

We have reached the threshold of the “faith” chapter of Hebrews. Everyone knows the phrase “leap of faith.” It is like a child letting go of a tree branch to which she has been clinging with the absolute knowledge that her father waiting below will catch her.

Chapter 10 concludes with one more warning to those who have not quite made that leap, who haven’t let go of the branch. The warning, similar to that of chapter 6, is aimed at those wavering souls who have:

- Been enlightened (6:4, 10:32) and have received a knowledge of the truth (10:26). They have heard the gospel and have expressed some agreement with it.
- Been sanctified by the blood of the covenant (10:29). They have associated with Christians in being set apart from the common course of the world, as an unbelieving husband is set apart by staying married to a believing wife and vice versa (1 Cor. 7:12-16).
- Experienced some acquaintance with the Holy Spirit (6:4, 10:29).
- Seen themselves and others perform good works, endure persecution, and make sacrifices beyond their natural inclinations using “the powers of the age to come.” (6:5, 10; 10:32-34).

Please note what is **not** said: That the people **know** Christ as Savior, that they are not just sanctified but **saved**, that they are **indwelt** by the Spirit, or that they have trusted in the **work** of Christ alone. They are oh so close. The writer labors to bring them the rest of the way.

Questions:

1. Does any sin at all expose us to the fear of judgment described in verses 26-27?
2. Verses 18 and 26 both speak of there no longer being a sacrifice for sin. How is the tone different in the two verses?

3. Expand on the meaning of these:

Trample under foot the Son of God

Profane/count as unholy the blood of the covenant

Outrage/insult the Spirit of grace

4. Those who violated the law were put to death (Deut. 17:2-6). What punishment is worse than death (verse 29) and why do those who do these things deserve it?
5. Verses 26-31 are full of fire and fear. Write five words from verses 32-39 with happier connotations.
6. Why does the writer bring to recollection the time when the readers joyfully endured hardships and persecution? So they can reassure themselves that they are really good people at heart?
7. Verses 35-36 say to hold on to confidence because you need endurance. How does one lead to the other?
8. What is the promise mentioned in verse 36?
9. What does it mean to live by faith?
10. Who is the “we” of verse 26 and verse 39? The same group of people in both verses?