

True Believers Never Quit

Sunday, September 29th, 1985

Hebrews 10:38-39

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

We are turning in our Bible today, to the book of Hebrews. I will be reading a passage of Scripture from Hebrews 10:38 and 39. I would like very much for you to open your own Bible and follow along with me as I read the Scriptures. If you do not have your Bible handy, I would like for you to just listen.

My subject this morning is: “TRUE BELIEVERS NEVER QUIT.”

In Hebrews 10:38, the apostle writes; *“The just shall live by faith but if any man draw back (or quit) my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But, we are not of them who draw back unto perdition but we are of them that believe (or keep on believing) to the saving of the soul.”*

My friends, there are a lot of preachers in this world, but it is God’s preachers who are concerned about these three things:

They are concerned for the glory of God, in doing all things for the glory of God and they are concerned for the eternal well-being of their hearers. They are concerned about preaching the Gospel of God’s saving grace.

Now, preachers who are concerned about those three things, the glory of God, the eternal well-being of their hearers and preaching the Gospel of God’s saving grace, also know that salvation is not, (I repeat) is not an isolated experience or a one time profession of faith. That is not Bible salvation and it is not God’s salvation. Salvation is not an isolated experience or a one time profession of faith.

My friends, faith that does not keep on believing is not faith at all. Repentance that does not keep on repenting is not repentance at all. Grace that does not grow, that does not produce the fruit of God’s Spirit is not grace at all.

What I am saying is this; the Bible clearly teaches that true believers, first of all, have been regenerated by the Spirit of God. Regeneration is a new birth. Regeneration has nothing to do with your works or your efforts. Regeneration is the work of the Spirit of

God. We are born again by the Spirit of God through the Word of God and the blood of Christ.

All true believers have been regenerated; they have been born again and “*made partakers of a divine nature.*” They have been made partakers of the nature of God. They are new people, new creatures in Christ Jesus. They will never turn back.

John wrote in John Chapter 1, verses 11-13, “*He came unto His own and His own received Him not; but as many as received Him to them gave He the privilege to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name, which were born, (which were regenerated) not by blood (that is, not by natural regeneration), not by the will of men, not of the will of the flesh, but they have been born of the Spirit of God.*” They have been regenerated by the Spirit of God.

Again, John wrote in his epistle, “*Whosoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*” What I am saying is this, (listen carefully); salvation is not just an isolated experience or a one time profession of faith.

The person who has been in Scriptural terms, “*saved,*” who has become a child of God, who has been delivered from sin and made a partaker of the grace of God has been regenerated. That person has received the divine nature of God Almighty.

Secondly: True believers have been brought into a living union with Jesus Christ, a living union that will never change. This is more than an isolated experience, it is more than a one time profession of faith; it is more than walking down a church aisle and giving a mental assent to a few facts about the Bible.

Salvation is more than becoming affiliated with or associated with a different group. It is more than “turning over a new leaf.” Salvation is being brought by the power of God into a living, vital, personal and intimate union with Jesus Christ.

In the Scriptures, Christ called Himself, “*The true vine*” (or the trunk of the tree). We are the “*branches.*” The life is in the trunk of the tree. The branches receive their life because they are in a living union with that trunk.

If you cut the branches from off the tree, they are dead. The branches are withered and have no life. Christ is our life! We in salvation are brought into a living union with Him. Do you see that?

Also, in the Scriptures, Christ Jesus is called "*The head of the body.*" The body is the church of believers. The body is the family of believers and Christ is the head. How long would a person exist without his head? You can sever some members off but the head is vital to existence and life. Christ is the head and we are the body. So, this thing of salvation is a living union with Jesus Christ.

Thirdly: True believers are a part of an eternal Covenant of Grace between the Godhead. God gave to His Son a people. This Covenant of Grace is based on the eternal purpose of God to populate the new heaven and the new earth.

Before the foundation of the world, God the Father gave His Son a people chosen in Him. He predestinated those people to be "*conformed to the image of His Son.*"

All believers, Jew and Gentile, old and young, rich and poor, black and white, wherever they may be found of "*every tribe, kindred, nation and tongue under heaven*" are a part of an everlasting Covenant purposed by God the Father. They are purchased by the blood of Christ and this is made effectual or applied by the work of God's Spirit.

Listen to Jeremiah in Chapter 33; "*They shall be my people and I will be their God and I will give them one heart and one way. I will make an everlasting Covenant, (and eternal Covenant), with them that I will not turn away from them to do them good. I will put my fear in their hearts and they will not depart from me.*"

True believers never quit for several reasons:

First of all: Salvation is not an isolated experience; it is not a one time profession of faith. They never quit because they have been regenerated or born again by the Spirit of God; they are new people. They have a new nature.

Second: These believers are part of an everlasting Covenant which God made with the Son and He gave Christ a people.

Third: They are members of the body of Christ. They are brought into a living, vital, union, with Jesus Christ.

Fourth: True believers never quit because in salvation they are devoted to a person, the living God revealed in Christ Jesus. They are devoted to a person. They have come to know, love, and to trust the living God. They know the living God.

They have not just become religious; that is not what salvation is, salvation is not just becoming religious. I hear people say, "Well, George got religion or Betty got religion." This is not salvation. A person can get religion and not be saved; they have gotten religion or accepted some facts of religion.

In John 17:3, in the words of our Lord and Master, He declares; *"They know the true and living God, Jesus Christ whom He hath sent."*

Our Lord was preaching to a huge multitude one day. Having already fed this large multitude of 5,000 people or more began to talk to them about what I have been talking to you about, the living union with Christ, eating His flesh and drinking His blood.

He is the Bread from Heaven. He is the Sovereign God who saves whom He will. He reveals His grace to whom He will. The Scripture says in John 6:66, *"From that time, many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him."*

They wanted no part of this Sovereign Grace. They wanted no part of this vital union. They wanted no part of this Eternal Covenant. They wanted no part of this divine branch relationship and just walked off.

When they did walk off, the Master turned to the twelve and said to them; *"Will you also go away?"* That is when Peter gave this reply; *"Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life and we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."* Do you see what I am saying?

This thing of salvation, contrary to what we are seeing and hearing today, is not just a mental acceptance of facts, getting religion, joining the church or prancing down the aisle and shaking the preacher's hand. Salvation is not having an isolated experience of some sort. Faith that believes keeps on believing.

Repentance that repents, keeps on repenting. Grace that is the grace of God keeps on growing. A believer has been regenerated; he has received a new nature. This nature is a divine nature. He has been brought into a personal, intimate and living union with the Son of God, with the Lord Jesus Christ, and he himself (the believer) is a son of God because of that living union with Christ.

That everlasting Covenant shall not fail. Our Lord said, *"I am the Lord, I have purposed it, I will bring it to pass. I have spoken and it shall be done."* Then, we believe that true believers love Christ, trust Christ and rest in Christ. True believers have found in Christ all they need.

In this world of religion in which we are living is like what one of the presidential candidates said in the debate recently; “America is one of the most religious nations on the face of the earth.” I agree with him; in this world of religion, we have more religion per square inch than we have ever had in the history of mankind, right here in the United States of America. We have in this world of religion: superstition, emotionalism, religious entertainment and con-men.

It is not an easy task at all to distinguish between saving faith and false faith. It is not easy! That is the reason that when the apostles wrote the Scriptures inspired by the Holy Ghost, that they wrote verses like this in 2 Corinthians 13:5; “*Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith.*” Don’t be deceived, it is possible to be deceived. In fact, there are so many anti-christs in this world today that our Lord said, “*They would deceive even the elect if it were possible.*” That is how deceitful, crafty, and shrewd they are.

These religionists will use Bible terms and Bible language. They will use Bible doctrines. They will use anything to accomplish their goals and ends to get your support. Paul says, “*Examine yourselves.*” The apostle Peter said this in 2 Peter 1:10; “*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure.*”

I’m talking about your election and your election being sure “*for if you do these things, you will never fail.*” John said in 1 John 4:1; “*Try the spirits whether they be of God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*” You better try the spirits, that is, try the preachers, the spirit that speaks by these preachers.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 7; “*Many shall say unto me in that day; Lord, Lord; have we not done this, that, and the other? Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of God.*”

So, it is not an easy thing at all in this day of religion, superstition and emotionalism. It is not an easy thing to distinguish between true saving faith, a faith that saves and false religion, false faith and a false hope.

You see, false faith can do many things. False faith can do many things that are commendable or seem to be. This false faith seems to be spiritual, for example.

False faith can excite the emotions and the passions. You see people on these religious programs with their hands in the air clapping, waving things, getting excited, falling on the floor and rolling and passing out. False faith can excite the emotions and the passions.

In Romans 10, Paul said; “These people that I am praying for, that I want to see saved, *“I bear them record; they have a zeal for God; (they have zeal, they have fire and they have enthusiasm), but not according to knowledge; they are ignorant of God’s righteousness.”*

Then, when our Lord talked about the stony-ground-hearers, the people who finally faded away and disappeared, He said; *“They received the Word with much joy.”* This is the way that they received the Word; *“Having no root, (having no understanding, having no discernment, having no depth), when the sun came out, they withered and fell away.”*

So, false faith can excite the emotions; this is no problem. False faith can reform the outward man. The Pharisees are a perfect example of that. You can say, “Boy; he’s really got religion. He doesn’t drink, he doesn’t smoke, he doesn’t play cards or he doesn’t dance.”

You can even say that she doesn’t dress this way or that way; they are really clean, moral, people; so were the people who crucified Christ. They were the cleanest, most moral, religious, people of their day.

One of them stood in the temple one day and said; *“God, I thank you; I’m not like other men. I tithe, I fast twice a week, I give alms of all that I possess. I’m not an adulterer; I’m not unjust and I’m not an extortioner.”* He would probably be president of one of our denominations if he were living today; he would be clean outwardly and rotten on the inside.

That is what our Lord said; *“You are like a whited sepulcher (grave-stone). On the outside you appear beautiful unto men but on the inside you are full of dead men’s bones.”* You are full of envy, pride, bigotry, jealousy, hate, malice, lust and all of these things that are produced by a fallen human nature.

False faith can reform the outward man but reformation is not salvation. Salvation is a heart-work. Circumcision is of the heart. *“He is not an Israelite which is one outwardly; he is an Israelite who is one inwardly.”*

False faith can obtain a high religious office. It is no problem to be a preacher; anyone who can talk can be some kind of preacher. It is no problem to be a pastor, a deacon, an elder or a Sunday school teacher. It is no problem to be a choir director, an assistant pastor, a district superintendent, an associational missionary, or a president of a

convention. Anyone with the right credentials and right education can aspire to those positions.

Judas was an apostle. That is higher than any of you boys have attained or gone. He was an apostle and there weren't but 12 of them and that's all. The man Demas was the companion of the apostle Paul. False faith can be baptized with Simon Magus and false faith can give gifts with Ananias and Sapphira. False faith can speak well of Christ like Nicodemus and false faith will persecute those who disagree with it. Did you know that?

False faith will put people out of business that disagree with them. Saul of Tarsus did that by saying, "I sought to persecute the church of God and do all manner of evil against those who disagreed with me and my religious position." He didn't know God. Saul met Christ on the road to Damascus.

False faith will even persevere to the judgment because those people stood in front of our Lord and said, "Hold on; *we've preached in your name, prophesied, cast out devils and did many wonderful works.*"

So, false faith is hard to distinguish. It is hard to distinguish false faith and true faith; it is hard to discern. It takes the Spirit of God and the Spirit of revelation. The Scripture says, "*Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith.*"

These outward evidences and outward circumstances can be produced, counterfeited, and imitated by Satan himself for "*He himself becomes an angel of light and his ministers are ministers of righteousness.*"

There are some things that false faith can never produce and do and these are the fruits of saving faith; I want you to listen to me and listen carefully:

First of all: False faith can never produce a heart that has been broken, truly broken, over sin. False faith can never produce a heart that is genuinely broken and repentant before God because of sin.

David wrote; "*Lord, be merciful to me according to Thy loving kindness and blot out my transgressions. I acknowledge my sins. My sins are ever before me. Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight.*"

"*O God; purge me with hyssop; wash me and I shall be whiter than the snow. Lord; you are right when you condemn me and you are Just when you damn me; but I am seeking mercy, mercy, mercy.*"

That is not false faith; false faith will never do that. False faith will acknowledge that you are a sinner but you aren't as bad as so-and-so. False faith will acknowledge that you are a sinner, but not a "bad sinner." There are probably things that you have never done. False faith always justifies itself, always justifies itself before men and even before God.

False faith cannot produce a broken heart. *"God saveth such as be of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The Lord is nigh unto them of a broken heart."* The sacrifices of God are a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Secondly: False faith will never bow to the absolute sovereignty of God and false faith will never bow to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all things such as creation, providence, and salvation. This very gateway to the Kingdom of God is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

My friends, *"Salvation is of the Lord."* A true believer with true faith knows that salvation is of the Lord in its planning; salvation is of the Lord in its execution; salvation is of the Lord in its application, salvation is of the Lord in its sustaining power and salvation is of the Lord in its ultimate perfection.

False faith will call Jesus Christ "Saviour," but it will not call Him "Lord." Our Lord is absolute, immutable, and infinite and He is the Sovereign Lord of all things. *"God hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow in heaven, earth, and under the earth. Every tongue shall confess that He is Lord."*

Thirdly: False faith will always try to add something to the work of Christ. False faith can never, never, never, believe, receive, trust and rest in Christ alone, plus nothing and minus nothing. False faith can never believe it.

This is what is being said in 1 Corinthians 1:30, *"But of God are you in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption."* All I need to know is in Christ. All of the righteousness I need to cover me and make me acceptable before God is in Christ. All the sanctification and holiness I need is in Christ.

He hath redeemed me, not only my soul, but my body. He hath redeemed me for time and eternity. *"In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and we are complete in Him."*

Fifthly: False faith can never continue to believe God regardless of the circumstances. False faith cannot endure trial; it cannot endure the dark valleys or the rocky roads. False faith always has to have the sun shining. For example, let me read you something about Abraham:

It says in Romans chapter 4, that "*Abraham believed God.*" He is the pattern for believers. He is the very pattern for those who have faith. He is the father of those who believe. The Scripture says, "*Abraham believed God,*" regardless of the circumstances.

When God told Abraham to get out of his father's house and go into a land that He would show him, he didn't know where he was going; he believed God. When he and Lot had that conflict over the land, he believed God. He told Lot to pick out anything that he wanted. He knew that God was watching over him and that He would take care of him.

Lot chose the well-watered plains of Sodom, the beautiful bottom farmland. Abraham went to the hills but he believed God.

Then there were the riches and the kings of Sodom. After Abraham delivered them from the hands of their enemies, they wanted to make him rich. Abraham said, "*No; I don't want a thing that you have.*" They promised him everything that a man could possibly want.

He said, "*I don't want it; I have lifted my hand to God and I'm not taking even a shoestring from you lest you say, you made Abraham rich.*" He didn't need what they had; he said, "*I have lifted my hand to God and He will supply my need.*" He believed God.

When God told Abraham that he would have a son, he was a 100 years old. Sarah was 90 years old. Abraham believed God but he didn't know how he was going to have a son.

When God told Abraham to send Ishmael away, he loved him. Ishmael was 14 years old, a son of the bond-woman. He couldn't live with the son of the free-woman. You see; works can't exist with grace. God said, "*Send him away.*"

Old man Abraham stood out there and put a bottle of water on his shoulders and a loaf of bread under his arm and said, "*Good by.*" He believed God and didn't argue.

The supreme test of all was when God told him to take Isaac to the top of the mountain and sacrifice him. He went the three days journey without murmuring, complaining, or questioning God's Word; he just believed God.

False faith can't do that! False faith cannot stand the heat and it cannot stand the cold. False faith cannot stand the rain and it cannot stand the wind. False faith cannot stand the darkness or the desertion; it just can't stand it; it just can't take God at His Word and believe it.

Romans 4:20 says; *“Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief for he was strong in faith giving glory to God, believing that God was able to perform all that He said. Therefore, it was imputed to him for righteousness.”* He believed God and therefore, he was counted as a righteous man. He was a righteous man because he believed God.

His works gave evidence that he believed. His works proved his faith. *“This was not written for his sake alone, that righteousness was imputed to him, but for ours also, to whom it shall be imputed if we believe on Him who raised up our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our offences and raised for our justification.”*

My friend, I believe God. I didn't say that I believe in God, on God, or that there is a God; I believe Him. I believe His Word regarding redemption, salvation, and all things!