

~~Better.~~ Better Hope

Hebrews 10:32-39 NKJV: But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

In our Better series, we see the encouragement that the author is giving to the Jewish Christians who were forsaking their faith because of persecution. We often don't know how strong our faith is until it is tested. The things that happen to us in life can drive us away from God or draw us closer to Him. God's power is mighty. There is no burden He cannot carry. The book of Hebrews encourages believers to endure in our faith during times of suffering, challenging us to take comfort in the Better Hope of God's purpose, knowing that salvation is promised through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Read Hebrews 10:32-33:

- 1) PERSONAL: The author has tasked the readers to remember when they first learned about Christ. The New King James Version says, “after you were illuminated”. Recall your thoughts, actions, and feelings when you first became a Christian.

Read Hebrews 10:34-35: (New Living Translation, if possible)

- 2A) What did these early believers endure? How did they react to their suffering and why?

- 2B) PERSONAL: What does “confident trust in the Lord” mean to you?

- 3A) Look up the word omnipotent. Note your findings.

- 3B) PERSONAL: Think about something that you are currently struggling with. Do you have confident trust in the Lord to get you through it? If yes, what has helped you to relinquish this burden to Him? If no, what can you do to change that?

Read Hebrews 10:36-37:

4A) Define the word endurance.

4B) PERSONAL: List meaningful scripture verses that you turn to when you need to patiently endure. If none come to mind use a concordance or search online for verses about enduring hardships and record those that speak to you.

5A) What do you learn from the following verses about God's purpose?

Proverbs 19:21

Ephesians 1:11-12

2 Peter 3:9

Proverbs 3:5-6

5B) PERSONAL: How is your faith—your hope— impacted, knowing that God works with purpose, on purpose and for purpose?

Read Hebrews 10:38-39:

6) What do you learn from the following verses about God's Promises?

Isaiah 43:2

Acts 2:38-39

Joshua 1:9

Isaiah 54:10

Romans 8:38-39

Matthew 11:28-29

7A) PERSONAL: What does the following statement mean to you?

The beginning point of faith is believing in God's character: He is who He says. The end point is believing in God's promises: He will do what He says.

7B) PERSONAL: When God speaks, do you listen and respond? How can you better prepare yourself to truly and fully trust God?

ACT: Hope does not come from our own desires or wishes. Hope comes from God. It is a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future. It is the confident expectancy of God's promise that we can see through His Grace, His Word, His Blessings. God has a reason for everything that He does. He is powerful and He is purposeful. When you feel discouraged and want to turn your back on Christ, remember the benefits of staying strong in your faith, recall the obstacles that He has already brought you through, and be elevated by the hope of eternal life that Jesus offers.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week read about the hope that God offers us, giving us firm assurance about things unseen.

Monday:

Romans 15:13 NIV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday:

Titus 1:1-2 NIV

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness— in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.

Wednesday:

Romans 8:24-25 NIV

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Thursday:

Psalms 119:114 NIV

You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

Friday:

Isaiah 40:31 NIV

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Saturday:

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Sunday:

Romans 15:4 NIV

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

