

# Book of Hebrews Part 36: 10:17-25; Forgiveness; Entering the Holiest (11/23/2019)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/nwmw33y/book-of-hebrews-part-36>.

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Shabbat shalom. Last week we broke into chapter 10, and we made pretty good progress. We got through almost half of the chapter. We're not going to cover as much ground today. We're going to get through about five or six verses, but I'm hopeful for next week that we're actually going to finish this chapter. LORD willing we can break into chapter 11 the following week, which I'm really excited about. That chapter is about all these titans of the faith. I'm excited to get to that one.

With that said, I want to circle back to Hebrew 10:17-18 to set the stage before we break into verse 19. Remember in the preceding verses, the writer is quoting the prophecy in Jeremiah 31 about the New Covenant and how this would be coming. Now we get to the crescendo in Hebrews 10:17 **then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."** That's the payoff. That's the beauty of this New Covenant. He doesn't remember what you've done in your past.

Therefore he goes on in verse 18 and says—<sup>18</sup> **Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.** Yeshua came and dealt with this; finally; once and for all. It's been dealt with; there's nothing more that needs to be done sacrificially speaking. Yeshua accomplish that.

Now what does that mean? It means you and I can now have a clean conscience. Our conscience can be cleared. Owning this great redemption that He has brought us. No longer do our past sins become our identity. Those sins are washed away, as far as the East is from the West. Every time you get into those traps that you look at the sins you committed, remember that is not what the Father looks at. He looks at the righteousness His Son has committed. That's what He looks at. You look at all the past failures. That's not what the Father sees. He sees the success of His Son.

You need to possess this. We need to have this. You need to believe this because as I mentioned last week the devil is coming for you because, "The devil wants to make sure you never forget what God has forgotten." This is what he is doing. He is so good at digging up your past and keeping your past in your head. He tells you that the person you were is the person you will always be, the worthless bum, no good, drug addict, and drunk. This is all you will ever be. He will tell you that you are not a new creation in the Messiah Yeshua. These are the filthy lies he comes at you with, but you are a new creation. You have to believe that. We've been made new; we've been given a new life.

This is why Yeshua talks about this with Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Yeshua talks about being born again. Nicodemus hears Him and asks, "I'm going to enter into the womb a second time?" Yeshua tells him it is a brand new life. This is what we're given in Yeshua. Do you believe it? Do you believe it? You have got to believe it.

With that said, we're going to continue on to Hebrews 10:19 **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**, because of this beautiful work Yeshua did for us. It is because of the price He paid. Because of the pain and the torture He went through we can do the unthinkable. It's unthinkable.

You need to think about the context of this statement. The statement is being made in the context of Yom Kippur. Go back to chapter nine to see the context. The writer is very clear that you can't go into the Holy of Holies. It's restricted. No one can get in except for the high priest. He can get in. And guess what? He can get in at one specific time of the year. Even he was restricted. He only gets to go in on Yom Kippur and under specific conditions. This is restricted access, and now he's coming on the scene saying, "have boldness to go where you haven't gone before." That is an awesome thought and one worthy of contemplation.

I'm going to tell you, for me personally, when I began to contemplate this reality it changed my life. It changed the way I pray. It changed it all. Do you understand what the writer is actually commissioning us to do? How do we do that? How do we enter into the Throne Room? Through faith in Yeshua, in prayer. This is how we enter into the Throne Room. We have the ability. Do you know the power that exists to be able to enter in the Throne Room? Do you understand? We have the ability to come right before the God of all creation with His son sitting at His right hand. That's where you can come in and bring your deepest, darkest fears, your thoughts, and your heart. You can share your heart with Him. You can pour out your heart. You can bring the frustrations you're facing in life. Bring the trials and tribulations to Him.

You have the ability to go to the Throne Room, yet so many of us just aren't finding the time. We don't have the time to do this. This is the place where we make confession. This is the place where we get deliverance. If you want deliverance, you have to go to the Throne Room. Do you want healing? You have to go to the Throne Room? We don't enter there because we don't believe. Our faith is so weak.

We've got to change the way we think and understand. We have to allow these words the writer is telling us to go right into the heart of hearts, and we need to move with action.

To help you appreciate this, I want to share a story with you. Hopefully, by the end of the story you have a little better perspective. This is the story of Queen Esther. We are not going to look at the whole story. I'm just going to look at a very small part of the story. Before we dig into this, there is one thing I want you to be aware of. It is something you may need to make special note of. It is this. This story completely holds intense, prophetic imagery. I mean intense, to where the characters of the stories are prophetic representations of people that would come to exist in the future of the story.

For example: Mordecai is a prophetic template, a typology, of Messiah Yeshua. Now if you've never gone through our Esther series, go through that. It is an incredible revelation. Mordecai presents Yeshua. There are so many parallels and prophetic inferences in his life to the Lord. Then you look at Esther who represents the people of God. She represents Israel as a whole. Then we have Haman who represents the embodiment of the Antichrist, the devil. Then you have King Ahasuerus. He is

represented as the Father. So you need to understand as we embark on this that this is intense prophecy, and it's very relevant for you today.

Now as you go to the book of Esther chapter 4, Mordecai receives a decree. He sees the kingdom has made a decree. The King has made a decree. It's by law all the people of God are to be put to death. This, of course, happened through the scheming of Haman. So here are the prophetic inferences. There's a decree Mordecai's holding that condemns all the Jewish people to death. Do you know how that came into being? Because Haman the accuser, Satan, came to the LORD and said, "O King. There are people who do not keep your laws. They don't keep your laws, and therefore they're not worthy to live." So the king made the edict they are to be put to death.

Now how fascinating is that? When you look at the law of God, the Torah, it has put every single person in this room to death. It condemns every one of us to death. That's a fact.

As you are looking at this, the picture that develops in this story is absolutely incredible. So they've been sentenced to death. So Mordecai tears his clothes; he starts mourning. Esther, who is in the king's palace, catches wind of this. She cares for Mordecai because Mordecai raised her as his own daughter, though he was her cousin, because her parents died very early on.

So Esther really cares for Mordecai as a father, and this news comes to her that Mordecai is mourning. He's weeping and has torn his clothes. So she gives her servant Hathach clothes for Mordecai to replace his sackcloth, and she orders Hathach to go to Mordecai and find out what is going on. Mordecai tells him everything. In fact, Mordecai gives him a copy of the law and says, here you go. Here's your copy of the law. Take this back to Esther and tell her to go to the king and get us deliverance. This is what Mordecai commission's her to do.

So then Esther sends Mordecai these words in response. Esther 4:11 **All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death** (emphasis added). To where? The inner court. Whoever goes there, you have to be called.

Do you see the symmetry? Under the Old Covenant regarding the Holy of Holies, you don't get in unless you're called. Well, who were the only ones who were called into the Holy of Holies? The sons of Aaron. Only the sons of Aaron could go into the Holy Place and only at a specific time. Everyone else who would try was to be put to death. You can read that in the Torah.

So here we see this law that pertained to Esther. Esther notifies Mordecai that she can't approach the king. The verse continues in Ester 4:11 **except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.**

In other words, Esther's response to Mordecai's request to go into the inner court is basically, "not happening. I'm not going. Everyone is going to be put to death." So that's how she responds.

Moving to Esther 4:12-13 **<sup>12</sup>So they told Mordecai Esther's words. <sup>13</sup>And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.** In other words, Mordecai's telling her that if she does not enter into the Holy of Holies, "You will die too." This is how critical it is to go before the king in the inner chamber.

Esther 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

It is kind of funny. Esther says, "I'm not going." Mordecai response is "You're going. That is what is happening."

Continuing in Esther 4:15-16 <sup>15</sup>Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, **which is against the law**; and if I perish, I perish!" (Emphasis added).

So you look at all of the things that are happening in the story. We have an edict, a law, which has condemned all the Jews to death. You have Mordecai representative of Yeshua actually telling her, "Go into the inner court, which is the place that is not lawful for anyone to go. Go there." Then you have Esther fasting and humbling herself. This is amazing!

Continuing on in Esther 5:1 **Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house** (emphasis added).

Isn't this interesting? So here you have Esther who humbled herself before she went into the inner court, because that's what fasting is. She humbled herself. But when did she specifically go? On the third day. Now, what significant event do we, as believers in Yeshua, know in regard to the third day? That was the day Yeshua rose from the grave. That's where all the power and all the victory is. That paved the way to allow us to actually go into the Holy of Holies. So the fact that this has happened on the third day is not coincidental.

Moving on to Esther 5:2 **So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter** (emphasis added).

So because Esther heeded the command of Mordecai, because she humbled herself before the LORD, she found favor in the eyes of the king. That is an amazing thing!

This gets even better because we already know that everyone who comes and stands before the king are going to be put to death unless he holds out the golden scepter. This gets fascinating because this is Messianic imagery. There is no question about that. Notice the golden scepter is pure gold. What do we know about the Holy of Holies? It's encapsulated in pure gold because it represents pure holiness. And the scepter? That is a Messianic term. You can read about it in the Torah in Numbers 24:17 **A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel** (emphasis added).

Isn't that interesting? The reason Esther's life is preserved is because the king held out the golden scepter. It is because of Yeshua. That is powerful! This is why she was given life. This is amazing imagery here.

Now we come to the payoff. Now you are going to understand what this is all about. We will see what the writer of Hebrews is really asking his brothers to understand and trying to convince and encourage

them to embrace the boldness to enter into the holy place. This is what we read in Esther 5:3 **And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you--up to half the kingdom!"** (Emphasis added).

This is what happens when you enter into the Throne Room of God, and you find favor. He holds out the golden scepter through your faith in Yeshua. Guess what? God asks, "What do you ask; it shall be given to you." I've heard that before out of Yeshua's mouth when He says in Matthew 7:7 **Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you** (emphasis added).

Think about how powerful this is. Where do you ask? You go to the Throne Room. You go in faith and prayer, and you enter in the Throne Room. That is where you're going to get deliverance. That is where you are going to get healing. That is where you're going to get forgiveness. That's where you're going to make confession and intercession for those who are broken and suffering. That's when we step up as intercessors and we go to the Throne Room and pray for deliverance for that person. Pray for mercy; pray for favor. This is the benefit of what the writer is talking about here when he says in Hebrews 10:19 **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus** [Yeshua]. This is where we need to be; we need to heed this call. Amen?

The writer goes on to say in Hebrews 10:20, **by a new**. He says, new, because it's a new. It is a Brit Hadashah—New Covenant. This has never been done before. You can go to the prophet Isaiah and read where God is doing a new thing. It does not say He is doing an old thing. He never before sacrificed His Son, and never before has His Son rose from the dead.

Returning to Hebrews 10:20 **by a new and living way** [hence the resurrection because Yeshua is alive forevermore,] **which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh** (emphasis added). It is interesting that the writer pulls again the imagery of the Holy of Holies. What separates us from the Holy of Holies? The veil. You have to go through the veil to get to the Holy of Holies. The only way that's happening is through the sacrifice of Yeshua. It doesn't happen any other way.

The writer then goes on and says the following in Hebrews 10:22 **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**. He goes back to the conscience and correlates this sprinkling to the blood of Yeshua. This is the imagery of Yom Kippur where the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies and he would sprinkle the blood on and before the Mercy Seat and even on the altar. The writer is presenting Yom Kippur terminology, and here he's saying that with the blood of Yeshua, it's sprinkled on our heart from an evil conscience. It covers that.

Going back to Hebrews 10:22 **and our bodies washed with pure water**. This is talking about Romans 6. This is talking about going into the baptism and resurrection of the LORD. Peter says it the exact same way in 1 Peter 3:21 **There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ** (emphasis added).

We can have that confidence. Our sins are no longer supposed to create an identity for us. That person died. I don't care about the person you used to be. Speaking of myself, I am not the same person I used to be 25 or 30 years ago because that person is dead. It's irrelevant. I am a new creation in the Messiah Yeshua. This is the belief that we need to have. This is where freedom and liberty comes from.

Now I want to take you back to Hebrews 10:22 because there is one more thing I want to point out which is really important. The call is—**let us draw near**. Draw near to what? To the Holy of Holies through faith and prayer. This is the call. We are to draw near, and there's a promise with this. James tells us what it is in James 4:8 **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you**.

You see, that's the moment. This is like King Ahasuerus and Esther, "What is your request Esther? I will do it." This is what we will get. This is when prayers begin to get answered. This is when your life radically transforms. It is when you become a powerful intercessor. This is the call.

The question then becomes: have you heeded the call? Have you drawn near? I read the parable in Luke 14:5-24, and it gets a little scary because in Luke 14 the call goes out to draw near, yet the people began to make excuses. They said, "I'm sorry. I bought a piece of land. I'm really busy right now. I have to tend to this land. I don't have time to draw near." The next guy said, "I bought five oxen. They need to be tested." In other words, in modern-day terms, "Guess what? I have work to deal with. I have responsibilities. I'm sorry. I ask you to have me excused. I can't draw near." As a result of these things, the king in the story is enraged. He is giving this invitation and nobody's coming.

You then have a scarier version than Luke 14. This is where you have Christians drawing near to Him with their mouths and honoring Him with their lips. They sing the right songs. They sing the praises and worship. They go to church every single week. They say the things that seem to be very Christian. They look the part in every way, but guess what? Their heart is nowhere near Him. They draw near with their mouth, and they honor Him with the lips, but their heart is nowhere to be found. This is what Yeshua referred to in Matthew 15:9 when He said, **"In vain they worship Me."**

What is terrifying is in their mind everything's fine. They think, "I'm praising the LORD. I come to church. I confess Him." However, they are honoring Him simply with their mouth. But guess what? They've given their heart to the world, and they're not acknowledging it.

I want to bring some seriousness into "the call" so that you feel the weight and gravity of what this is about. I want to take you to Ezekiel 14:1-3 **<sup>1</sup>Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. <sup>2</sup>And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>3</sup>Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?** (Emphasis added).

These men are coming before Him. It's not that they don't believe God exists; they confess Him, they are petitioning Him, they are praising Him, but they have lifted idols up in their hearts. This is terrifying! How many Christians are doing this today? How many of us in this room are doing this today? You see, we are in a culture where people would rather read Facebook than read the word of God. They would rather hear from the television than hear from God. They would rather chase after riches, materialism, the things and structure that this world has set up for us to covet and desire than desiring the LORD God. This is scary.

We have people seeking the knowledge of the world versus the knowledge of God. We have people needing to be entertained by the world rather than to be convicted by God. We have men seeking the praise of men rather than the praise of God. This will control you in such evil and vile ways. All of these things and many others are idols. It's idolatry. In and of themselves some of these things are not sinful, but when they take precedence over your time with the LORD, it is an idol.

When we read in Numbers 21 how Israel lifted up the bronze serpent, it wasn't an idol. Yet we find in 2 Kings 18 how they started worshipping it and called it Nehushtan [which means "a mere piece of bronze"]. Then it was an idol, and it had to be destroyed. There may be things in general that are not sinful, but you've made them sinful. For example, for people to possess money is not a sin. For you to give your heart to it, then it is an idol. When it controls you, it is an idol.

This is all scary. The generation we're living in is as violent and wicked as it comes. It demands you to set up idols in your heart. You have to remove yourself completely from the world, which will result in you looking totally radical and crazy to the world. If we do not look radical and crazy the world, it is because we've made friends with it. Scary!

Continuing on in Ezekiel 14:4 **Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD GOD: "Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols** (emphasis added).

Do you understand what that means? Basically what the LORD is saying is "You want to honor Me with your lips? You want to draw near to Me with your mouth, but not give me all of your heart? Oh, yeah, I'll answer you, but you're not going to like it."

So what does it mean that He's going to answer us according to our idols? This is what it means, Ezekiel 11:21 **But as for those whose hearts follow the desire for their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads," says the LORD GOD. Ezekiel 14:8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.** This is what it looks like. It is absolutely terrifying.

I am taking you through this so you understand the seriousness of the invitation when we're called to draw near to the LORD. It's not something we can take lightly. If you want to draw near to the LORD, you have to put your idols away.

Think about Jacob in Genesis 35:2. Jacob is going to Bethel to meet with God. God commands his entire family put away their idols. Get rid of them. There were idols among his family.

I am going to talk to you men. Take authority in your house right now. Get rid of the idols. Get rid of everything that is drawing you away from your focus and your devotion to Yeshua. Get rid of everything that is drawing your wife's devotion away from the LORD. It needs to be removed. It's not worth it.

We are so accustomed, in this Google world we live in, to need everything now. We just need it. If you can't have it this second, forget it. It's absolutely abominable.

Whatever is drawing you away from the LORD, you have to purge it. Go home today and clean your house. Clean your heart. Pray about it. Ask the LORD to show you anything you have set up higher than Him. Ask Him to show you the things in your life that are abominable to you. You need to tear them down. Expose it; cast light on this darkness.

Moving to 1 Samuel 7:3 **Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts [it doesn't say some of your heart], then put away the foreign gods** (emphasis added). Do you know what it means to give your whole heart? You cannot have any idols in it.

Continuing in 1 Samuel 7:3 **...and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines"** (emphasis added). That's the beauty of this. You can honor Him with your mouth and lips and give Him your heart. You can enter into the Throne Room. You can call on the name of Yeshua, and guess what? He will deliver you in that contest. But if you try to draw near with your mouth and honor Him with your lips, but you have idols in your hearts. I pity you. It's not going to go well. You're an adulterer. You're an adulteress.

That is how the LORD Himself explains it. When Israel sinned, He likened it to adultery. For you husbands, if you are married, and your wife proclaims to love you, but you know she just had an affair, and she comes into the house like nothing ever happened saying, "I love you honey," this is sickening. That's absolutely demonic. Or vice versa: a wife's waiting at home for her husband knowing he's out doing what he's doing. He comes home and tells her, "I love you." No you don't! You love your idols; you love yourself. That is not love.

Hebrews 10:22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith** (emphasis added). You might not have caught that at first, but now you do. How does the writer tell us to draw near? With a true heart. Get the idols out. This is a pure heart. He knows what he's saying here. He's very clever.

Notice also in Hebrews 10:22-23 **in full assurance of faith**. You need this because you're not getting into the Throne Room without faith in Yeshua. It won't happen. **Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.** <sup>23</sup> **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

So why would the writer say, **hold fast the confession of our hope**? Who is the hope? The hope of Israel is Yeshua, but he recognizes there's a threat and it's the same thing the Apostle Paul, Yeshua, and all the apostles recognized. Paul talks about it in 1 Timothy 4:1 **Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**. If you think you can live like hell and inherit Heaven and you can worship your idols and God will love you, it's not true.

David gives us a great example of embracing what the writer is communicating. He says in Psalms 27:13 **I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living**. In other words, David is telling you that the world would have gotten the better of him if he was not focused on the kingdom of God. He stuck to his faith. He was not concerned about this age at all. That shows you how dangerous this world is. David shows us how dangerous the world is. It's after us. It's after our heart.

According to Scripture, even King David, who was this anointed man who had not turned to the right hand or to the left in anything except the matter of Uriah the Hittite, who was a man with an unbelievable anointing and was referred to as a man after God's own heart, is showing us in this verse the power and the seduction of the world. Even he would have lost heart had he not believed he was going to see Yeshua in the age to come. This is absolutely amazing!

Moving to Hebrews 10:24 **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works**. We are called to stir up love and good works. Our actions should be so compelling, so powerful, that they literally draw people into the kingdom. That's what it should be. I have to tell you whether you believe it or not that what you do and what you say matters and impacts those around you. The devil



wants to tell you that is not true and is a lie. Remember, this is for good and for bad; we all have a power of influence. It ranges from little children to that of grown men well into their years. This is a reality. Our human nature is to imitate, so if we have people here who are showing the love of Yeshua, it is contagious. It encourages them to walk in love and to do good. That is so powerful!

Even the secular Greek philosophers understood this reality. Now, I'm not in the habit of quoting Greek philosophers, but in this case, I'll make an exception. Look at what Aristotle says—[a human being is] the most imitative creature in the world, and learns at first by imitation. It's true. This means everything you do and say is going to make an impact. You know, life and death is in the power of the tongue and that's not just in regard to you. It's with regard to the people around you. Why do you think the Apostle Paul says—A little leaven leavens the whole lump—if in fact we're not imitative creatures? Why does he say this if there is no threat of one sinner in a community impacting the entire community? Of course they will! You have to get the leaven out because the whole community will be lost. You can't allow that to happen. We're imitative creatures. So if we choose to follow Yeshua, to walk in His ways and show love, this is what brings unity into the community. This is what will bring revival. This is what will bring power, deliverance, and glory to Yeshua. It's the love. We need to have this.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4, the beautiful chapter of love, Paul explains to us how it looks <sup>4</sup>Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy [There's no covetousness for those things, those idols, in the world. Love does not want any of it]. Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up. There's no pride in love. Now pride is not just a male thing. Females also deal with pride. We all struggle with pride. Isn't it frightening to know if you're struggling with pride you're not walking in love? Love is not residing in you. That is terrifying because I can tell you, from my past experiences, there are times where your pride gets in the way and you play the fool. If there is not love in my heart, I'm as good as dead. There's no life in me. We need love.

Reflecting more on 1 Corinthians 13:4 it says, is not puffed up. When you catch yourself being puffed up even with knowledge of the LORD and look at everybody else as pathetic, ignorant fools, that's not love.

Corinthians 13:5 <sup>5</sup>does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil. What are your thoughts? Have you ever gone through an entire day and realized half of your meditation is immorality? Is a quarter of your meditations bitterness, anger, or resentment? Maybe you spend your day thinking about your upbringing or maybe your friend who betrayed you. Whatever the case may be, is what is going through your mind? Is it love?

Again, this is where it gets real and you say, "Oh God, help me. I'm so much farther away from You than where I'm called to be." You read Scripture, and that's why Scripture is so powerful. The Apostle Paul has the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He speaks these words, and it drops you.

1 Corinthians 13:6 <sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth. I'm going to tell you that for me. This is one of the most important and powerful statements in the entire New Testament, especially living in this generation where the world has redefined what love is. Now love is homosexuality. That's what they see as love. If you don't understand, and if you don't agree with this, you don't love. You're a hater.

Let me tell you something: love does not rejoice in iniquity. That's not love, period. We continue in 1 Corinthians 13:6-7 <sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup>bears all things. We are to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:7 ...**believes all things**. It is not talking about lies. It's talking about the truth. You go to the Bible, and when God says it, yes, I believe it, and it impacts your walk.

1 Corinthians 13:7 ...**hopes all things, endures all things**. It endures trials. It endures tribulations. It doesn't turn back on God and blame Him for the things you're going through. This is absolutely incredible! There is nothing more the devil hates than love in the camp [church]. That is because love unifies. Love absolutely destroys his kingdom. If there is love in this camp, I'm going to tell you this: we are invincible. We're Invincible. We can't be defeated.

What does Paul say as we continue? **Love Never Fails?** (1 Corinthians 13:8). It cannot fail! If we understood this, wouldn't you want to walk in power? Well, we can talk a good talk; however, if we want to walk in power, we have to walk in love because when you walk in Yeshua's footsteps, you cannot be destroyed. You cannot be taken. You will not be deceived.

You will never fail if there is love in a marriage. It will never fail if the parents show true love; biblical love for their children. They will never fail. That doesn't mean we do everything perfect, but you will never fail. They will have the tools necessary to combat the devil because their imitators. If they see love in the home, between a husband and a wife, the children will know what love is.

When I was growing up, I had friends who came from really broken homes; therefore, they thought that's what love was. I'm not making this up. They literally thought it was loving for husbands to beat their wife and to cheat on them. This is what they knew to be love. No! It's not. That is not love.

One of the most important lessons we'll ever learn in our life are these three words—it [**love**] **never fails**. Think about that. Why does love never fail? Why is it invincible? Why doesn't the devil want us to have it? Because it's Yeshua. He is love.

Here is the thing: we can't know love if you're not going to Him. You will never love unless He's living in your heart. That is an impossibility. Your love will be the definition of the world. He needs to live within you. This means you need to repent and humble yourself. You need to go to the Throne Room and call on His name. That's what's going to equip you. That's what's going to equip this community.

Moving to Hebrews 10:24-25 <sup>24</sup>**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,** <sup>25</sup>**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.** In other words, the coming of the LORD.

So, the day is coming, and even Peter talks about it in 1 Peter 4:7 **But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.** We have to get it together. One of the things the writer of Hebrews was very concerned about, enough to put it within this letter, is the unity of coming together.

I want to unpack the Hebrews 10:25 verse specifically pertaining to the word, assembly—**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**. The word assembling in the Greek is ἐπισυναγωγή. It is a compound word. ἐπί is simply a preposition. This is the prefix of this word. It simply means on, in,

upon, to, etc. However, the suffix of the word is συναγωγή. There can be no mistaking what this refers to, it is synagogue.

Given that, I want to share a little bit of commentary from the renowned scholar F.F. Bruce. Listen to what he says in regard to this—[there is no evidence elsewhere for the use of “episynagogue” in a different sense from “synagogue” or “meeting”](#) (F.F. Bruce, The Epistle to the Hebrews). In modern-day terms we would say, the church. This is where we go to gather.

He goes on—[our author may simply be urging his readers not to give up attending the general meeting of the church](#). This is what the writer of Hebrews is commanding.

Here is where I am going with this. I am not the only one who sees this. I have talked to other pastors about this very thing. The enemy comes and takes out people. They decide, “I’m just not going to fellowship. I’m going stay at home. One week turns to two weeks, and two weeks to three weeks, and that turns into two months. The enemy understands this. He is coming to take you out of the community you are a part of. I am not just talking about this particular community; there are other communities out there. If there are believers who are separating themselves from their communities, understand this: you are buying into the lie. Satan is coming to pick you apart. He is coming to tear you limb by limb.

I am reminded of a verse in Psalms 133:1 [Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!](#) You see, that was the synagogue. The synagogue was all about coming together as the people of God. We are coming together in unity for one thing. We’ve come to worship Him. We’ve come to hear Him; to hear His word. That’s the truth of it.

There is an interesting statement in Proverbs 18 where it talks about how foolish it is for a man to isolate himself. He separates himself from the community. This is not okay. It is destructive.

I give you this warning; don’t get caught in this lie. Don’t buy into it. You need to be in community. Whatever community you are a part of, you have to be joined together with believers. Scripture says [For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them](#) (Matthew 18:20). It’s a beautiful thing for us to come together.

Look at the history of Israel. The Temple was put out in public for all people to come. The synagogues were being put out in the public so all people could come. In Acts 13, the Gentiles were hearing the word of God in the synagogues. That is where they heard the word.

This is what we need. We need to heed this council.