

## Fulfilling our Potential

Hebrews 10: 22-25

As we look at this passage of Scripture, we must take a moment to consider the previous verses to grasp it within context. The Hebrew writer reveals the inadequacy of the sacrifices of bulls and goats to pardon and remove sin. Prior to Christ, countless animals had been offered as an effort to atone, but these fell short of bringing absolute and eternal atonement. The sacrifice of Christ, as He offered Himself the sacrificial atonement for sin, is superior to all previous sacrifices combined. He accomplished what those sacrifices never could. He fully satisfied the righteous demands of God to bring about reconciliation and forgiveness of sin.

Considering the sacrifice of Christ, and the fact that He stands as our great High Priest, we are challenged to live our lives in light of His holiness and in assurance of the faith. After coming to Christ in salvation, our lives are completely and eternally transformed. We are no longer the same as before. We enjoy a source of strength and provision that was not there prior to conversion. We are expected to live in communion with the Lord as we seek to share the good news of the gospel with others.

It is interesting to note, the Hebrew writer admonishes, "Let us," three times in this passage. I want to consider the [directives](#) given here as we think on: [Fulfilling our Potential](#).

**I. The Assurance of Believers** (22) – [Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.](#) As we consider our assurance, we discover:

**A. Our Position** – [Let us draw near...](#) It is impossible to live for the Lord in full assurance of the faith if we are not walking with Him. We are admonished to draw near to Christ. Many believers live in defeat and discouragement because they walk at a guilty distance from the Lord. We cannot expect to be productive for the Lord or fully appreciate all we have in Him if we are not walking with Him on a consistent basis. [Jam.4:8 – Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.](#)

**B. Our Persuasion** – [Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.](#) This brings comfort and hope to the heart of believers. We can draw nigh to God in full assurance of faith. We have placed our faith and trust in One who never fails. He provided complete reconciliation to God from sin, and we can approach the throne of grace through the Son. We need not worry or live in defeat. We enjoy complete victory in Christ! He is our Intercessor and Mediator.

- There is a challenge presented here as well. We must draw nigh to Him with a **true heart**. This means “*genuine, sincere, honest, meaningful, and without hypocrisy.*” A true heart involves an attitude of “*gladness, freedom, and enthusiasm.*”<sup>1</sup> We must bear in mind that Christ knows our hearts better than we know them ourselves. If we are to enjoy the fullness He offers, we must come before Him in sincerity without hypocrisy. We must also approach Him void of any doubt or fear, having complete assurance that He is able to provide for us and meet our needs.

**C. Our Purification** (22b) – *having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.* We need to keep in mind that the writer is writing to Jewish Christians. Many Jews of that day might have been willing to embrace Christ as the Messiah, but they also sought to hold onto the law. They were not trusting entirely in Christ for salvation. They are reminded that Christ is sufficient in salvation. Being cleansed in Him, by His blood, is all that is necessary. They didn’t need to keep the law, perform good works, or adhere to religious tradition. Salvation is complete in Christ. He forever secured redemption for all who believe by faith. It is finished, forever settled!  
*Titus 3:5 – Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

**II. The Endurance of Believers** (23) – *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* They were faced with many obstacles and hindrances, but they were expected to remain steadfast in the faith. We too face obstacles in our lives. We are challenged regarding:

**A. Our Confidence** – *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith.* The redeemed have placed their faith and trust in One who cannot fail. He bore our sin upon the cross, enduring the wrath of God in our place. He rose victorious from the grave, conquering sin, death, and hell. As we come to Him in salvation, we are eternally cleansed and secure. We have no need to fear death or worry about our eternal existence. We should show absolute confidence in the finished work of Christ our Lord. *John 10:28-29 – And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* <sup>[29]</sup> *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

**B. Our Commitment** (23a) – *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;* We must consider the context of the passage. The early church faced enormous pressure from society. They were persecuted and ridiculed for their faith. The pressure became too much for some and they abandoned their faith. Believers were expected to hold fast to their faith without wavering.

- We too need the same commitment. I am aware of the pressures we face. I know that Christians are not received as they once were. However, we must remain committed to the faith without wavering. Christ did not waver in His commitment to us and we must remain committed to Him. Although challenges persist, we must remain steadfast in the faith!

**C. Our Companion** (23b) – *for he is faithful that promised*; The believer enjoyed a source of strength and security the world knew nothing of. There would be days of difficulty. There would be times when it seemed as if defeat was certain. There would even be times they likely questioned whether it was worth the sacrifice. In those times they were encouraged to look to Christ. He had redeemed them from sin. They were now part of the family of God because of His sacrifice. He fulfilled the will of the Father, enduring a horrid death on behalf of all believers. There was no need to doubt or question His faithfulness. He would be there for them each step of the way! Faith in Christ ensured eternal life.

**III. The Benevolence of Believers** (24) – *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*: Here the writer reminds us of the association we have with fellow believers. That association brings certain responsibilities. Consider:

**A. Our Obligation** (24a) – *And let us consider one another...* This epistle was written to Hebrew believers at large, not to a specific church or group, but the reader was not alone in his faith. Regardless of the size of their particular church family, there were others to be considered. People tend to get “narrow minded” at times. We tend to feel as if we are the only one dealing with a particular circumstance. We may think that no one else has encountered the difficulty or pain we have. We may even feel as if we are alone in the journey at times. Often we feel as if the needs of others pale in comparison to our needs.

- Clearly we are not alone. We all have troubles and difficulties. We are not the first to face adversity and I am certain we won't be the last. We must be mindful of others as we travel through life. We must not become so self-consumed that we are immune or unaware of the needs of others. Let us consider one another! Your presence in their life may make a huge difference.

**B. Our Exhortation** (24b) – *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*: We are not only obligated to consider one another, we must also encourage one another. *Provoke* literally means “*to sharpen.*” It has the idea of *encouraging a particular action*. They were actually expected to play an active part in the maturity and witness of fellow believers. Their influence would sharpen others, encouraging and helping shape them for the Lord.

- You will have to agree that is much needed in our day! We need those, especially mature believers, who will take an active part in the lives of others. Our lives will influence those around us. We have an opportunity to make a positive, spiritual difference! (Aren't you glad someone took time for you when you were first saved?)

**IV. The Attendance of Believers (25)** – *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Here believers are encouraged to find their place among the people of God at the house of God. This is certainly needful in our day. Notice:

**A. The Imperative (25a)** – *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another:*

This is a strong admonition. They were expected not to forsake the assembling together with fellow believers. I am not sure what they dealt with in their day, but I am well aware of the struggles we face today. Few see the importance of finding their place at the house of God. Some are willing to come on occasion, but it isn't the priority. They will be here as long as something else isn't going on. We have an obligation to attend services at God's house!

- I have heard folks argue they can worship the Lord and live for Him without attending church. I do not believe a word of it; in fact, I am convinced they are wrong! First of all, we are commanded of the Lord to find our place at His house. That alone is enough reason to be here. Second, we grow cold and complacent apart from the church. (Illus. the pastor visiting a member and using a coal in the fireplace as an example.) We cannot deny; we need to be here when the doors are open. If you miss church, you will miss what God has for you!

**B. The Incentive (25b)** – *and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* Life was difficult for the believer in that day, and the writer knew it was only going to get worse. As we draw nigh to the coming of the Lord, we know that things will only wax worse and worse. We know there will be a great falling away. We know that men will be lovers of their own selves more than lovers of God.

- As these perilous times come, (I honestly believe we are in the midst of them) we need the support and encouragement of one another. The world isn't going to provide biblical instruction or spiritual guidance. You will not find the help you need in the world. As our society continues to deteriorate, we need one another. We need all the biblical instruction we can get. We need all that the church offers!

**Conclusion:** I truly believe the Spirit has spoken to our hearts through the Word this morning. He has guided us in a spiritual inventory of our lives. Christian, are you fulfilling your potential for the Lord? Are you all you *should* be? Are you all you *could* be? If not, I urge you to come and seek the Lord in order to fulfill your potential. You will never be satisfied unless you are striving to be all you can be for the glory of God.

Maybe you are here and you have never been saved. You do not know Christ as your Savior and Lord. You are living your life according to the desires of the flesh. Has the Spirit revealed your need for salvation? Are you tired of seeking peace and contentment only to have it elude you? If so, come to Christ today and be saved!

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<sup>i</sup> Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Hebrew, James.