

Saving the Best for Last

Studies in Hebrews



Sizzle or Steak?

Intro to Hebrews 10:19—11:40

The common wisdom in advertising is that you have to sell the “sizzle” and not the steak. In other words consumer excitement is generated by the flashier aspects of the product. However, real success in life is based on substance, not style—this is what carries us through to the finish line. This week’s study depicts the “steak” that enables us to live the life He has promised to us. After reviewing Christ’s work for us the writer of Hebrews shows its logical application, which is to devote ourselves to God. We are able to do this because Christ’s work has allowed us direct access to God through His work as our high priest. As a result we are to draw near to God with confidence, hold fast our confession of faith in Christ without wa-

vering, and remain faithful to the assembly of fellow Christ-followers. This is the first aspect of the “steak” of commitment to Christ—because of His work we are to devote ourselves to Him. But the flip side must also be considered: we must not defect from our commitment to Christ. Many people start well, but along the line they begin to “waffle” on their commitment. The author says that if you turn from your commitment to Christ, there is nowhere to go because He is God’s only way, the sole guarantor of God’s new covenant relationship with His people. Those who are genuinely saved will continue with Christ to the end, but they must be encouraged as they go by the Word and fellow believers. Finally, substance in our walk with the



Jesus is God’s best and last answer for man’s sin.

Lord is clearly demonstrated by our faith. True faith involves hearing God’s word, taking it to heart, and acting on it. It calls for a choice between the old way and new way, carries a cost of comfort and control, but culminates in great reward—the approval of God and fulfillment of His promises. The question we must answer is whether we will settle for the short-term “sizzle”, or sink our teeth into the “steak” of genuine faith in God. It is the only way that endures.

- The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**
- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
 - **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
 - **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
 - **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
 - **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Daily Study Questions for Hebrews 10:19-11:40

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources)

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What 3 things are we told to do (v22, 23, 24-25)? Why (v19-21)? In your own words, how can you do these 3 things?	
2. According to 10:26-31 if the sacrifice of Jesus is rejected (v26) what can a person expect (v26-27, 30-31)? Why (v28-29)?	
3. From 10:32-39 how had these Christians shown their faith (v32-34)? What are we told not to do (v35, 38-39) and to do (v36, 39), and what are the consequences of each (v35-36, 38-39)?	

Hebrews 10:19-11:40 Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. From Heb 11:1-3 how is faith defined (v1), what does this mean, and what does it do for us (v2)? What is one example of it (v3)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 11:4-7 give another definition of faith (v6b). What 3 examples of faith are given (v4, 5, 7) and how do they illustrate this definition?</p>	
<p>6. Looking at 11:8-12 how did Abraham and Sarah demonstrate faith (v8, 9, 11)? What did they believe (v10, 11) and what resulted (v12)?</p>	
<p>7. Using 11:13-16 what were the “men of old” looking for (v14-16), and what was their attitude about God’s promises (v13)? How does this affect God (v16)?</p>	
<p>8. In 11:17-22 explain how Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph showed their faith (v17-19, 20, 21, 22). What did Abraham believe (v19)?</p>	
<p>9. According to 11:23-29 what was the “test” of faith for Moses’ parents (v23), and Moses (v24-26, 27, 28, 29)? Why does faith always demand a choice?</p>	
<p>10. From 11:30-40 list some costs (v30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38) and rewards (v30, 31, 32-35, 39) of faith. Why was God’s promise not completely fulfilled for them (v39-40)? Explain v40.</p>	
<p>11. Looking over Heb 10:19—11:40 what examples of faith can you apply to your life right now? What danger always lurks (v35), and how should we deal with this (v19-25)?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

Hebrews 10:23 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We’re on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Let’s Get Real about Salvation, 2 (1 Pet 1:1-9)

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. What is the most important assignment you ever had? Did you encounter difficulty, and if so, what kept you going until you finished?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. How did God intend for His kingdom to grow? Discuss how each of us should handle our part in that—what should being “seed” look like?
3. Why is God the best inheritance (v3-4) that we could have as His children? Why do you think many, if not most, believers act like they’re not very excited about that?
4. How do we know our inheritance is secure (v5), and how does this make you feel? How can we use this truth to help us when conflict comes (v6-7)?
5. Talk about ways we can remember that our ultimate goal is not pleasure on this earth, but the eternal salvation of our souls (v8-9). Why is this perspective so important?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday’s message if there is time.