

HOLD FAST TO YOUR CONFESSION OF HOPE

We have divided (Heb.10:22-25) into **three studies** based on three hortatory present subjunctives. The “Subjunctive expresses action which is not really taking place, but which is **objectively possible.**” (Essential of New Testament Greek , pg.107) “The hortatory subjunctive is the use of the first-person plural (**let us**) to **exhort others to join** us in an action.” (Essential of New Testament Greek , Pg.108)

Our three studies:

- (Heb.10:22) Let us draw near with full assurance of **faith.**
- **(Heb.10:23)** Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope.**
- (Heb.10:24-25) Let us consider how to stimulate one another to **love.**

<p>In this lesson will study three aspects of the <u>second recorded function</u> of the New Covenant priesthood, “Hold Fast the Confession of Hope.”</p>
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1. The writer now instructs members of the New Covenant priesthood regarding their second function as priests of The Lord Jesus Christ.

(Heb.10:23) “Let us **hold fast** (katecho/ p.a.subj.abl.s.f) **the confession** (ten homologia) of **our hope** (tes elpis) without wavering (aklines), for He who promised (ho epaggellomai/ a.m.ptc.nsm) **is faithful** (pistos) [predicate adjective] (makes an assertion of the noun) => faithful is He who promised.

There are three parts to the second function of the New Covenant priesthood given in (Heb.10:23):

- **“Hold fast the confession of our hope”**
 - (elpis) [your confident expectation that God is willing and able to do what He promises”] (Rom.4:21)
- **“without wavering”**
 - (aklines) [opposite of leaning forward, unstable, doubting]
- **“for He who promised is faithful,”**

2. The New Covenant priesthood is encouraged to function “without wavering!” (John 20:24-29)

(Heb.6:18) “Holding fast the confession of our hope” is based on our absolute confidence in the integrity of the character of God (the Essence Box) and specifically upon **His veracity** (truthfulness).

The believer-priest must trust in the character of God no matter how the circumstances of life look, “For He who promised **is faithful**” (Heb.10:23)

Faith in the veracity of God gives the believer-priest the confession of hope (confident expectation) without wavering in what God has promised.

3. **Paul used Abraham’s working through his struggle with God’s promise of a seed, during child barrenness, to teach us how to “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” (Rom.4:13-25).**

The Promise of God operates different than the Law (Rom.4:13-15).

- The Law emphasizes works
- The Promise emphasizes grace

(Rom.4:13) “For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but **through the righteousness of faith.**”

(Rom.4:16) “For this reason it is by faith, **in order that it may be in accordance with grace**, so that the **promise will be guaranteed** to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.” (Gal.3:26-29)

(Rom.4:20) “Yet, with respect to the promise of God, **he did not waver in unbelief** but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God.”

(Rom.4:21) “And being fully assured that what God had promised, **He was able also to perform.**”

- **Abraham:**

- (Rom.4:19) “**Without becoming weak in faith** he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.”
- (Rom.4:18) “**In hope against hope he believed**, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’”

- **Sarah:**

- (Heb.11:11) “By faith even Sarah herself **received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life**, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.”

- **God:**

- (1 Cor.1:9) “**God is faithful**, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
- (1 Thess.5:24) “The one who calls you is faithful, and **He will do it.**”