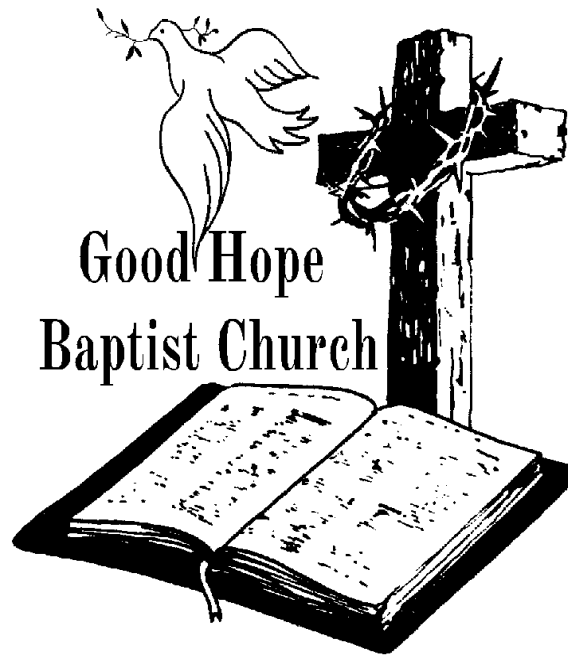


# NOW Live By Faith

Hebrews 10:38



Good Hope  
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

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**FOCAL Read Together** Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

God's method has always been mankind. From the very beginning the Lord put man and woman in a garden called Eden and then said to them, "**Follow Me**". People look around the world and say, "**Why is there so much evil and suffering? Why aren't things better?**" I truly believe that God, looking at the things we do and don't do, often looks at the angels and says "**Why won't these people follow Me? Why won't they listen to what I tell them?**"

God made us all with free will, and He calls us to follow Him. God says,

**"The just shall live by faith"**, not by feeling. Faith follows God. Faith puts God first, whereas faithlessness always **draws back from following God**.

What pleases God? It pleases Him when we follow Him. He says of those who "**draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him**". God is not pleased with faithlessness, but with faithfulness, and He says to all "**If you will follow Me, I will bless you, your family, and your world**".

I came across a "**palindrome**" as I was studying for this message, and the Lord put it on my heart to share it with you. A "**palindrome**" is a word or a phrase that reads

the same in both directions. This poem is a palindrome, and as it is written

**I am part of a lost generation  
and I refuse to believe that  
I can change the world  
I realize this may be a shock but  
“Happiness comes from within”  
is a lie  
“Money will make me happy”  
Work  
is more important than  
Family  
My generation is apathetic and lethargic  
It is foolish to presume that  
I must follow the God of the Bible <sup>1</sup>**

Now reverse the poem, and read it line by line backwards:

**I must follow the God of the Bible  
It is foolish to presume that  
My generation is apathetic and lethargic  
Family  
is more important than  
Work  
“Money will make me happy”  
is a lie  
“Happiness comes from within”  
I realize this may be a shock but**

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<sup>1</sup> This palindrome comes from a poem written by Jonathan Reed, which was an entrant to an AARP Video Contest. The last line originally read "There is hope". I have modified the line to read "I must follow the God of the Bible". I am only quoting a portion of the original poem.

**I can change the world  
and I refuse to believe that  
I am part of a lost generation**

When the God of the Bible is put first in your life, then no matter what life throws at you you will succeed. God must be first. God told *Israel*:

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ tells His *Church*:

**Matthew 22:37 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

When God is placed first in our lives, when we follow Him by faith, then we can overcome. We can make a difference.

### **1. We Are Called Not To A Law, But To A Lord**

**FOCAL** Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Our text begins with the word "Now". God calls people to follow Him **now**. Salvation is all about following God, and growing in our relationship with Him.

We are not called to follow a Law, but the Lord God. The Law has no ability to make me right - it can only point out what's wrong with me.

This is what we see in our context. Read with me:

**Context** Hebrews 10:1-2 <sup>(KJV)</sup> For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshipers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

**Illustrate** IF the Law of God could purge sin, and IF keeping the Law could make anyone right with God, THEN *why were the animal sacrifices offered year by year*. When a debt is paid, it is paid. There's nothing left to pay on it. Sherry and I used to own a house in Valdosta, Georgia, and we had a mortgage on that house. We paid on that house month by month for about 20 years until one day it was paid off. We no longer pay on that house - the debt is paid. It is gone! I no longer worry about the mortgage.

The Law was a payment of debt. Every animal sacrificed was an act where the Israelite - knowing they were sinners - were paying for their sins. Yet they really weren't paying for their sins. **In my mortgage there was an amortization schedule that told me when I would have the debt paid off. There was no amortization schedule with the sacrifice of animals.** The Bible says:

**Context** Hebrews 10:3 <sup>(KJV)</sup> But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

The Law reminds us that we are sinners, so the Law doesn't please us. The Law didn't please God, either. The Scripture says:

**Context** Hebrews 10:6 <sup>(KJV)</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

God didn't want the sacrifices, nor did He want the offerings. A sinful man cannot pay for his sins by killing animals. A sinful man cannot pay for his sins by doing religious things.

The Law was not given to save us, but it was given to teach us that we needed to be saved. The Law was not given to help us, but was given to show us that we are helpless. We all need the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ - eternal Son of God - willingly came to this earth to be the payment for our sins. We are not saved by "**Church membership**", "**Lord's Table**", or even "**water baptism**". We do these things *because* we are saved. We come together to worship and study His Word - to learn of God - because we are His children. Our salvation is entirely a gift of love that God has given us. We are told:

**Context** Hebrews 10:9-10 (KJV) Then said {Jesus},

**Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

**God took away the first covenant - the Law of Moses - so that He could establish the second covenant.** He did this in a very graphic way. When our Lord Jesus Christ came to be the sacrifice for our sins, He died in the very worst place:

**Matthew 27:33 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,**

The landscape itself looked so much like death that it was called "**That which is a skull**" by the residents. It was here that the Lord Jesus was tortured, shamed, and humiliated. He was given no comfort, but was stripped naked.

**Matthew 27:35 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.**

He was *entertainment* for them:

**Matthew 27:36 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And sitting down they watched him there;**

When they became bored with watching Him struggle against the nails, blood dripping down the Cross, they

mocked Him:

**Matthew 27:37 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

**Matthew 27:39-40 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

When Jesus started His ministry the Devil tempted Him, taking Him to the highest point of the Temple. The Devil said, "**If You be the Son of God, cast Yourself down, for God will make His angels bear You up**" (Matthew 4:6). At the end of His ministry the Devil's henchmen said a similar thing, "**If You are the Son of God, come down from that Cross**". Though our Jesus could have done either thing, to do so would have cost not Him, but us.

Jesus Christ ignored the temptation, and in love stayed on that Cross for you and for me. He stayed until every part of our sin debt to God was paid in full.

**Matthew 27:50-51 <sup>(KJV)</sup> Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;**

**Illustrate** I am told that the recent catastrophe in Japan, the terrible earthquake, has brought a death toll of above 10,000 people, and 340,000 people have been evacuated and are staying in shelters. How tragic - please pray for these people. Conversely, when our Lord Jesus Christ died there was an earthquake that shook the ground and broke up the foundations of the earth. The **veil of the Temple** was **torn from top to bottom** so that all could look in and see the place where - up until now - only the High Priest went.

Lives were not lost on the day that Jesus Christ died. One life was given, but many lives were purchased. Millions upon millions of people are not just right with God, but are entered into the Family of God because they have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **2. We Who Are Saved, Are Saved To A Perfect Salvation**

**Context** Hebrews 10:14 <sup>(KJV)</sup> **For by one offering {Jesus Christ} hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

Have you ever heard the saying, "**No one's perfect**"? It is true that no one is perfect, but it's also true that the salvation that God gives to every believer **is perfect**. The Scripture says, "**By one offering He - Jesus Christ - has perfected for ever them that are sanctified**".

**1** The Christian's salvation is perfect because **God lives with us and speaks to us.**

**Illustrate** A little child was flying a kite, and it was flying well above the clouds and out of sight. A man passed and said, "**What are you doing?**" The child said, "**I'm flying a kite**". He replied, "**How do you know there's a kite up there? You can't see it.**" The little boy replied, "**Because I can feel the tug on the line**".

When Jesus called His disciples to salvation, He said "**Follow Me**". There were times when the Lord could not be with His disciples because in His earthly ministry He was limited by the humanity He took upon Himself. But Jesus promised us:

**John 14:16-18 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

The Holy Spirit of God indwells with each and every Christian. You may not know that, but it is a promise of God. Some say, like John the Baptist's disciples said, "**We have no so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit**" (Acts 19:2). You may say, "I have never sensed God's Spirit in me". God's Spirit speaks to us through His Word, the Holy Bible. Are you reading your Bible? Are you speaking to God in prayer daily as you ponder His Word? One of the most powerful believers in the Bible was **King David. David was a giant killer, a warrior king, and a man of whom God said "He is**

the apple of My eye" (Psalm 17:8). Saved by faith and living by faith, David focused on and pondered the Word of God. He said:

**Psalm 119:15 I will meditate on Your precepts ...**

and

**Psalm 119:147 I will rise before the dawning of the morning and cry for help: I hope in Your Word.**

If you are saved and feel that God isn't speaking with you, ask yourself this question: "Do I **meditate on His Word**"? (Psalm 119:148). The Holy Spirit of God lives in every believer. It is God's promise, as well as a warning:

**Romans 8:9 (KJV) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

The Holy Spirit seals the believer's salvation, and there is nothing you must do to gain His Spirit but to believe in Jesus. **By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.**

**2** The Christian's salvation is perfect because God is writing His Law in our hearts. You show me someone who professes to be a Christian but is motivated by hatred rather than love, and I will show you a lost person! The Scripture says:

**Context** Hebrews 10:16 (KJV) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

God made a *one sided covenant* with every Christian for Christ's sake. He said, "I will put My laws into their hearts, and into their minds I will write them"

If you are a Christian, your life is a book that God is writing day by day. He writes His laws in our hearts and minds. When we read His Word He speaks to us, telling us how to be.

**3** The Christian's salvation is perfect because the Blood of Christ alone brings **remission of sin**. We read:

**Context** Hebrews 10:17-18 (KJV) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

**Word Study** The word "**remission**" is the Greek APHESIS, which means "**liberty from, pardon, deliverance from, complete forgiveness**". The world wants to push a "tolerance" for other gods and goddesses on the public. They want us to back away from what Jesus did and give equal billing to Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, or winkin, blinkin, and nod. God has said:

**Acts 4:12 (KJV) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

It is the Blood of Christ shed on Golgotha that gives our God a holy amnesia! He said **"their sins and iniquities will I remember no more"**.

**Billy Graham** wrote in his book, *The Secret of Happiness*:

**"The omniscient God has the unique ability that we do not have: He has the ability to forget. The God of grace forgets our sins and wipes them completely from His memory forever! He places us in His sight as though we had never committed one sin. In theological language, this is called *justification*. The Bible says,**

**Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)**

**There is no possibility of true happiness until we have established friendship and fellowship with God. And there is no possibility of establishing this fellowship apart from the Cross of His Son, Jesus Christ. God says, "I will forgive you, but I will forgive you only at the foot of the Cross." He says, "I will fellowship with you, but I will only fellowship with you at the foot of the Cross."**

Our sins are remitted, forgotten, and totally forgiven because of what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us.

### **3. We Who Are Saved Must *Never Draw Back***

**FOCAL Hebrews 10:38** Now the just shall live by **faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

The just - those who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ - are called to **live by faith in God**. But God warns us, and says:

**"if any person draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him"**

**Word Study** The words **"draw back"** is the Greek HUPOSTELLO, which means **"to cower, to shrink back from, to withdraw"**. The world will bully us to back away from the Word of God and the Cross of Christ. It will have us compromise what God has said in order to "get along".

God says to we who believe, "I will not be pleased with you if you desert the cause of Christ."

**Context Hebrews 10:23 (KJV)** Let us hold fast the **profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)**

God is faithful! It was a faithful God Who led Israel out of Egypt. But when Israel was told to enter the Promised Land, trusting in the God Who saved them, they refused.

**Numbers 14:2 (KJV)** And all the **children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we**

**had died in this wilderness!**

Israel **drew back, cowering** from entering the Promised Land. They rejected the Way of God, and lost the Promised Blessing. I can show you over and over again how God blessed those who trusted and followed Him, but cursed those who drew back. God tells His people:

**Context Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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.**

that we, like Israel, are to work together to take the land for Jesus. We will not win America by shirking our duty. We *must* work together and creatively reach out to our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have started two missions - but we need more. The people of God must stand up for God. No compromise!

**No compromise with hatred,  
but we will love one another!**

**No compromise with Christ's Gospel,  
but we will proudly say "faith alone in Christ alone".**

**No compromise with His Word,  
but what is written to us, we will do.**

**No compromise with the devil and darkness,  
but we will be the Light of the world.**

**Context Hebrews 10:39 (KJV) But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**



**FOCAL Read Together** Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

I am part of a lost generation  
and I refuse to believe that  
I can change the world  
I realize this may be a shock but  
“Happiness comes from within”  
is a lie  
“Money will make me happy”  
Work  
is more important than  
Family  
My generation is apathetic and lethargic  
It is foolish to presume that  
I must follow the God of the Bible

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:37

### **1. We Are Called Not To A Law, But To A Lord**

Hebrews 10:38; Hebrews 10:1-2; Hebrews 10:3;  
Hebrews 10:6; ; Hebrews 10:9-10; Matthew 27:33;  
Matthew 27:35; Matthew 27:36; Matthew 27:37;  
Matthew 27:39-40; Matthew 4:6; Matthew 27:50-51

## **2. We Who Are Saved, Are Saved To A Perfect Salvation**

Hebrews 10:14

**1** The Christian's salvation is perfect because \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:16-18; Acts 19:2; Psalm 17:8; Psalm 119:15;  
Psalm 119:147; Psalm 119:148; Romans 8:9

**2** The Christian's salvation is perfect because \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:16

**3** The Christian's salvation is perfect because \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:17-18; Acts 4:12

**Word Study** The word "remission" is the Greek APHESIS, which means "liberty from, pardon, deliverance from, complete forgiveness".

### **3. We Who Are Saved Must *Never Draw Back***

Hebrews 10:38; Hebrews 10:23; Numbers 14:2;  
Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 10:39

**Word Study** The words "draw back" is the Greek HUPOSTELLO, which means "to cower, to shrink back from, to withdraw". \_\_\_\_\_