

When the Going Gets Tough

Hebrews 10:19-25 | September 20, 2020

Context: The recipients of this letter were doing a few things right. They suffered well for the faith and remained faithful (10:32-34). They served and were serving Christ's people well (6:10). However, due to persecution and persistent hard times, many of them were beginning to waver in the faith. This passage sums up what began in chapter 4:14 where the author exhorts believers to persevere because of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

We persevere through tough times together when:

1. We DRAW NEAR to God (19-22) - Exhortation #1
 - Remember Jesus (19-21)
 - We can enter God's Presence with confidence (19-20)
 - He is our High Priest (21)
 - With a sincere heart and assurance that leads to drawing near to God vs. an unbelieving heart that leads to turning away (3:12).
2. We HOLD TIGHT to the hope we profess (23) - Exhortation #2
 - "Hold unswervingly" (3:6, 3:14, 4:14)
 - "Hope we profess" - The salvation Jesus brings through his life, death, and resurrection.
3. We STEP OUT (24-25) - Exhortation #3
 - "Let us consider how" - to think about carefully or give careful consideration.
 - "Stir up" - Sharp disagreement, sharp difference of opinion (ex. Acts 15:39).
 - "Love and good deeds"
 - "Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing."
 - "Day approaching" - second coming of Christ

When the going gets tough, the tough (in Christ) get going!

Discussion Questions:

1. When was the last time you faced a hard time that shook your faith? Explain.
2. What are some of the wrong ways we respond as Christians when hard times hit?
3. Of the three exhortations in our passage, which one encourages you and why?
4. How can you use this passage in your discipling of others this week?



Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Begin by having each person describe something you feel the effects of but cannot touch.**
- 2. Next, take a moment and read Hebrews 10:19-25 out loud together.**
- 3. Who opened a way for us to enter heaven's Most Holy Place in verse 20? According to verse 19, what part of Jesus gave us the right to talk with our Father?**
Answer: Jesus, the Son of God (verse 20). The blood of Jesus (verse 19).
- 4. In verses 19-21, what do you observe about who Jesus is?**
Answer: Jesus is our High Priest, meaning He has mediated for us and atoned for our sins (verse 21). Jesus is our salvation, granting us access to our Heavenly Father (verse 20).
- 5. Tell of a time when you made a promise to someone. What promises did Jesus give us in verses 22 and 23? Let us look at another promise later on in Hebrews 13:8.**
Answer: We can go to God freely and boldly because of the work of Jesus Christ (verse 22). God is trustworthy to keep His promises (verse 23). In Hebrews 13:8 it says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Jesus will always stay true to who He is.
- 6. What does it mean to suffer/go through a hard time? When have you gone through something hard?**
Answer: Suffering means to endure amid pain or hardship. It is to remain in a right position with our Father no matter what is going on around us. He is our anchor in times of suffering.
- 7. What does it mean to draw near to God as described in verse 23? Read James 4:7-10 out loud as a family. What are the ways mentioned in the passage we can draw close to God?**
Answer: Drawing near to God means talking to God with sincerity in prayer with a right attitude in our hearts. Humble yourselves before God (verse 7). Resist the devil (verse 7). Acknowledge and confess your sins before the Lord (verses 8-9).
- 8. What does the word encouragement mean in verse 25? What are some forms of encouragement? Can you think of someone to encourage this week?**
Answer: Encouragement means to give someone support in various forms for the purpose of building them up in the body of Christ. Encouragement can come in the form of teaching, comforting, strengthening, or worshiping together.