Unshakeable

Keeping Steady in an Unsteady World

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PART 3 — WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

Challenge Question

Is it possible to attend church regularly and still not have fellowship with other Christians? If so, how is this possibility explained?

Introduction

Hebrews was written to exhausted believers who were tempted to quit. Pressure from culture, unanswered prayers, and spiritual fatigue made faith feel costly. Many today face the same struggles—discouragement, confusion, and disconnection. Hebrews 10:23-25 gives three lifelines: hold firmly to hope, stay connected to God's people, and urgently encourage one another as Christ's return draws near.

The mystery and privilege that is Christian fellowship is that it exists because God has enabled it by His grace. Those who believe the gospel are united in the Spirit through Christ to the Father, and that unity is the basis of fellowship.

This relationship is described by Jesus in His high-priestly prayer for His followers: "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:23). The "complete unity" He refers to is the oneness that Christians experience in true fellowship, oneness with one another, with Christ and with the Father.

Just as the Father is in Jesus, so is Jesus in us, and we have unity with one another because of the uniqueness of that relationship (1 John 1:3).

Definition

The Greek word translated "fellowship" koinonia (κοινωνία) in the New Testament means essentially a partnership to the mutual benefit of those involved. Christian fellowship, then, is the mutually beneficial relationship between Christians.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Is it possible to attend church regularly and still not have fellowship with other Christians? If so, how is this possibility explained?
- 2. What does it mean to "spur one another on" (Hebrews10:24)?
- 3. In what ways does isolation weaken one's faith?
- 4. List at least three ways believers benefit from fellowshipping together on a regular basis.

Summary

The importance of true Christian fellowship is that it reinforces these things in our mind and helps us to focus on Christ and His desires and goals for us. As "<u>iron sharpens iron</u>" (Proverbs 27:17), in true Christian fellowship, Christians sharpen one another's faith and stir one another to exercise that faith in love and good works, all to God's glory.

Application

Do you know of a fellow Christian who may be discouraged spiritually even though they attend church regularly? Try to encourage that person this week to join one of the many small groups of fellowship that are available in churches today.