

Equipped to Persevere in the Ministry

Hebrews 10:35–39

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

1. Hold Onto Your Confidence (verse 35)

"The day will come when the King will review His troops as the squadrons come back from the battle. *He will come down our ranks and look at every one of us.* If we have been faithful in this evil day, it will repay us for anything we suffered if He shall say to us, '*Well done!*' (emphasis added)" ~Charles Spurgeon¹

2. You Need Endurance (verse 36)

The fretting friction of our daily life,
heart-weariness with loving patience borne,
the meek endurance of the inward strife,
the painful crown of thorn,
prepare the heart for God's own dwelling place,
adorn with sacred loveliness His shrine,
and brighten every inconspicuous grace,
for God alone to shine.
~Mary Atkinson

¹ Spurgeon, *The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1654.

3. It Won't Always Be This Hard (verse 37)

"Do you not feel to-day, you that love him, as if you wanted to do something for him? Arise, and do it, and so bless him. It is one of the instincts of a true Christian to wish to do somewhat for his God and King, who has done everything for him. He loved me, and gave himself for me; should I not give myself for him? Oh, for perfect consecration! Oh, to bless God by laying our all upon his altar, and spending our lives in his service!" ~Charles Spurgeon in his sermon titled "The Happy Duty of Daily Praise"

4. The Righteous Live by Faith (verse 38)

"But now is the time of trial, to see whether we fear God or man. It was an easy thing to hold with Christ while the Prince (of England) and world held with Him; but now the world hateth Him, it is the true trial who be His. Wherefore, in the name and in the virtue, strength, and power of His Holy Spirit, prepare yourselves in any case to adversity and constancy. Let us not run away when it is most time to fight. Remember, none shall be crowned but such as fight manfully; and he that endureth to the end shall be saved." ~John Hooper writing from prison to his friends three weeks before he was burned at the stake for his faith. January 21, 1555.

5. Faith's Assurance (verse 39)

"For eighty-six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How can I now blaspheme my King who saved me?" ~Polycarp

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Questions for Reflection from Hebrews 10:35-39

Day 1

1. Because Hebrews 10:35 begins with “therefore,” which means the author of Hebrews is connecting the verse with something he said earlier. What did the author of Hebrews want his friends to remember about how they responded to trials in former days according to Hebrews 10:32-34?
2. Based on the believers past faithfulness, what does the author of Hebrews encourage his friends to do as their trials continue? See Hebrews 10:35. What reason is given at the end of verse 35 for their steadfastness?
3. When the author of Hebrews tells his friends not to cast away their confidence, he is telling them not to abandon their former resolve and determination to stand firm in the faith. What do you learn about the *confidence* they are to hold fast to from its use in Hebrews 3:6; 4:16; 10:19; 1 John 2:28; 4:17?

Day 2

4. How does the appeal to consider your past responses of faith and trust spur you on to cling to the Lord as your hope (verses 32-35)?
5. What kind of reward does the author of Hebrews refer to here in verse 35? See Hebrews 2:2-3 for a contrast; the last part of 10:34; then 10:35; 11:26; 13:14.
6. While the author of Hebrews encourages his friends not to throw away their faith and hope in the Lord Jesus, what does he also acknowledge about their circumstances in Hebrews 10:36?

Day 3

7. *When* do you need endurance according to Hebrews 10:36?
8. What else do you learn about endurance from Luke 21:19; Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 6:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Timothy 2:12; Hebrews 12:1; James 1:3-4; 5:11?
9. What do you learn in Hebrews 10:36 that helps you see you are to respond in a godly way even while undergoing long or discouraging trials?

Day 4

10. Why is it important to notice, understand, and apply *doing God's will* while undergoing trials? What does it mean to “do” God’s will? See John 4:34; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 2:3.
11. What waits for those who persevere and hold onto their hope? See the end of verse 36.
12. What will it look like to do God’s will when the heat is on and the way seems long, and you feel tempted to despair, anger, fear, impatience, or unbelief?

Day 5

13. What encouraging truth is given in Hebrews 10:37 that is a blessing to every persevering one?
14. How long do we need to wait according to verse 37?
15. What does it seem will happen when the Lord Jesus returns according to verse 37? You may need to think a bit, but you will be encouraged if you do!

Day 6

16. What will God’s righteous one do according to verse 38?
17. How does God feel about those who shrink back according to verse 38? Why is that? See Hebrews 3:12, 18-19; 4:1-2, 6; 11:6.
18. How is Hebrews 10:38 meant to be an encouragement, rather than an indictment to beleaguered believers? What does God want us to know and understand from verse 38?

Day 7

19. How does the author of Hebrews continue to encourage believers in Hebrews 10:39?
20. Based on what we’ve seen in Hebrews 10:35-39, who are those who shrink back? Who are those whose souls are preserved? See Romans 5:1-3; Colossians 1:21-23; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 6-9.
21. Friend, how do you know your faith will not fail? See Ephesians 2:3-9; Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:13; 1 John 2:1.

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:39