

HEBREWS 13

FIRST DAY: Introduction

What does the life of faith look like for believers today? According to Hebrews 13, our expectations should include:

- A constant overflow of brotherly love
- Divine encounters
- Consideration for the persecuted and imprisoned
- Honor and reverence for marriage
- Care and respect for those who teach God's Word
- Having our hearts established by grace
- Continual praise and thanksgiving
- Generosity and sharing
- Attentiveness and cooperation with those who care about our spiritual welfare

The life of faith has been made possible by the accomplishments of Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the

sheep. He works in us all that is *well pleasing in His sight*. The Hebrews' expectation of the life of faith was too low. Persecution, pressures, and trials had caused them to doubt the rewards of faith. The author wrote this epistle that they might reevaluate, recognize, realize, and return to their great faith.

It is possible for all of us, amidst the daily grind of life, to forget the greatness of our faith in Christ. In order to raise our expectations, we need to constantly consider the accomplishments of Christ on our behalf.

*Ask the Lord to keep you mindful of all Jesus
has accomplished for you.*

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 13:1–4

1. Throughout the epistle of Hebrews, the author has proven the superiority of faith in Christ over the Mosaic system. This faith has the power to work in the lives of those who believe. As he concluded this epistle, the author exhorted the believers on how their great faith would be worked out in their lives. Record his first exhortation from Hebrews 13:1.
 - a. The word for *let* is the Greek word *meno*, which is translated in John 15 as *abide*. What does this suggest to you about the author's exhortation?

b. What do you find outstanding about this exhortation? See also John 13:34–35 and 1 John 4:7–8.

2. Use Hebrews 13:2–4 to note and comment on how the believers were to regard:

a. *Strangers* (verse 2)

(1) What incentive accompanied this exhortation?

(2) What further incentive do you find in Matthew 25:35, 40?

b. *Prisoners* (verse 3)

(1) Remember that imprisonment was a real concern for any believer during the early church era. As a prisoner, what did Paul the apostle request? See Colossians 4:2–4.

(a) How does this motivate you?

(2) Link this exhortation with 1 Corinthians 12:24b–26. Share your thoughts.

c. *Marriage* (verse 4)

(1) The word for *honorable* can be translated *precious, of great value, or especially dear*. Why is this perspective of *marriage* important to maintain today?

(a) Link this with Ephesians 5:25–27 to underscore why marriage is so *honorable* to God.

(2) Who will deal with those who dishonor marriage by fornication and adultery? (verse 4b)

d. Why do you think the exhortation in Hebrews 13:1 is foundational to each of these relationships?

3. How does the lifestyle of Hebrews 13:1–4 benefit the life of faith?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 13:5–9

1. The phrase *let your conduct* is a single word in Greek—*tropos*. It speaks of manner of life, character, or lifestyle. From Hebrews 13:5a, briefly describe what the life of faith is:

a. Not characterized by

b. To be characterized by

(1) Use Hebrews 13:5b to comment on the reason behind this *conduct*.

(a) How does this motivate you?

2. From Hebrews 13:6, print the truth *we may boldly say*.

- a. Why do you think we can *boldly say* this?
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3. What is the attitude to be toward those *who have spoken the word of God*? Hebrews 13:7
 - a. Link this with Psalm 37:37 and Philippians 4:9. What do you see?
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4. Write the immutable declaration of Hebrews 13:8.
 - a. Share what this declaration means to you.

5. In light of the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ, Hebrews 13:9 (NLT) warns, *So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them.* According to this verse, from where does the life of faith derive its strength?
- a. Link this with 2 Corinthians 9:8 and record your observations.
 - b. Why do you think *grace* is superior to the rules and regulations of the law?
6. From your study today, what declaration or exhortation speaks the loudest to your heart?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 13:10–17

1. Having reminded the believers of the essentiality of their hearts *being established by grace* (Hebrews 13:9), the author then reminded the believers of the superiority of Christ's grace. According to Hebrews 13:10, why is this *altar* greater?

2. In Hebrews 13:11–12, the author contrasted the old covenant sacrifices with the sacrifice of Christ. Use these verses to explain why Jesus' sacrifice is greater.

3. Hebrews 13:13–17 denotes the appropriate response to the greatness of what Jesus has accomplished. From the following verses, note and comment on the fitting response to Christ's great work:
 - a. Verse 13

b. Verse 14

c. Verse 15

(1) What does this reveal to you about worship?

d. Verse 16

e. Verse 17

(1) Which of these verses most inspires you?

4. How do you desire to respond to the great accomplishment of Jesus on your behalf?

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 13:18–25

1. As the author drew his epistle to an end, he made a personal request of the Hebrew believers. Use Hebrews 13:18–19 to answer the following questions:

a. What humble request did the author ask of the believers? (verse 18a)

(1) What does this convey to you about the author?

b. Why did the author *urge* them to do this? (verse 19)

c. What was the author *confident* of? (verse 18b)

(1) How does this request speak to you?

2. In Hebrews 13:20–21, the author pronounced a benediction over the believers, assuring them of Jesus’ power to work in them all that God desired. Share what the following phrases minister to you about Jesus’ work in your life:

a. *God of peace*

(1) How do you think this might have ministered to the persecuted Hebrew believers?

(2) Link this with 2 Thessalonians 3:16. How does this heighten your assurance?

b. *Brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead*

(1) Link this with Ephesians 1:19–21. What do you see?

c. *Great Shepherd of the sheep*

(1) What does this convey about Jesus? See also Psalm 23, John 10:10, 14, and 1 Peter 5:4.

d. *Blood of the everlasting covenant*

(1) Use Matthew 26:28 and 1 John 1:7 to remark on the power of this *covenant*.

e. *Complete in every good work to do His will*

(1) Link this with Philippians 2:13 and share your thoughts.

f. *Working in you what is well pleasing in His sight*

(1) Read Colossians 1:9–10. Note your insights.

g. *Through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever*

(1) How does this minister to you about Jesus' ability to work in your life?

(2) What ministers to you the most from this benediction?

3. How did the author describe his epistle? Hebrews 13:22

4. Note any observations you have about the author's closing remarks in Hebrews 13:23–24.

a. Why do you think the author ended his epistle with the *grace* of God?

b. How have you evidenced God's *grace* in your life of faith?

- c. The greatness of Jesus' rest

- d. The greatness of Jesus' priesthood

- e. The greatness of Jesus' covenant

- f. The greatness of Jesus' sacrifice

- g. The greatness of our faith in Jesus

(1) How have these truths increased your appreciation and praise for *Our Great Faith*?