

### **The Just Live by Faith**

**Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 2**

The abiding lesson for all is this: do not be among those who **fall into** God's **hands** for judgment because **it is a fearful thing**. 12.

Nothing in this passage of Scripture was ever intended to disturb and unsettle the minds of those who truly belong to Christ. The passage was purposely written in its sharp, searching, challenging style so that all who profess the name of Christ might be warned about the terrible consequences of turning away from Him. 22.

**Hebrews 10:32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 2**

In the remaining verses of chapter 10, the writer gives three strong reasons why the early Jewish Christians should continue steadfastly in their allegiance to Christ. Their **former** experiences should stimulate them. The nearness of the reward should strengthen them. The fear of God's displeasure should deter them from going back. 12

After they professed faith in Christ, they became the targets of bitter persecution: their families disowned them, their friends forsook them, and their foes hounded them. But instead of producing cowardice and fear, these **sufferings** strengthened them in their faith. Doubtless they felt something of the exhilaration of being counted worthy to suffer dishonor for His name (Acts 5:41). 22

**Hebrews 10:33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 1**

Sometimes their suffering was individual; they were taken out alone and publicly exposed to abuse and affliction. At other times, they suffered with other Christians. 1

**Hebrews 10:34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 2**

They were not afraid to visit those who were prisoners for Christ, even though there was always the danger of guilt by association. 12

When their **goods** were confiscated by the authorities, they **accepted** it **joyfully**. They chose to be true to Jesus rather than to keep their material possessions. They knew that they had "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away" (1 Pet. 1:4). It was truly a miracle of divine grace that enabled them to value earthly wealth so lightly. 22

**Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 2**

After going through so much, they shouldn't give up now. The author says in effect, "Don't miss the harvest of your tears" (F. B. Meyer). 12

They were now nearer to the fulfillment of God's promise than ever before. This was no time to turn back. Another translation says, "Don't throw away your trust now—it carries with it a rich reward in the world to come" (JBP).<sup>22</sup>

**Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 4**

What they needed was **endurance**, the determination to remain under the persecutions rather than escape them by denying Christ. 14

What challenges or persecutions do Christians face today that test their faith and endurance? 24.

In what ways are we tempted to compromise or deny our faith to avoid hardship or rejection? 34.

Then after having **done the will of God**, they would **receive** the promised reward. 44.

**Hebrews 10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 1**

The promised reward arrives with the return of the Lord Jesus, as shown in Habakkuk 2:3: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not delay." 1

**Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 03**

A final incentive to steadfast endurance is the fear of God's displeasure. Continuing the quotation from Habakkuk, the author shows that the life that pleases God is the life of **faith: Now the just shall live by faith.** 13.

This is the life that values God's promises, that sees the unseen, and that perseveres to the end. 23.

On the other hand the life that displeases God is that of the man who renounces the Messiah and returns to the obsolete sacrifices of the temple: **But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.** 33.

**Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.3**

The writer quickly dissociates himself and his fellow believers from **those who draw back to perdition.** This separates apostates from genuine Christians. 13