

INTRO

- Reflect on a time in your life when you had to persevere through something. What helped you endure?

READ

Heb 10:19-25; 35-36

REFLECT & RESPOND

A *Persevering People* series focuses on the essentials we need to commit to if we want to endure and flourish in this season:

- 1) Christ
- 2) Communion
- 3) Confession
- 4) Community
- 5) Commission

Today we look at v23, Confession: A Persevering People **hold fast**.

HOLD FAST

Qu: what comes to mind when you hear the instruction to “let us hold fast”?

The biblical picture of holding fast is rich and speaks of deep commitment, faithfulness and resolve. It's like being glued to something or someone (see Gn 2:24, Dt 13:4, Ps 91:14).

It is necessary for endurance and fruitfulness in our walk with Jesus (see Heb 3:6, Lk 8:15).

It is also directional in the sense we don't just hold onto *anything*.

THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE

We are to hold fast *the confession of our hope*. This is shorthand for the good news of who Jesus is and what he's accomplished for us past, present and future. Jesus is the cornerstone and scripture is the foundation of our hope.

Qu: in a time when we are bombarded with a diet of news, information and entertainment 24/7, do you find yourself being more influenced by these sources than Scripture? How can you change that?

The things we think and do repeatedly hold the greatest formative power over us. Confession means to *profess* belief. We need to relearn the practice of speaking scripture out loud and to ourselves to bolster our hope.

WITHOUT WAVERING

Qu: have you found yourself wavering lately? How can you use this to strengthen your foundation in Jesus & Scripture?

The key is placing our confidence, hope and trust in the right place, otherwise we set ourselves up to be disappointed and disillusioned.

FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL

The reason we can and should have a level of confidence and certainty in our hope, is because it rests in the character of the One whose already demonstrated his goodness and faithfulness towards us in Jesus.

God is faithful to fulfill what he's promised. Of this you can be certain and hopeful in this life.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for a greater resolve to be shaped more by scripture and Jesus than the world around us
- Pray for wisdom to make changes to our lives to reflect this resolve
- Pray for those struggling in hope during this time.