

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

As I am drawn to this passage a myriad of things come to mind. Let me consider the last first – “**and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**” Any level headed believer in the Lord Jesus Christ will readily admit that from Paul’s day until the present has brought us closer to the time when our Savior is going to fulfill His promise and return for us. Question is – what should we do in the meantime? This passage gives us two positives and a negative to consider. Gee, think anyone will know that I go to a Baptist Church?

- I. Hold fast.
- II. Stimulate one another.
- III. Not forsake assembling together

The *NET* Bible does a pretty good job of translating verse 23 when it says: “**And let us hold unwaveringly [absent of any fluctuation] to the hope that we confess, for the One who made the promise is trustworthy.**”

Remember the “**Faith Rest Drill**”? Wow – very simple doctrine for we have advanced so far!!!

The old faithfuls still apply: Exodus 14:13-14; Deuteronomy 31:8 and 33:27; even Romans 8:28. Look them up, oh lazy one.

What becomes even better is considering “**the One who made the promise.**” YES – the “Essence Box” all over again. Sovereignty, righteousness, justice . . . maybe we should link those individual promises to the attributes of the One making the promise. People make promises which are often not fulfilled in the manner of OUR thinking. What a disappointment! God never disappoints and God fulfills His promises, after all, this verse says that. He is worthy of our trust.

I have to admit, writing this is very “stimulating” to me – I get to reflect on the Word of God and what it means to me. Try it sometime.

The Word of God is very stimulating but the passage goes beyond the Word of God – it is speaking of “**one another.**” I wonder who that might be. . . ever been stimulated by a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker? Ever stimulated a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker? That moment of stimulation brings a sense of appreciation and warmth for that individual – we might even look forward to seeing them again. Verse 24 indicates we should look for ways to stimulate one another – to be helpful – to encourage.

You mean I must have **contact with other believers?**

Only if you’d like to fulfill the directive of what God thinks - - after all in verse 25 God instructs us, through His infallible Word, to “**not forsaking our own assembling together. . .**”

But my [DOCTRINAL] pastor-teacher is in Atlanta or Houston or Timbuktu – just how am I supposed to assemble? And with that you conclude you have finally found a verse in the Bible that does not apply to you.

Well...think again.

Believe it or not, God desires you to have fellowship with other believers – “**to assemble together.**” That is why God said it – even more so “**as the day draws near.**” Besides that, aren’t spiritual gifts best executed in person? What about Ambassador function? If you recall, the target of Ambassadorship is both the unsaved and the saved; what varies is the message of truth. Maybe you will have the privilege of delivering some

truth to a fellow believer. As a “Mature Believer” you must have a lot to offer. Maybe someday truth will be delivered to you – wouldn’t that be special? You might even detect that a pastor-teacher in your local area is communicating truth. If the Word of God is his textbook, then truth it is. Take note of what Isaiah said regarding the Word of God as it is communicated.

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

As truth is communicated, the Word of God will accomplish what God desires.

It will succeed in the matter for which God has sent it forth.

I love good, solid, “meat and potatoes” Bible teaching but I have also come to love the fellowship of other believers - up close and personal! I know I have been encouraging to them as they have been encouraging to me. I actually pray for many of them – a novel idea invented by God! I’ve even been to coffee and dinner with some. Matter of fact – last year when I was told by medical doctors that I needed high-dose chemotherapy and a stem-cell transplant to correct a terminal illness I found great comfort in not only the Word of God but in the company of a fabulous Christian man who “came along side me” after having gone through the process twice himself. Guess where I met him – at church.

Last week, my wife of 27 years was diagnosed with cancer. The Word of God has been our utmost of support but also the people from our local church have come out of the woodwork to offer encouragement and help to us. What a blessing. Some of us have even prayed together – how marvelous and comforting.

Don’t wait for disaster to be a part of your life before having that close knit fellowship with fellow believers that God has designed. If we did not need each other He would have told us. We are not islands unto ourselves. Whether a Bible class, a prayer meeting, or even a social gathering - - be there!

Time does not permit to go into further details of how God has worked in our lives – maybe in a future note to y’all.

Meanwhile keep on “. . . encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

And “Pray for one another” **James 5:16**

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,