



The Necessity of Faith

- **Hebrews 11:1** faith is the foundation of continuous hoping, conviction of deeds not seen ... ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 3:12** Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 4:2** For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.
- ^{NIV} **Isaiah 7:9** If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."



Trust God's Perfect Provision

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:40** because God had provided something better for us, ...
 - *Jesus is God's perfect provision for us.*
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 7:19** ... there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 7:22** so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 9:23** Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 12:24** to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.





Pursue Jesus

11. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus, Seated at God's Right Hand (12:1–3).
10. Join the Company of the Faithful of Old (11:1–40).
9. Pursue the Blessing Promised the Faithful (10:32–39).
8. You Are More Accountable Because of This High Priest (10:26–31).
7. Avail Yourselves of This Great Priest (10:19–25).
6. Christ's All-Sufficient High Priesthood (5:1–10:18).
5. Embrace This Great High Priest (4:14–16).
4. You are Accountable before the Word of God (4:12–13).
3. Pursue the Blessing Lost by the Faithless Generation (4:1–11).
2. Avoid the Company of the Faithless Generation (3:7–19).
1. Consider Jesus, a Son over the House of God (3:1–6).

➤ *Cockerill*





Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and **perfecter** of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 2:10** For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to **perfect** the author of their salvation through sufferings.
 - Author = captain
 - **Perfect** = reach the goal, accomplish the mission



Mortify Sin

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:1** ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us
- ^{NIV} **Colossians 3:5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry...⁸ ... you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 13:12** The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.



Consider Jesus

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:3** For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 3:1** Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. ² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.



To Live is Christ

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:4** You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 10:38** "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ "He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it.
- ^{NIV} **Luke 14:26** "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-- yes, even his own life-- he cannot be my disciple.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 1:21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- ^{NAS} **Colossians 3:4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.



Cloud of Martyrs

- "I thank God most heartily that He hath prolonged my life to this end, that I may in this case glorify God by that kind of death ... Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as shall never be put out."
➤ *Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were burnt for the gospel, 1555*
- "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. ...How then can I blaspheme my King and Savior? You threaten me with a fire that burns for a season, and after a little while is quenched; but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment that is prepared for the wicked. ...I bless you, Father, for judging me worthy of this hour, so that in the company of the martyrs I may share the cup of Christ."
➤ *Polycarp was burned at the stake and pierced with a spear for his faithfulness to Jesus, 155-156 AD*



To Live is Hard but God is Good

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:7** It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
 - Discipline: education, training up, nurture of children, instruction, discipline, correction, chastisement

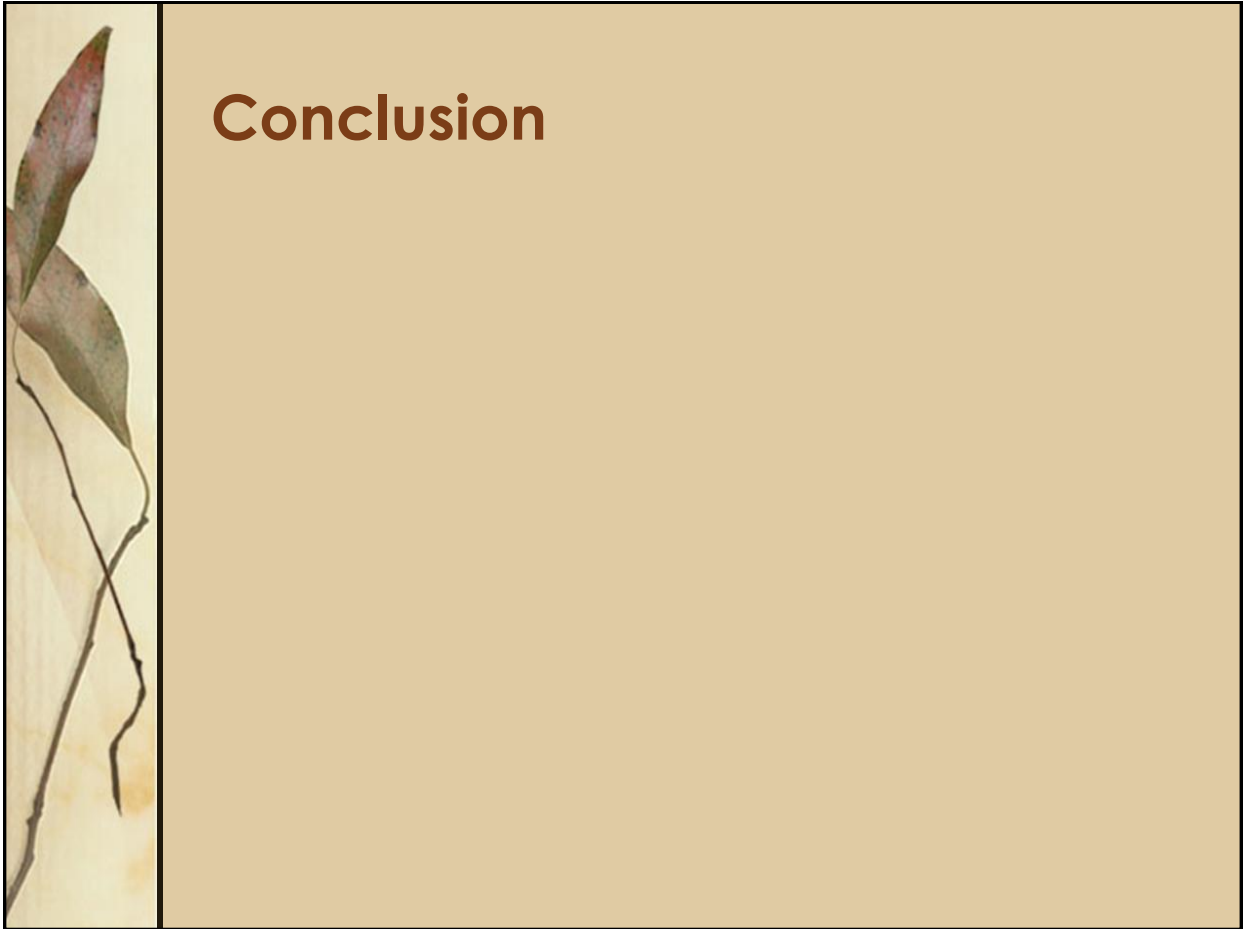


- ^{NAS} **James 1:2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
- ^{NIV} **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.



We're in This Together

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:12** Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
 - v.14, lit., "Peace keep pursuing together with all and the holiness without which no one is going to see the Lord"
- ^{NAS} **Exodus 33:20** But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"
- ^{NAS} **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.



Conclusion



Persevere, God is Faithful

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 51:1** "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, Who seek the LORD ... ² "Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When he was one I called him, Then I blessed him and multiplied him." ³ Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion... ⁶ "Lift up your eyes to the sky ... My salvation shall be forever, And My righteousness shall not wane. ⁷ "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My law; Do not fear ... ⁸ ... My righteousness shall be forever, And My salvation to all generations."



Live For and Like Jesus

- ^{NIV} **2 Corinthians 7:1** Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
- ^{ESV} **Ephesians 4:22** put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- “Let your souls delight in communion with God while you are on earth, since you look for your happiness in communion with him in heaven. Let your speech and actions savor of heaven; and in your manner of life, look like the country to which you are going.”
 - *Thomas Boston, Scottish Theologian (1676-1732)*



Pursue Holiness

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ... ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all men, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
- ^{NIV} **1 Thessalonians 4:7** For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.