



Sermon Title: Anchored in the New and Living Way

Text: Hebrews 10:19-25

*“Our faith begins with what Christ has already accomplished.
Our faith is sustained and grows as we abide in Him.
Jesus is our firm foundation.”*

In a time when moral and spiritual views are changing quickly, many believers see their faith tested. From the growing influence of secularism in major cities like Singapore to the acceptance of cultural compromises once seen as unacceptable, the spiritual climate has shifted. Whether it is a gradual slide into apathy or the exhaustion from trying to flourish in a culture that seems more disconnected from Scripture, our current challenges closely resemble those faced by the early church.

As we examine our scripture, we realize that our ability to remain firm depends not on our own strength but on the New and Living Way established by Christ. Our perseverance is not self-made; it is powered by the Spirit and rooted in God’s dependable covenant love. To face the modern challenges that threaten our faith, we need to be firmly anchored in the sufficiency of His sacrifice.

FAITH MUST BE FORMED AND LIVED OUT

A shaky foundation leads to a stagnant or drifting faith. Many today find themselves deconstructing their faith due to emotional hurt, intellectual doubts, or spiritual weariness. The antidote is not to avoid the hard questions, but to dive deeper into the Word.

- Beyond daily encouragement, we must invest time in the systematic study of God’s Word to understand the *why* behind our *what*.
- Without a theological anchor, we are easily swayed by cultural arguments. We must know the Christ of the Bible, not just the Christ of our imagination.
- Intellectual development without humility leads to pride. The purpose of our study is not to become experts, but to know Jesus personally.

Doctrine and theology are essential, but they must move from the head to the heart and hands. Genuine faith is more than an empty theory; it is a lived reality. It is easy to explain the *doctrine* of sanctification, but much harder to live a truly set-apart life and be satisfied in Christ.

Since our faith is shaped by the Word, it should be reflected in our actions. To stay strong, our faith needs to be rooted in profound truth and strengthened through daily closeness with Him.

FAITH DEEPENS THROUGH INTIMACY WITH GOD

While a strong foundation is intellectual, a grounded life is profoundly personal. In v. 22, we receive a compelling invitation to draw near. This is more than just a religious ritual; it is a direct engagement with a Person. God is not just an abstract idea. He is a Person with a will, mind, and heart who longs for a relationship.

Throughout Scripture, we see that the most resilient believers were those who shared an intimacy with God. From Abraham, the “friend of God,” to John, the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” We stay firm not just because of what we know about God, but also because of how closely we *walk* with Him.

Because of Christ's completed work, we no longer approach the Holy Places with fear or shame. Instead, we come with full confidence, trusting that Jesus' blood has cleansed our sinfulness and taken away the guilt that separates us. Our approach is marked by gratitude and humility. The sacrifice Jesus made, His own flesh, should inspire us to live lives of sincere worship and adoration.

FAITH IS TESTED AND REFINED THROUGH TRIALS

Being securely anchored does not imply the storm will avoid us; it means we will not be carried away when it strikes. As followers of Christ, we should anticipate that our faith will face challenges from cultural opposition, temptation, and personal suffering. Trials are not a sign of God's absence, but an environment for growth.

James 1:2-4 teaches that trials develop perseverance, refining us until we become *perfect and complete*. 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us that no temptation is exclusive to us, and God consistently offers a "way of escape" so we can persevere. As 2 Timothy 3:12 indicates, living a godly life in Christ will inevitably encounter opposition from a world that moves contrary to our faith. V.23 of our text also commands us to "*hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.*"


This is possible only because of one foundational truth: "*For He who promised is faithful.*" Our grip on God is secondary to His grip on us. Trials do not break a faith that is anchored in Christ; they prove its genuineness and reveal God's reliability.


FAITH IS SHARED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS


Contemporary culture often treats faith as a self-help journey, highlighting personal efforts over church community. This mindset can

lead to loneliness and a lack of accountability. Vv. 24-25 makes it clear that faith is not a lonely pursuit. We are not meant to rely solely on ourselves. Jesus's death brought us into unity with God and each other.

The Scripture urges us to "stir up" one another, emphasizing that genuine Christian friendship extends beyond mere feelings of good. It requires intentional actions, such as attending gatherings focused on spiritual growth rather than socializing alone. Truth-Telling is about loving others enough to have honest, sometimes difficult conversations when they are harming themselves or wandering into sin. Encouragement involves regularly reminding each other that Christ's return is imminent. Community acts as a safety net for the soul, anchoring us through connection and love, including speaking the truth in a spirit of restoration.

 **Ponder:** Your faith stays secure not because you are strong, but because God is faithful. Your anchor holds because of the One holding you, not the calmness of the sea.

 **Practical Application:** Shift from just reading to truly studying. This week, focus more on understanding the reason behind a Bible truth rather than seeking only an emotional boost. A solid foundation helps prevent gradual drift.

 **Prayer:** Lord, guide me to draw nearer to You today with a sincere heart. Remove any fear or shame that distances me and ignite in my heart a deeper love for You and my community. Amen.