

A Faith that Perseveres

Hebrews 10:32-39

Your faith will not fail while God sustains it; you are not strong enough to fall away while God is resolved to hold you.

-J.I. Packer

I. Hope in Suffering

II. Hope in Christ's Coming

Into the Bible

While we are suffering it is hard to think about joy except as a release from the suffering, but Peter tells us to rejoice in sharing in Christ's suffering (1 Peter 4:12-13). In fact, Christ provides a model for finding joy during suffering. How is this possible? (Hebrews 12:2, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

The author of Hebrews in verse 34 points his readers to better possessions than those which they had already lost. How does this message fit with the rest of New Testament teaching on material vs. spiritual treasures? (Matthew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:2, 2 Corinthians 4:18, 1 John 2:17)

Application

Since the very earliest days of the Church, the teaching of Christ's immanent return has prompted expectancy in believers. Yet two millennia have now passed and we still wait. In what sense then can we still hold to his "soon" return? (James 5:7-9, Revelation 22:20) How then should we live in the light of Christ's long-awaited and yet immanent return? (Matthew 24:42-43, Mark 13:32-33, 1 Corinthians 16:22)

For Families

Talk with your children about why Christ's return is so important to us as believers.