

A Call to Persevere

“19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an 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 profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:19-25 KJV)

Christ's death on the cross for our sins had opened the way for us to reach God and paved the way and enabled us to persevere and achieve the things the Lord had ordained for us to achieve. In the Old Testament the Ark of the Covenant that represents the presence of God in the life of His people was present in the tent of meeting and later on it was placed in the temple of God in Jerusalem. The setup was composed of two rooms, the outer room and the inner room. The Ark of the Covenant was in the inner room that is called the most holy place or the holy of holies. And it is separated from the outer room with a curtain. The high priest will only be allowed to enter the most holy place once a year to offer sacrifices for himself and for the people. But when Jesus died on the cross for our sins the curtain between the holy and the most holy place was torn, *“51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;” (Matthew 27:51 KJV)* Therefore we can enter the most holy place with confidence with the blood of Jesus. The curtain that was separating the people from God was replaced by the body of Jesus that was hanged on the cross for our sins and brought us back to God. Now with this new covenant with the blood of Jesus we can approach God with confidence. Not only that but Jesus after He died on the cross He rose from death and ascend to Heaven and now He is at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us, and He became our great high priest over the house of God because He has a permanent priesthood, *“14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:14-15 KJV)* *“23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:23-25 KJV)* What a wonderful promises the Lord had bestowed on us, and all these promises would enable us to commit ourselves more to God and to persevere more in life to do His will and walk in His ways. Therefore,

1. Let us persevere to draw near to God with a sincere heart: “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.” (Hebrews 10:22 KJV) This is a call for consecration. God is calling us to be cleansed from sins and all

unrighteousness. We need to clean our hearts from things that God hates. *“19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:” (Matthew 15:19 KJV)* Since Jesus died for our sins and pave the way for us to reach God then we are called to honor the blood of Jesus and His great work on the cross by living in obedience to His Word and to His commands. Since Jesus had done great things for us we are called to be more faithful and obedient to Him by living a holy life. The blood of Jesus, the name of Jesus, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are all important for the cleansing work of God in our lives. As we repent from our sins then the blood of Jesus will cleanse us from guilty conscience so we can serve the Lord with a clear conscience and this what the Word of God tells us: *“14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:14 KJV)*

2. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful: “23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;).” (Hebrews 10:23 KJV) As we commit our lives to live a holy life unto the Lord and as our faith brings obedience into our lives then we can be assured of receiving of what the Lord had promised in His Word to us. God is faithful; as we wait patiently for His promises then God would reward us and fulfill what He had ordained for us to receive from Him. Have hope and confidence in God that you will receive from Him what He had promised as you continue to serve Him faithfully.

3. Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds: “24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” (Hebrews 10:24 KJV) At this stage of God's calling into our lives, the Lord direct us to spur or sharpen one another and encourage one another toward more love and to do good deeds. When we meet one another that is the right time that we can instruct, admonish and encourage one another to do the right things that the Lord would direct us to do: *“17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” (Proverbs 27:17 KJV)* Our fellowship and meeting together should light the fire of God in the life of the members of the church to go on and serve God wholeheartedly. Our fellowship together would help to impart God's vision, strengthen the faith of the church members and even as we meet together God would bestowed on us the spiritual gifts and the talents that we need to do His will and to do His work.

4. Let us not giving up meeting together: “25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25 KJV) When we come together and meet in worship, for prayers and for studying the Word of God we are not doing that as some are in the habit of doing; we are not doing it for the sake of doing. We are not doing it as ritual or routine thing and we do not understand what we are doing. But we do it for a purpose; when we meet together even two or three in the name of the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ is with us, *“19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19-20 KJV)* God had a purpose for us when we meet together; God

wants to achieve a task through us as we meet together, that is why we should not neglect our meeting together. When we meet together we are praying for one another, and we are building one another. As we hear one another testimonies we are encouraged and uplifted and help one another to continue to persevere and trust God for our lives.

5. Let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching: The Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon and He will take us to Heaven we who belongs to Him. *“36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” (Matthew 24:36, 42 KJV)* So we need to be ready. Therefore when we meet together, we are reminding and encouraging one another that the Lord is coming soon and He will take us with Him back to Heaven, and in this way our suffering and trials will be ended up and the Lord will wipe all our tears. *These are the last days and we are surrounded by such large events of trials and tribulation. But we don't need to give up or loss our foothold. We should not be persuaded by the wickedness that is so prevalent. We should live in holiness for we have the blood of Jesus and we have His promises to live and persevere while we are waiting for Him to come and take us to Heaven*

“26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Christ death on the cross for our sins had opened the way for us to reach God; we are cleansed with His blood and forgiven for our sins. But the blood of Jesus being free does not give us the right to abuse the grace of God by continuing sinning. *“1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2 KJV)* The grace of God and through the work of Jesus on the cross for our salvation does not give us the right to continue to do sin and live our lives as enemies of God.

Many they have the concept that God is good, God is gracious and God is forgiving, but that does not mean that we have the right to continue to sin. Many also have the concept that once you are saved then you are saved whatever spiritual deterioration that you are living in. That is sure is incorrect and not true. *Hebrews 10:26-31*, speaks about the real danger of keep on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of truth; then *“there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins”*. The blood of Jesus will not cover our sins if there is no repentance, and the blood of Jesus will not cover our sins if we continue to live in sin. Therefore we need to persevere to live without sin until He comes and take us to Heaven.

To continue to sin is to live our lives against God. Sin is the wrong act that we know wrong and we still do and unwilling to stop. Sin also is unwillingness to do the right or what we ought to do as the Word of God tells us, *“17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17 KJV)* One of the important values to keep the fellowship with the church, the family of God is to study the Scripture and to apply them into our lives. The Word of God will show us what sin is and the Holy Spirit will convict us and direct us to repent. Our fellowship will remind us to do what is right and to avoid what is evil and sin.

The Lord Jesus said, *“47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.” (Luke 12:47 KJV)* So it is not about how much we know from God's Word but our willingness to obey, then that what will be in consideration, *“13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” (Romans 2:13 KJV)* So to those who come to know the grace of God in Christ Jesus our Lord and continue to sin then this will be left for them: *“27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” (Hebrews 10:27 KJV)*

At the time of Moses, *“28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:” (Hebrews 10:28 KJV)* They will bring the person who had committed the act of sin and the men of the city will stone him till death. Many they will say that after the coming of Jesus we are in the age of grace. What they mean that there will be no punishment as it was in the day of Moses and the period of the law. But here clearly it says the following: *“29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29 KJV)* The punishment will be more severe to those who persist in sin than it was before. Since our redemption is God's acts in our lives and since God offered His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to redeem us, and since we does not need to offer lambs or goats and their blood for the redemption of our sins then we are called to be more accountable before God in how to live and observe our lives before God.

Since we come to know how much Jesus suffered with His own body on the cross to open the way for us to reach God, and since in sinning we are taking lightly the blood of Jesus and treated as an unholy thing forgetting that only the blood of Jesus can sanctify us from our sins. And since on keeping on sinning we are showing our resistance to the Holy Spirit and in sinning we are disregarding the Holy Spirit and in doing that we are insulting Him, then for all the above points we deserve to be punished more severely than others who does not know all that and who does not enjoy all the privileges of God, His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, His Word, His promises and the Holy Spirit of grace.

Heaven is real, the home of righteousness that God had prepared for those who fear Him and walk in His ways. As well as hell is real. God had prepared hell to Satan and the fallen angels who disobeyed God. *“5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath*

reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” (Jude 1:5-6 KJV) Those who willingly and deliberately disobey God’s Word they will share the same future of those fallen angel who disobeyed God to end up in hell and eternal fire.

“17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17 KJV) God will call everyone for judgment, and He will start with the family of God, His church. God will judge His children first. Those who are obedient they will be rewarded and those who are disobedient God will punish.

The message that we have is a warning message. God is calling you to reconsider your ways of life, to repent from your sins and don’t take the blood of Jesus lightly and for granted. If God is patient with you that is because He wants you to repent and come back to Him, *“11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” (Titus 2:11-14 KJV)*

“32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:32-39 KJV)

God message is always will come to us on time to fill the need and help us to endure life’s trials and uncomfortable circumstances, *“12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 KJV) The Word of God shows another aspect for the believer that he needs to stand firm and persevere. This is the aspect of accepting rejection, isolation and persecution as part of our life and calling by God.*

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke about that when He spoke the parable of the sower: *“20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.” (Matthew 13:20-21)* As we hear the message, the Word of God is falling into our hearts to change us and to transform us. But while the Word

of God is taking the time required to do that, there is another factor working to contradict and oppose the Word of God from working and have its effect on our lives and this factor is trouble and persecution because of the Word of God.

Once we repent and decide to follow Jesus and live according to His Word, devil will start to work at this time to oppose us. Devil will oppose us whether by direct way or indirect way. Direct opposition by announcing persecution because we live according to the Word of God and preach to the people the good news; encouraging them to live their lives according to the message that we receive from God. The persecution will come in this way on the form of rejection, isolation, imprisonment, expulsion or execution.

The Word of God tells us the following: *“29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;” (Philippians 1:29 KJV)* When we believe in Christ and start to follow Him and walk in His ways persecution will also come true into our lives as we can read here: *“12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12 KJV)* The Lord also admonishes us with the following: *“10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12 KJV)* **Opposition and persecution is part of our calling by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Jesus also said to His disciples and unto us the following: *“1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.” (John 16:1-4 KJV)* But you may ask why? *“18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (John 15:18-19 KJV)* **The time that you start to follow the Word of God, that will entail on you not to compromise or go with the ways of the world. And as you leave the old life and be away from friends, neighbors and relatives who do not agree with what God says in His Word and live their lives unto Him, then here will begin the isolation, persecution, rejection and the suffering.**

Devil may oppose us by indirect way, like causing us sicknesses, problems in the places that we are working, financial pressures, etc. All the above may cause us to be daunted and discouraged from continuing serving God and living in the truth. **Hebrews 10:32-39** deals with believers who got discouraged from the insults, rejection and persecution they had repeatedly received and suffered. Now they were aloof, shrink back and being discouraged and hopeless, therefore they didn’t want to continue to work out their lives in the way that God wanted them to be. And here come the encouragement from the Word of God.

A. Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering: “32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;” (Hebrews 10:32 KJV) You don’t need to be discouraged! What you are facing now already had happened in the past and you had endured it. So endure it this time as well.

B. At other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated: “33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.” (Hebrews 10:33 KJV) Previously you had encouraged others who suffered the same as you now passing through. There will be people who will be encouraged as you stand firm now and continue to do what God had entrusted to you to do.

C. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded: You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions: “knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.” (Hebrews 10:34-35 KJV) As you accepted persecution before you accept it again now because great is your reward not only here on earth but heaven.

D. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised: “36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.” (Hebrews 10:36 KJV) God had called us to stand firm and persevere in doing the will of God until the end. As we are pursuing the will of God we are working with God. Devil here will oppose us to hinder us, so we need to be alert and not to give up but to continue persevering in achieving what He had called us to do. For Jesus will come soon, “37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” (Hebrews 10:37 KJV) Therefore we need to live by faith and continue to obey God and not to shrink back or move away from His ways otherwise He will not be pleased with us if He would found us discouraged or shrink back; that should not be our case. “38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” (Hebrews 10:38 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved: Therefore we should conform to the Word of God, “39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:39 KJV) Our faith should be persevering faith in doing God’s will and to the end; living in holiness, repenting of our sins, keeping our Godly fellowship, meeting one another, encouraging, admonishing and caring for one another, facing all the pressure of the devil and the trials of life with all the rejection and persecution waiting patiently and persevering until the time that Jesus would come to take us with Him to Heaven.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I thank you for your Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and all your promises. Thank you for your grace and mercy and the eternal life that we have

in you. Thank you for all your provision and your help in times of trials, rejection and persecution. And thank you for all the encouragements, the teaching, the corrections and the rebukes we receive in this message.

Now repent and renounce from all your sins. Renounce your worldliness and your yoke with non believers and your non willingness to be with the family of God. Renounce your love of money, the trust on people and material things, the lust and the love for the worldly matters. Repent of your immoralities, and the rest of the work of the flesh. Renounce your abuse of the grace and taking the blood of Jesus for granted. Repent of your lack of fear in God. Repent of your selfishness, doing your own will, lack of commitment and non willingness to give to God your time, your effort and your material things. Repent of all your idols and the wrong things that you are doing that contradict the Word of God and God’s will. Repent from your non willingness to persevere while persecuted and suffer for Christ. Repent from wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media. Repent of your lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible and your lack of prayer. Lord I repent from the following _____. Lord gives me one more opportunity to live my life for you.

Lord I commit myself to follow you in full obedience to your Word and commands. Lord gives me patience and perseverance as I am waiting for you to come and take me with you for eternity. Lord I commit my life into your hand to live in holiness and to persevere in facing trials, rejection and persecution, not to be discouraged, daunted or shrink back, but trusting you and have confidence that you will reward me as I continue to serve you. Lord uphold me with your love and grace and provide for me and encourage me so I can continue to serve you and do your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my brethren and my sisters who repented and came back to you willing to persevere to live in holiness, and in doing your will and to persevere in passing the trials and the rejection and persecution that your ordain for them to pass through. Lord protect them and provide for them so that they will continue to live for you, serving you and setting good example to others to follow you. Lord do miracles and wonders in their lives and uphold them with victories so people will know that you are the true God and they are your servants.

Lord we pray for us as a church that we will continue to teach your Word and to proclaim your ways to our families and to the rest of our workers and members. Lord we commit ourselves to walk before you in holiness in accordance to your will and plan for us. Lord lead us to help people who are in sin and bondages and are looking for help from you to be delivered. Lord enable us to clean those who are lepros. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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