

Hebrews: No Turning Back

Week 6

Main Scripture: Hebrews 10:19–25

Recap of Hebrews

“In Christ, you have access and an advocate.”

Throughout Hebrews, we've seen that Jesus is greater. He is our perfect sacrifice, our great High Priest, and the One who makes it possible for us to approach God with confidence.

Now, in Hebrews 10, the writer moves from explaining what Christ has accomplished to showing us how we should respond.

Because of Jesus, we are called to **draw near, hold fast, and stay connected.**

Getting Started

Does a Christian have to go to church?

For some people, attending church has always been a regular part of life. For others, it has been occasional or inconsistent. And for many, attendance patterns have changed through different seasons of life.

But Hebrews 10 challenges us to think beyond whether church attendance is an obligation. Instead, we should consider why gathering with other believers matters to our relationship with Christ and our ability to remain faithful.

Opening Discussion: What role has being part of a church family played in your spiritual growth? Can you think of a time when another believer helped you through a difficult season?

In Christ, you have access and an advocate.

Read Hebrews 10:19–21

These verses summarize much of what the writer of Hebrews has established throughout the book.

Under the Old Covenant, access to God's presence was restricted. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and even then, only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

But through the blood of Jesus, believers have been given something extraordinary: direct access to God.

Jesus has also become our great High Priest, continually representing us before the Father. He is our advocate, speaking on our behalf.

We do not approach God because we have earned the privilege. We approach Him because Christ has made the way.

The word “**therefore**” in Hebrews 10:19 marks an important transition. Because these truths are established, the writer now gives us practical instructions for living faithfully.

These instructions are expressed through three important “**Let Us**” **statements**.

1. Draw Near.

Read Hebrews 10:22

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..."

Because Jesus has given us access to God, we should take advantage of that incredible privilege.

The writer reminds us that our hearts have been cleansed through Christ. We no longer have to approach God with uncertainty about whether we are welcome in His presence.

We can come with confidence, sincerity, and assurance because of what Jesus has done.

Yet having access to God and actually drawing near to Him are not the same thing.

Think about receiving a valuable gift card and putting it away in a drawer, never using it. The gift is yours, but you never experience its benefit.

In a much greater way, believers have been given access to the presence of God. When we face difficulty, temptation, opposition, or uncertainty, we should turn toward Him rather than away from Him.

Prayer is not simply a religious routine. It is an opportunity to come before the One who knows us, loves us, and provides the help we need.

Discuss:

1. What does it mean to draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith?
2. Why do we sometimes hesitate to approach God, even though Jesus has given us access to Him?
3. When you face difficulty, is your first response usually to seek God or to try handling things yourself?
4. What habits help you consistently draw near to God?
5. Is there something in your life right now that you need to bring before God in prayer?

2. Hold Fast.

Read Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

The original readers of Hebrews were experiencing opposition because of their faith in Christ. Some were tempted to turn back to their former way of life rather than endure the difficulties of following Jesus.

The writer challenges them to hold fast to their confession of hope.

That confession is the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done. Jesus is Lord. He died for our sins, offers forgiveness and new life, and promises eternal life to those who trust in Him.

This hope anchors us when circumstances become difficult.

But holding fast requires a decision.

Sometimes we waver between obedience and comfort. We know what God has called us to do, but we also recognize that remaining faithful may involve rejection, inconvenience, or sacrifice.

The temptation is to keep one foot in obedience and the other in whatever feels easiest.

Hebrews reminds us that we can remain faithful because **the One who made the promise is faithful.**

Our confidence is not based on our ability to control circumstances. It is based on God's unchanging character.

Discuss:

1. What does it mean to hold fast to our confession of hope?
2. What situations or pressures most often cause believers to waver in their faith?
3. How can the desire for comfort or approval from others compete with our commitment to Christ?
4. Why is God's faithfulness, rather than our own strength, the foundation of our hope?
5. Where might God be calling you to make a firm decision to remain obedient instead of wavering?

3. Stay Connected.

Read Hebrews 10:24–25

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together..."

The third instruction moves from our personal relationship with God to our relationships with other believers.

God never intended for us to follow Christ in isolation.

The writer of Hebrews recognized that some believers had stopped gathering with the church. Whether because of persecution, fear, apathy, or misplaced priorities, their absence was affecting their ability to remain faithful.

The church is more than a place we attend. It is a body of believers who need one another.

Consider three important reasons for staying connected:

God works among His gathered people. Corporate worship, prayer, fellowship, and the teaching of God's Word provide opportunities to experience God's work in ways that cannot be fully replaced by watching or listening remotely.

Every believer has a role in the body of Christ. First Corinthians 12 describes the church as a body with many different parts. Every member matters, and each person has gifts and abilities that contribute to the whole.

We need one another for encouragement and endurance. When life becomes difficult, other believers can strengthen us, pray for us, challenge us, and remind us to remain faithful.

But this responsibility works both ways.

We do not gather only because we need encouragement. We also gather because someone else may need encouragement from us.

Hebrews tells us to consider how we can stir one another toward love and good works. That requires intentionality. We should actively look for opportunities to strengthen the faith of others.

Discuss:

1. Why is it difficult to grow spiritually when we are disconnected from other believers?
2. What is the difference between simply attending church and actively participating in the life of the church?
3. How has someone in your church family encouraged or strengthened your faith?
4. What gifts, experiences, or abilities has God given you that could benefit others?
5. Who in your life might need encouragement right now, and what could you do to help them remain faithful?

Closing Challenge: Choose Consistency Over Convenience.

Read Hebrews 10:24–25 again.

The question is not simply, "Do Christians have to attend church?"

Church attendance does not save us. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross.

A better question is, "**Why should Christians gather with the church?**"

Because we need one another. Because God works through His people. Because we have a responsibility to encourage others. And because remaining connected helps us endure.

It is easy to allow convenience to determine our level of commitment. Busy schedules, competing priorities, fatigue, and changes in routine can gradually move our relationship with the church further down the list.

Hebrews challenges us to develop a different habit.

Choose consistency over convenience.

This does not mean perfect attendance or treating church participation as a requirement for salvation. It means intentionally making the gathering of God's people a priority.

Be someone others can count on.

Be present, not merely for what you might receive, but for what you can contribute.

Come expecting God to speak to you, and come looking for someone you can encourage.

Living It Out This Week

Consider these four practical responses:

- **Draw Near:** Set aside intentional time this week to approach God in prayer, especially concerning something you have been trying to handle on your own.
- **Hold Fast:** Identify an area where you have been wavering between obedience and convenience. Commit to remaining faithful to what God has called you to do.
- **Stay Connected:** Make gathering with your church family and participating in a Life Group a consistent priority.
- **Encourage Someone:** Think of one person who may be struggling, discouraged, or disconnected. Reach out with a call, text, Scripture, or personal invitation.

Final Reflection

Am I drawing near to God, or am I neglecting the access Jesus has given me?

Am I holding fast to my hope in Christ, or am I wavering when following Him becomes difficult?

Am I staying connected to the body of Christ, or am I allowing convenience to determine my commitment?

Who needs me to encourage them to remain faithful?

Remember the truth that makes all of this possible:

“In Christ, you have access and an advocate.”

Because of Jesus, we can draw near, hold fast, and stay connected.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for giving us access to Your presence through Jesus Christ. Thank You that He is our great High Priest and advocate, continually representing us before You.

Help us draw near to You with confidence, especially when life becomes difficult. Strengthen us to hold fast to our hope without wavering, trusting that You are faithful to every promise You have made.

Remind us of the importance of staying connected to Your people. Help us make our church family a priority, not out of obligation, but out of love for You and one another.

Show us the people around us who need encouragement, and give us the willingness to reach out and strengthen them.

Help us choose consistency over convenience and remain faithful to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.