today important (Acts 2:45-47, Psalm 133:1-3)?

• **Keep encouraging others.**

. . . but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

People need encouragement. Nowadays, people read self-help books or listen to inspirational talks just to get it. God is aware of this need and has given us many ways to get encouragement—through reading and hearing His Word and through His church. In what practical ways can believers encourage one another?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- What lesson of hope can we learn from Abraham in Hebrews 11:11?
- What were the early Christians in Acts 2:42-47 doing that we can apply today? What was the result of them meeting together? What was their attitude towards keeping the habit?
- How was Barnabas described in Acts 4:36? Barnabas vouched for Saul (Paul) before the Apostles in Acts 9:27. What does this show about how he saw Paul? What do you think is the connection between believing in others and encouraging them?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- Who can you encourage this week? How will you help that person strengthen his or her faith?
- List three names of the people you plan to invite in your group meeting next week.
- Call and encourage someone who is in the middle of a difficult situation. What will you share to him or her from God’s Word?