

Passage: Hebrews 10:26-39

Title: [The Just Shall Live by Faith](#)

Summary: Faith (For-All-I-Trust-Him); I think many times this faith we make way more complicated than it is, for it is simply, trusting Him in all things. Join us today as we look at faith, which is profoundly simple, yet simply profound

Hebrews 10:26–39 (NKJV) ²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony* of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. And again, "*The LORD will judge His people.*" ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ³² But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷ "*For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*" ³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*" ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Outline: The Just Shall Live by Faith (Hebrews 10:26-39):

- A Faith, that is Settled on the God-Sacrifice (10:26-29)
- A Faith, that is Secure in the Hands of God (10:30-31)
- A Faith, that is Seeing Heaven's Reward (10:32-37)
- A Faith, that is Satisfying to the Lord (10:38-39)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39

Our study today is also the 5th warning given in this epistle, and it is despising the finished sacrifices, but adding something to the Perfect Lamb Sacrifice, God Himself.

A Faith, that is Settled on the God-Sacrifice (10:26-29)

(Hebrews 10:26 NKJV) For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

(Hebrews 10:27 NKJV) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

(Hebrews 10:28 NKJV) Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

(Hebrews 10:29 NKJV) Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Let's just start with a clear point, the sacrifice was and is – God! God became the sacrifice for our sin.

Warning Isn't Backsliding / But Turning Your Back

The warning isn't that if you sin or struggle with sin, there's no hope for you. No, the sin of backsliding here in Hebrews 10 is not going back into sin, but rather turning your back on the Provision for sin. If I say, "Jesus didn't really pay the price sufficiently, so I've got to contribute my own effort," I mock the broken Body and fail to give worth to the shed blood. That's the warning here.

We All Fail

Thus, contrary to many well-intentioned sermons, the warning in Hebrews 10 is not so much in reference to backsliding as it is to back-turning—turning one's back on what Jesus did on our behalf. Certainly, this is what the writer intended, for every one of us fails. Every one of us is increasingly aware of our shortcomings the closer we get to the Lord. Every one of us joins Paul in saying, "I am the chief of sinners" (see 1 Timothy 1:15).

John shows us:

1 John 1:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

We will not be in perfected bodies until we reach heaven, so in the meantime we will continue to struggle with sin. There is no one that has not willfully and knowingly sinned since they gave their life to the Lord. So this warning isn't about once you backslide you can't come back.

Context / REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST

These people were ready to go back to Judaism, and back to offering of sacrifices in the temple. The author was saying NO - REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST JESUS CHRIST. We can get so confused in the midst of struggles that we lose focus and forget the basic elementary things.

Old Things Passed Away / The Veil Torn

The old things have passed away, the veil has been rent.

Matthew 27:50–51 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

Jesus Final Sacrifice / He is Superior

Jesus was and is the final sacrifice. This whole epistle is about the superiority of Christ, there is none greater, the message is complete, and the way to perfect standing before God that is eternal is through Jesus Christ and Him only.

The Main Point - There is No Other Way / Nothing to Go back to

Main Point: the author, through the Holy Spirit, is saying there is no other way for salvation, except through Jesus and His Cross. A common lamb of the field, sacrificed on the altar in the temple, cannot wash your sin away, YOU CAN NOT be renewed by an animal sacrifice, your sin cannot be covered by a lamb on the altar ever again. Only the Perfect Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) can wash away your sin. Only Jesus can make you white as snow. Now that Jesus has come, there is no other way, there is nothing to go back to.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Once and for All / NOT Once isn't Enough

Jesus died once and for all; He went to the cross once, and said it is finished, there never needs to be made another sacrifice ever again, it is finished. But if these Hebrew believers went to the temple and started offering sacrifices again, they would be in essence saying, once wasn't enough, and they would be crucifying Jesus again, again, and again.

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Cults Today

And that is what we see going on around us today. There are religious cults who say Jesus isn't sufficient enough to wipe out my sin, therefore I must add something else to it. Now maybe they aren't sacrificing animals, but they are adding to it in their own way. They say you have to knock on so many doors, you have to do two years of missionary works,, worship on the Sabbath only.

Better / Perfect / Eternal

Remember the key words of this epistle: better, perfect, and eternal; Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us perfect standing before God.

Adding to is Blasphemy

Let me say this clearly, to add to, or take away from the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, is blasphemy. People say Jesus and.....Joseph Smith, Jesus and.....my good works, Jesus and.....the sacraments. No, it is Jesus and....the CROSS. Period!!!! The only way to the Father and eternal salvation, that is the theme of this epistle – the superiority of Christ over everything.

[\(Hebrews 10:14 NKJV\)](#) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Adding is an Insult / The Special Cola

Adding something that we can do, or another way is an insult to God. Could you imagine if your child had a cure for a blood disease that was going to wipe out the whole world, and the only way to save the world was every last drop of your child's blood in order to make the antidote. So you sacrifice your child, and then the next day you see some selling "special cola" that will keep your blood pure so you can stay healthy. You would be enraged, you would say my child's blood saved you, how could cheapen what he did for you. As you would see that on every corner, and turn the TV on and here people all around the world adding to it, you would look at the picture of your child on the wall, look at the empty bed, and ask how could they.

What Does It Mean / I'm Free

So what does this mean? It means I'm free. It means I know there's nothing else I can do or must do or should do. It's all been done, and I rest in that fact. The warning of Hebrews 10 is not intimidating. It's inviting! It's great news! You mean Your warning, Father, is to not go back to self-efforts or religious activities to try to earn Your favor? You mean I'm free to just remember what You've done, and to celebrate my salvation? Wonderful!"

How About Others

But, how about those who are trampling the Son of God, the Lamb, underfoot, or outright rejecting Him, how do we look upon them? Well first lets consider how Jesus looks upon a person.

Continually throughout the history of the church has been the argument, one saved, always saved, or the chosen and the elect is settled by God and not man, or the other side which is it is **all up to man to choose or reject.**

[Ephesians 1:3–6 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

[John 6:37 \(NKJV\)](#) ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Here is the simplicity of it all..... regardless where your theology falls,

The Elect..... still needs to be convinced.

That is why

[2 Timothy 4:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

[Matthew 28:18–20 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

So, how about those who are trampling the Son of God, the Lamb, underfoot, or outright rejecting Him, how do we look upon them? Well first lets consider how Jesus looks upon a person.

When Jesus, looking upon them in love,

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to set them free – from them!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to make them a rock, solid and sure in my faith!

John 1:42 (NKJV) ⁴² *And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).*

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to dine with a sinner such as them, regardless of my past!

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”*

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to teach them His Word, which is His very Heart. Jesus wants to give them His heart!

Mark 6:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ *And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.*

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring them, before they ever even saw Him!

John 1:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ *Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”*

Jesus looking upon them with love, desiring to make them whole!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ *Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.* ⁶ *When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”*

Christian..... how do you them, those they are trampling the blood of Jesus underfoot? They are lost, they are deceived, and if we do not look upon them the way Jesus does, we will never reach them, for we will never have a heart for them.

I/You, have to “see them”, literally look at them, and process them in your heart, and you will see a precious soul that is lost, dying, deceived..... and your heart will be moved for them, and then ask God to open a door and then if He does, walk through the door and speak, and if the door doesn't open at that moment, then pray for what was moved on your heart (them).

A Faith, that is Secure in the Hands of God (10:30-31)

(Hebrews 10:30 NKJV) *For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."*

(Hebrews 10:31 NKJV) *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Observation / Interpretation

10:30. The answer to the question of verse 29 is evident. The God of the old and new covenants has not changed. The God of the new covenant is the same God who spoke through Moses and the prophets. In warning Israel about the consequences of disobeying the Mosaic law by turning aside to worship idols, He told them that vengeance and repayment were His prerogatives (Deuteronomy 32:35). He also declared that He would judge Israel for their departure from the Sinaitic covenant (Deuteronomy 32:36).

Deuteronomy 32:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ *Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'*

Deuteronomy 32:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ *"For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free.*

10:31. To be caught in the web of God's active judgment is a terrifying prospect. (The word phoberon, "terrifying," is used also in verse 27.) But that is the only fate that awaits those who turn aside from the new covenant blessings procured by the blood of God's beloved Son, rejecting His sacrifice.

Some people find it difficult to believe a loving God would send judgment. But the One who is the very essence of love is also holy and righteous. When the limits of His mercy have been exceeded, nothing is left but to receive His just judgment. His hands of blessing are beyond description, but when His hands are used in judgment, the expression "fearful thing" is most appropriate.
[Harris, R. W., ed. \(1989\). Hebrews–Jude \(p. 131\). World Library Press.](#)

God is not afraid to judge. So take heed, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." God is a God of mercy and grace, but if you reject His only Son - if you callously trample the Son He sent to die in your place - there is no punishment too harsh!

Application

For myself, I know who I am, I know what I am truly deserving of, and it is judgment, yet I received mercy. I know who I am, but I know whose I am, I am His. I am reminded of Matthew 21, and the stone, none other than Jesus, and if it falls on me in judgement it crushes and destroys me, but if I fall on it (my choice), I am broken. I am broken..... free of my sin that condemns me, I am broken free of me sin that deceives me, devours me, destroys me.....I am broken open, that His life and His love can flow into me.
[Matthew 21:42–46 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: *'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'*? ⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁴ And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." ⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. ⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

The opposite of fearful (full of fear). Is fearless (free from fear), and I can live my life by whose hands I have entrusted myself to, without fear that He will not accomplish and do all He said and promised He would.

When Jesus, looking upon me in love,

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to set me free – from me!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me a rock, solid and sure in my faith!

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Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to dine with a sinner such as me, regardless of my past!

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Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring me, before I ever even saw Him!

John 1:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me whole!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

A Faith, that is Seeing Heaven's Reward (10:32-37)

(Hebrews 10:32 NKJV) But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

(Hebrews 10:33 NKJV) partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

(Hebrews 10:34 NKJV) 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.

Observation / Interpretation

Part of the reason the Hebrews were returning to the sacrificial system was because, in so doing, they were no longer alienated from the community. "Why go back to the old way?" Paul asks. "They've already called you Jesus freaks. You've already been beaten up. So why, after suffering so much, would you return to the system from which this punishment came? The best is still ahead. Keep your hope in heaven."

Shortly after they came to Christ the Hebrews were hassled for their faith - to the point of having possessions confiscated. They'd probably been excommunicated by their Jewish families, and forced to return inheritances and keepsakes. Yet they had continued in their faith! This very writer was imprisoned for his faith, yet he writes them to continue on for this world is temporal and heaven is eternal.

Jesus said we will face tribulation in this world

John 16:33 (NKJV) ³³ *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

Application

Every Christian experience times when their faith offers no real worldly advantage. Instead of making us rich it causes us loss... Instead of popularity it draws persecution... Instead of promotion we get put down... And in those times we need to hunker down! We'll receive a great reward - an eternal reward no less - if we don't lose heart, but hold fast to our faith in Jesus.

(Hebrews 10:35 NKJV) Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

(Hebrews 10:36 NKJV) For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

(Hebrews 10:37 NKJV)

"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

Don't worry about fitting in with the old gang. Keep going. Keep living for heaven.

Here is a story told by Mary Hollingsworth about the acclaimed director, Cecil B. DeMille. When they began working on the movie Ben Hur, DeMille talked to Charlton Heston, the star of the movie, about the all important chariot race at the end. He decided Heston should actually learn to drive the chariot himself, rather than just using a stunt double. Heston agreed to take chariot-driving lessons to make the movie as authentic as possible.

This was no small feat! Learning to drive a chariot with horses four abreast, was an enormous challenge. After extensive work and days of practice, Heston returned to the movie set and reported to DeMille. He said, "I think I can drive the chariot all right, Cecil, but I'm not at all sure I can actually win the race."

With a slight smile on his face, DeMille said, "Heston, you just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win."

That is God's promise to us as well: "You just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win."

How? – Last Weeks Study – Must be Intentional

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- [Prayer \(the Upward\) – Hebrews 10:19-22](#)
- [Perseverance and Holding Fast \(the Inward\) – Hebrews 10:23](#)
- [Provoking One Another \(the Outward\) – Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

A Faith, that is Satisfying to the Lord (10:38-39)

(Hebrews 10:38 NKJV)

Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

(Hebrews 10:39 NKJV)

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

"Perdition" means "waste"—a perfect word choice for the frustratingly pointless existence under the law of self-help and self-effort.

God is satisfied with nothing less than..... faith that believes and trusts Him completely for salvation.

The Temple after Jesus

We studied Yom Kipper, the Day of Atonement. We know the veil ripped in two. But I wonder what happened on those Yom Kippers after Jesus went to the cross. I searched in ancient writings but haven't found anything – yet!. But I wonder, did each year the High priest go in and be consumed? Did each year they drag him out by the rope and say our sins are not forgiven this year, I wonder what it is, what is it that we are doing wrong. I doubt it, I doubt it because God no longer recognized the Old System, and secondly we see in the Scriptures the Temple will be standing, so sacrifices will begin again, and the nobody will know the difference.

Know the differences of what? That God is not in it anymore. When Jesus became our High Priest the old things past away.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Samson – Spirit Departed

One of the saddest verses in the Bible:

(Judges 16:20 NKJV) And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

(Judges 16:21 NKJV) Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

Samson was disobedient to the Lord, he messed in places he should never have been, and the Spirit of the Lord departed from him, and he never knew it. I think that is what happened to the temple worship after Jesus suffered the cross. I believe people just kept going to temple, day in day out, they went and did it their way, and never realized that the Spirit had departed, that God was no longer in it.

And I believe that is what we see around us today, people doing it their way, adding onto the works of Jesus. They do their thing, they are not consumed, and they take that as meaning God is pleased with them, God is working through their program, all the while never knowing that what they are doing is spiritless, it is just dead works, wasted efforts.

I believe it's naive to teach that just because you made a decision for Jesus at a point in your past, there is now nothing you can do to jeopardize your salvation. That's not only wrong, it breeds a false sense of security. We should be encouraging our perseverance.

Stop having faith and you're stumbling toward hell. To be saved by faith we have to continue in faith.

For us, faith in the One that looks upon us "in love"

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- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need