

## **True Believers Never Quit**

Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1990

### **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.*

I'm turning in the Bible today, to the Book of Hebrews, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter. If you want to read the scripture with me, turn to Hebrews 10: verses 38 and 39. Here is my subject and I think it is a subject in which you will be interested. The Title of the message is: "True Believers Never Quit."

In Hebrews 10:38, the apostle says this, "*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 (or condemnation or eternal judgment); but we are of them that (continue to) believe, to the saving of the soul.*"

Now, for centuries, people have debated, argued and even fought over what they call, "eternal security and once saved, always saved." I'm sure you are familiar with that term. You have probably argued about it yourself; I have. You may have argued over this term, "once in grace, always in grace." You can get an argument about that almost everywhere.

The great problem that causes these arguments, debates and discussions on eternal security and the security of the believer is three things. This is three-fold, and here is the problem: First, people do not know the scriptures; that is just a fact. The average individual, the man on the street and even the man in the pew, and most men in the pulpit do not know the scriptures.

I recently heard a world-famous evangelist, a famous evangelist who now is up in years. I heard him on television just a few months ago lamenting the fact that he had not given himself, as he should, to the study of the scriptures (some of you may have heard this statement). He said, "I've been too busy, I've preached too many sermons, I've read too many contemporary books and I have neglected the Word of God." That is true of most preachers and most people; they do not know the scriptures.

The second thing that promotes these debates and arguments is this: Men and women do not know or recognize the power of God, the power of Almighty God. I'm going to preach on this next week. God reigns, and God rules; "*Is anything to hard for God?*"

The third thing is this: Most people do not know what salvation really is. They think they do, but they do not. That is the problem that is three-fold. The reason they sit around arguing about whether a man is eternally secure, "once in grace, always in grace;" is because they do not know the scriptures, they do not know the power of God and they really don't know what salvation really is.

Now, the scriptures, if you know them, the scripture plainly teaches it. Turn to John 5:24, "*He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not, (I repeat), come into condemnation, but is already past from death unto life.*" He is not going to die again. If he is born again, he is not going to get unborn. If he is a sheep, he is not going to become a goat. If he has past from death to life, he lives and that is what the Word of God says. In John 10, "*My sheep hear my voice; I know them; they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never, perish.*" Paul said, "*Nothing can separate us from the love of God, neither life or death, tribulation or persecution.*"

Romans 8:1 says this, "*There is therefore, now, no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.*" There is no judgment or condemnation. This is what the scripture says. The scripture also says, "*He that hath begun a good work in you shall perfect it, (shall perform it, and shall complete) it in the day of Jesus Christ.*" In Ecclesiastes it says, "*What God has done, nothing can be put to it.*"

So, the question is if you ask a man, "Are you eternally secure?" Here is the question, Who saved him? If his preacher saved him, he is not eternally secure. If he saved himself, he is not. If God did, of course, he is secure. He is secure as the throne of Jesus Christ, his Representative.

Then, the power of God is our security. Listen to this, Jude wrote this, "*Now, unto Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us Holy,*" unblameable, unreprouvable, and glorified in His presence. In Hebrews 7 it says, "*He is able to save to the uttermost them who come to God by Him.*" In Romans 4 it says, "*He is able to do all that He promised.*" Abraham believed him. He is able to raise our vile bodies. What we are saying is, God is able, and the power of God is able to save us and keep us.

Our salvation is not resting in our power, but in His power. We are kept, Peter wrote, in First Peter 1, "*We are kept by the power of God through faith.*" What I am showing you is this. If you know the scriptures, you have to know that God's sheep will never perish. If you know the power of God, you have to know that God will never lose one of His children. He said, "*If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father give good things to His children.*"

Most people don't know what salvation is. Salvation is not a mental acceptance of religious facts. That is not salvation. Salvation is not just believing a doctrine or believing a creed, or joining a church. Salvation is not being in a Baptist, Methodist, Nazarene or a Catholic. Salvation is a heart experience. Salvation is a new nature, a new heart, a new life and a new creation. That is what salvation is. Salvation is a new birth. *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are past away, behold, all things are become new."*

You see, my friends; everybody talks about repentance. Repentance is not an isolated experience. Nobody who has ever repented will be heard to say, "Well, I repented 20 years ago." No, if he ever did, he is still repenting. Repentance is not a one time sorrow, a "once for all" sorrow over sin; it is the principle of a broken heart and a contrite spirit before God that continues and intensifies. The scripture teaches, "I have repented, I am repenting and I will repent."

Faith is not an isolated decision. Faith is not just a profession of faith and a religious meeting that when you walk down the aisle and shake the preacher's hand. They will have you say, "I believe and that is all there is to it." No, faith is a state of grace. Faith is a commitment to Christ. Believers keep coming to Christ and they keep believing on Christ. They keep coming to the Lord. The scriptures says, *"To whom coming as a living stone, I have believed and I am believing."* If God did the work, I shall continue to believe and will continue in faith. *"Whose house we are, if we hold fast the profession of our faith, firm unto the end."*

Ephesians 2:8 and 9 says this, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith."* First Corinthians Chapter 1, says this; *"To those who are being saved, Christ is the power and wisdom of God."* Paul wrote to the Romans and said, *"Now, is our salvation nearer than we believed."*

You see, my friends; Grace imparted is grace enthroned. That is so important. The grace of God, which converts a sinner, is not a weak offer or a weak invitation. This is not a plea, a pulling, or a psychological pressure. The grace of God is a powerful, life changing, ruling reign. Where grace is imparted, grace reigns through righteousness.

The truth of salvation, the truth of assurance, the truth of a good hope, the truth of security in Christ and eternal life, has two sides. I want you to remember these two words, preservation and perseverance. We are preserved and kept by the power of God. Perseverance is not apart from faith, it is not without faith, but it is through faith.

Let me show you this is the scripture. In the Book of First Peter, it says this; *“We are kept by the power of God.”* That is preservation. God keeps us, and whom God saves; God keeps. Watch the next two words, *“through faith”* and that is perseverance. They will believe, and they will continue to believe. God keeps them and they believe and they continue to believe.

Look at Jeremiah 32:40, God says, *“I will make an everlasting covenant with them; I will not turn away from them to do them good.”* That is preservation. God says, I will not turn away from them; I won't desert them. *“I'll never leave you; I'll never forsake you;”* I'll never let you fall; I'll never turn away from them. This is preservation. Watch the next line, *“And they shall not depart from Me.”* This is perseverance. God says, *“I'm not going to leave them and they are not going to leave Me.”*

Listen to John 10, Christ said; *“I know My sheep, they follow Me. I lay down My life for the sheep, another shepherd they will not follow.”* Do you see that? That is preservation. *“I know My sheep, I give them eternal life and they will never perish.”* Here is perseverance, *“They follow Me, another shepherd they will not follow, another voice they will not listen to.”* God will keep His sheep and His sheep will never quit. God will save His sheep, listen to this; *“All that My Father giveth Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out. Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauty of holiness.”*

Most of the problems with security and assurance, a good hope, and assurance in Christ, have risen from the false presentation of the gospel in this day. There is a false presentation of what salvation really is.

Let's examine from the scriptures what the experience of salvation is and this thing of redemption, eternal life and our relationship with God and a knowledge of God. Let me tell you this; it begins with God. This is where this whole thing begins. Maybe this is where we are missing this whole thing; it begins with God. This does not begin with the sinner; it begins with God.

Let me show you that *“He chose us.”* He told His disciples, *“You didn't choose me; I chose you.”* He said, over in Thessalonians, *“God hath from the beginning, chosen you to salvation.”* So, it began with God; He chose us, we didn't choose Him. He loved us! It plainly says, *“Herein is love; not that we loved God; He loved us. We love Him because He first loved us.”* That is where it starts; it starts with God.

God purposed it, God planned it, God chose us, and God loved us. He quickened us; *“You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin.”* Moses said, *“Show me*

*your glory.*” The Lord said, *“I’ll show you My glory; My glory is My goodness. I’ll be merciful to whom I will be merciful; I’ll be gracious to whom I will.”* He quickened us; *“The Son quickeneth whom He will.”* When we were ungodly, Christ loved us. When we were sinners; He died for us. This all starts with God.

Then, He called us. In Second Timothy 1:9, it says; *“He saved us and He called us, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* He called us.

He justified us. It says in His Word, *“Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect, it is God who justifieth? Who can condemn, it is Christ that died; yea, rather, is risen again, who has ascended on the right hand of God who makes intercession for us.”* It begins with God.

This thing of salvation doesn’t begin with you; it begins with God. *“Whom He foreknew, He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Whom He predestinated, He called. Whom He called, He justified. Whom He justified, He glorified.”* Not only that, He begat us to life.

You’ve read the scripture so many times in John 1:11, *“As many as received Him, to them gave He the power (right, the privilege), to become Sons of God; even to them which believe on His name.”* There is no period there; there is a semi-colon. The next verse says, *“Which were born, not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man, but born of God.”* That is not talking about family inheritance. He begat us, *“Of His own will, begat He us, through the Word of truth. We’re born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible seed, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever.”* He gave us repentance. *“It is the goodness of God that leadeth thee to repentance.”*

He gave us faith. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”* What is the gift of God? Faith is; faith is the gift of God. We are His workmanship, we are not our own. He hath made us and not we ourselves. *“God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.”*

Salvation starts with God. *“Salvation is of the Lord.”* The Book of Psalms says this over and over again; *“The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord.”* He revealed Christ to us. We didn’t find Christ; He wasn’t lost. We were lost and He found us. The sheep wasn’t looking for the shepherd; the shepherd was looking for the sheep.

How did we turn this thing around? He revealed Christ to us. Paul said, *“God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me.”* He will keep us. That is what I have been saying, He will keep us.

I will tell you; this thing of salvation, this eternal life, and this experience of grace needs to be looked up in the Word and found out what it is all about. It begins with God! In Philippians 1:6 it says, *“He that hath begun a good work in you, shall perfect it, (and shall perform it) in the day of Jesus Christ.”*

This is not just only for you but also in you. Who began this work in you? It begins with God. He chose us, He loved us, He called us, He quickened us, He justified us, He redeemed us, and *“He accepted us in the beloved.”* He keeps us. *“He will raise our vile bodies. He that has begun a good work in you shall perfect it in the day of Jesus Christ.”* That is security; that is preservation, that is confidence, and that is a good foundation. You can quit arguing about eternal security when you come to see who does the saving, His power, His ability, and the wealth of His sacrifice.

Another thing about salvation is that it begins with God. It will find its way into the soul, mind, heart and experience of the believer. The *“Word of God is like a sharp two-edged sword that pierces asunder and divides even the bone and the marrow,”* (down to the secret parts).

There are many things that take place in a person who is an object of God’s grace, and object of God’s love, and an object of God’s redemption. There are a whole lot of things that take place. It is a lot more than just raising your hand and waving it. It is more than saying the sinner’s prayer after some preacher and going down an isle, and getting in line and going into the enquirer’s room.

A man who is saved is born again by the Spirit of God, by the Word of God, and the very life of God, which he lost in Adam. The life of God is implanted in him.

We’re not born again because we believe; we believe because we are born again. We’re not born again because we love God. We love God because we are born again. We’re not born again because we are here; we are here because we are born again. That’s right! We are born of the Spirit of God.

That man is born again, begotten, quickened and raised from a spiritual grave; he is convicted and convinced of his sins. He can say with David, *“My sins are ever before me.”* He’s convinced and made aware of his inability. He cries with David, *“Who shall*

*ascend unto the hill of the Lord; who shall stand in that Holy place?"* Then, he sees Christ.

That man actually sees Christ Jesus. He sees the power and the wisdom of God. He sees the glorious anointing, appointed, and sent Redeemer. He sees Christ. This is what the Word says, *"He that seeth the Son and believeth on Him, hath everlasting life."*

What does he see, whom does he see, and how does he see? He sees with eyes of faith. He sees with the heart. He sees it in the Word. He sees it in the gospel. He sees the Son and he sees Christ, the everlasting Surety, and the Shepherd of the sheep of the everlasting covenant. He sees Christ incarnate, in human flesh. *"He became a man, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem us from the curse of the law."*

He sees Christ in His obedience. He sees Christ in His righteousness, and sees Christ in the fulfillment of all righteousness and perfection as our Representative. He sees Christ on the cross, our sin offering, our Substitute, and our Justifier. He sees Christ taking our sins in His body on the tree and it is *"By His stripes that we are healed."* He sees Christ risen from the tomb, victorious over death, hell and sin. He sees Christ exalted to the right hand of God as our Advocate. *"He is ever living to make intercession for us."* He sees Christ, his King and his Lord who reigns over him.

Seeing all that, and believing that, regarding the Son of God, his Substitute, he commits his soul, heart, body, life, family, and earnings. Everything he is, has, knows, or ever will be is committed to that Redeemer. That's right! That is what Paul says in Second Timothy 1:12, *"I know whom I have believed."*

Christ is not some impotent, frustrated, disillusioned, disappointed, "super Jesus." *"I know whom I have believed;"* He is the Son of God. He is the God-man. *"He's our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. He's all and in all. He's the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* He's the victorious Substitute. He's the risen King. He's the coming conqueror. *"I know whom I have believe and I am persuaded, (confident, beyond a shadow of a doubt, not in myself and not in you, but in Him), that He is able to save."*

He is able to save, He is able to justify, He is able to redeem and *"He is able to present us faultless before His throne. He is able to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by Him."* He shall not fail, *"He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."*

There is a committal, and surrender. There is an absolute, unconditional, surrender. You'll be laying down your shotgun. You'll be putting down your sword. You'll be pulling down your flag and putting the banner of Christ Jesus in its place over your soul's fortress. He is Christ my Lord! That is a whole lot more than a little empty, silly, easy belief or profession of faith. That person can say, "Christ is my life, Christ is my hope and Christ is my all."

My friends; there is a lot of difference in false faith and saving faith. False faith can do a lot of things. False faith can do many things in deceiving people. It can excite the emotions, like those people who wanted to make Christ, King. Then, they cried, "*Crucify Him.*" It can reform the life; it did for the Pharisees. It can attain high office; it did for Judas. It can speak well of Christ; Nicodemus did. It can be baptized with Simon Magus and give gifts like Ananias and Sapphira.

False faith can travel with believers like Demas. Yes, and fight for your beliefs; like Saul. You can even persevere to the judgment and cry in the face of the Son of God Himself. And say in that day, "*I preached in your name; I cast out devils and did many wonderful works.*" He will say, "*I never knew you.*"

There is something that false faith can never do; it takes a broken heart, and it takes saving faith. False faith can never produce the life of God in the soul; that comes by grace. False faith can never produce a broken heart over sin. "*The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart.*" False faith can never bow to the Sovereignty of God in all things. False faith will not bow to God and give Him all the glory. False faith will never look to Christ alone, apart from works. False faith can never love the Redeemer above all things and all people. False faith will not continue.

Some how, some way, some day, they will fall along the way. John said, "*They were not of us because if they had been of us, no doubt, they would have continued with us.*"

We're not of them that draw back to eternal condemnation but we are of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

What does the Word of God say about Abraham, Enoch and all those great men of faith? "*They died in faith.*" True believers always do.