

“Follow The Faithful!”
Hebrews 6:9-12

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Remember Playing “Follow The Leader”? - Fun Game! - Didn’t Really Matter Who You Followed - Everyone Took Their Turn - Soon Realized That Who You Follow Doesn’t Really Matter **Only** When You Are Playing That Game! In Life, Who You Follow Does Matter! Soon, Your Parents Would Ask You **Why** You Did Something, And You Would Say: “Because So-And-So Did It!” They Would Ask: “If So-And-So Jumped Off A Cliff, Would You Have Followed?”
 - Who You Follow In Life Is Absolutely Critical!
2. We See The Importance Of Who You Follow In Hebrews 6 As Well!
 - This Entire Chapter Is Explaining To Us In Detail What We Need To Know About Spiritual Growth As Christians!
 - Last Sunday, We Looked At 6:4-8, And Learned Why Spiritual Growth Is So Important!
 - Because, A Christian Must Grow, Or They Will Not Be Safe!
 - Read 6:4-8
 - These Verses That We Just Read Are Meant As A Warning And To Stimulate You To Examine Your Own Spiritual Growth!
 - But Then, We Come To Verse 9:
 - “But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak!”
 - What An Encouragement This Must Have Been To Those Who Received This Letter!
 - Even Though The Writer Gave A Stern Warning, Now He Explains That He Is Confident That What He Was Warning Them About Was, In Fact, Not Present In Their Lives!
 - In Fact, He Saw Real Evidence Of Spiritual Growth In Their Lives!
 - He Saw Things In Their Lives That “Accompany Salvation!”
 - He Saw Things Like:
 - Sorrow For And Hatred Of Sin, Humility, The Peace Of God, Godly Fear, The Principle Of Obedience, The Spirit Of Prayer, And A Continuous Transformation Into The Image Of Christ! (Taken From Pink)
 - So Now, The Lord Wants You To Know **How** You Can Grow In Your Personal Walk & Relationship With Him – And **How** You Can Continue To Grow & Persevere!
3. This Morning, We Will Learn That Genuine Christians Will Be Secure Because They Will **Persevere** To The End – Until They Reach The Shores Of Heaven!
 - “Persevere” - “To Persist In Or Remain Constant To A Purpose, An Idea, Or A Task In The Face Of Obstacles Or Discouragement!” (AHD)
4. Just How Does One Who Is Truly Saved Persevere In Their Faith And Walk As A Christian?
 - By Following Very Closely To Those Who Are Faithful!
 - Not By Following Those Who Would Lead You Astray, Or “Jump Off A Cliff!”
 - **For A Christian To Persevere, They Must Follow The Faithful!**
 - How Can You Follow The Faithful, And Persevere In Your Christian Walk? You Must:

1. Rest In The Faithfulness Of God!

- 6:10 - “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister!”
 - Focus On The First Phrase: “For God Is Not Unrighteous To Forget!”
 - **IE:** You Must Never Follow Someone Who Is **Not** Faithful! If Someone Is Notorious For Getting Lost, Why Would You Follow Him To Get You Were You Need To Go?
 - In Order For You To Persevere, You Must Follow & Rest In Your Faithful God!
 - This Is The Absolute Basis / Foundation Of Security And Perseverance For A True Christian!
 - “It Is One Of The Precious Things About The Christian Faith That Our Continuance In Eternal Life Depends Not On Our Feeble Hold On Christ, But On His Firm Grip On Us!” (John Morris)
 - Your Perseverance As A Christian Depends Upon The Faithfulness Of God! Without

His "Great Faithfulness" You & I Would Never Have Been Saved & You & I Could Never Persevere!

- We Must Rest In The Faithfulness Of God!

- His Faithfulness To His Person!

- 2 Timothy 2:13 - "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself!"

- His Faithfulness To His Plan!

- Hebrews 7:25 - "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them!"

- The Plan Of Christ's Life, Death, Resurrection & Ministry Of Intercession Is All For The Purpose Of "Saving Them To The Uttermost [Those] That Come Unto God By Him!"

- His Faithfulness To His Promises!

- John 10:27-31 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one!"

- His Faithfulness To His People!

- Romans 8:35-39 - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

- Our God Is A Faithful God!

-Your Perseverance Depends Upon Resting In The Faithfulness Of Your Lord!

* Building Upon This Foundation, We Further See That Your Perseverance As A Christian Will:

2. *Reflect The Faithfulness Of God!*

- 6:10-11 - "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end!"

- You Must Always Remember That Apart From God's Faithfulness, Anything You Do For Him ("Work . . . Love . . . Hope") Would Mean Nothing!

- However, Because Of God's Faithfulness, You Will Reflect **His** Faithfulness Back To Him!

- **IE:** When You Find Someone Who Knows Where They Are Going, You Want To Follow Very Closely & Do Whatever It Is That They Do! What Lanes They Drive In - What Turns They Make!

- "Same Diligence"

- The Same Earnestness As You Once Had! Your "First Love!" Shown In Other Areas, But Not In The Most Important!

- And This Is A Demonstration That You Are, In Fact, Persevering In Your Christian Life!

- Faithfulness In Service!

- "Work" - Labor & Energy Spent In The Lord's Service!

- We Can Be Faithful In Our Service To God Because He Is Faithful In His Service To Us!

- 2 Thessalonians 3:13 - "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing!"

- Faithfulness In Love!

- Not Just The Statement Of Love!

- **IE:** "O How I Love Jesus!"

- But The Showing Of Love!

- How Is This Love Shown?

- Through Ongoing Service To His People!

- John 21:15-17!

- Matthew 25:34-40!

- Our Love, Care And Concern For The Lord Will Be Reflected In Our Love, Care And

Concern For His People!

- We Can Be Faithful In Our Love To God Because He Is Faithful In His Love To Us!
- Faithfulness In Hope!
 - Possessing A Strong, Deep Faith In The Content, Correctness & The Custody Of What God Has Promised You!
 - We Can Be Faithful In Our Hope Of God Because He Is Faithful In His Promises To Us!
- Our God Is A Faithful God!
 - ***And Your Perseverance Depends Upon Reflecting The Faithfulness Of Your Lord!***

* We Are Not The Only Ones That God Is Faithful To – We Have A Great Heritage Of Faith – “So Great A Cloud Of Witnesses” - So Our Perseverance Will Also:

3. *Resemble The Faithfulness Of Others To God!*

- 6:12 - “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises!”
 - “Followers” - Imitate
 - **IE:** Sometimes You Follow Someone Indirectly - Like A Long Line Of Cars - A Caravan!
 - Those Who, Going Before Us, Reflected The Faithfulness Of God!
 - Hebrews 11:13 - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth!”
 - These Are The Real Heroes!
 - **IE:** Yes, We Have Plenty Of Heroes - Military Heroes (George Washington, Douglas MacArthur) - Political Heroes (Lincoln, Reagan) - Business Heroes (Bill Gates, Warren Buffet) - But What About Spiritual Heroes?
 - For A Christian, These Ought To Be The Real Heroes! Because They Faithfully Followed After Christ!
 - We Ought To “Imitate The Saints In Their Faithful Trust, Perseverance, And Zeal!” (Simon Kistemaker)
- Our God Is A Faithful God!
 - ***And Your Perseverance Will Display Itself As You Resemble The Faithfulness Of Others To God!***

Conclusion:

1. ***For You To Persevere As A Christian, You Must Follow After Your Faithful God!***
 - For It Is He That Promises To Bring You To Where He Is!
 - John 14:3 - “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!”
2. Who Are You Following As A Christian? Your Faithful Lord? Or Someone Else?
 - How Are You Following? Closely? Or Far Away?
3. Your Perseverance:
 - Depends Upon Resting In The Faithfulness Of Your Lord!
 - Depends Upon Reflecting The Faithfulness Of Your Lord!
 - Will Display Itself As You Resemble The Faithfulness Of Others To God!
4. So Follow Closely To Your Faithful Lord!

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