

PERSEVERING FAITH!

“So do not throw away your confidence (faith, trust); it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised...But my righteous one will live by faith.” (Heb.10:35-36,38 NIV)

The context of these verses tells us that these Christians, who were being challenged to persevere, had made a good start. They had been steady in the face of suffering; they had been exposed publicly to insults, and stood together with others that were being mistreated. They had not become discouraged when losing their possessions as they trusted Christ. These people had endured some real suffering as true believers.

Now they are having battles of faith. Many questions filled their minds about the decision to wholeheartedly follow Christ. He had become very real to them. Many miracles had taken place. The Holy Spirit had greatly moved among them testifying to the reality of the risen Christ. However, pressures and persecutions had continued.

As true believers in Christ, we know that he is real and all powerful. Yet, things we thought would happen in following Christ do not always come about. We run into difficulties in our walk with Christ; hindrances we didn't expect. Possibly, we have been mistreated in some ways; at our job or in other relationships. **This can bring on a temptation to “drop out” or just have a passive faith.** Maybe we go through the outward actions of church going; saying the right things at the right time; going through religious motions, but the reality of walking with Christ and actively trusting him is no longer there.

Don't throw away your real faith! God wants you to persevere. Your faith will be rewarded. Share your battle with an active, older believer. Set aside some time to earnestly pray and worship before God. Let him renew and refresh you. As we draw near to God, he will draw near to us. **Spend time there until his refreshing comes. It will come and you can persevere (keep moving) in living faith.**