

**Hebrews 10:23-25**  
**“Provision and Privilege, part 2”**

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**I. Introduction**

In Hebrews chapter 10:19-25 the writer is trying to encourage some of his brethren to remain trusting in the finished work of Jesus upon the cross. He has done so by reminding them first of the limitations of the Levitical sacrificial system and the advantages of Jesus once for all atone. Then last week we noted that he unveiled the “**The secret of Christian life**”. It is subtly revealed in this section by stating **FIRST** what our “**PROVISION**” is found in the word “**having**” as it describes what each and every believer received the moment they simply trusted in Christ. Then **SECOND** we saw in the same section what our “**PRIVILEGE**” or responsibility is in light of our **PROVISION**”. This is given to us by the two words “**let us**”! What we immediately discover is that when we apply our **PROVISION**” we forever destroy religion! To understand and apply the writer’s words would cancel such popular phrases as:

- *Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.*
- *God is my Co-pilot.*
- *God helps those who help themselves*

These religiously pious phrases are deceptively and utterly false. The first thing that the writer revealed was that the moment we trusted in Jesus’ finished work on the cross we now have “*confidence to enter into the presence of God*”! We don’t have to earn that privilege nor are we limited by how many times we can do so in a life time. Every

Believer in Christ has forever gained access to fellowship and communication with their Heavenly Father! The second thing we gained, according to the author of Hebrews was we now have a “*personal high priest*”. Jesus doesn’t just “*show us the way to God*” or even “*provide the way to God*” **He takes us with Him to the Father and will never leave us from now on in to eternity!** Because of these first two provisions the writer doesn’t want you to wait to open them and enjoy them even though you have more provisions so he told the readers that they could enjoy those blessing immediately as he invited us to **draw near to God NOW.** To further encourage the reader to do so he lets them know that **this would impact them three ways:**

1. **We will discover a new source of adequacy that will never run out:** We will have a new “CAN DO!” attitude as in Phillip 4:13 “*I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me!*”
2. We will “**EXPERIENCE FREEDOM FROM GUILT**”: Gone from our experience will be the guilt of failure as we are “*Accepted in the the Beloved*” (Eph. 1:6).
3. **We will be wonderfully changed because we have “been with Jesus”:** This phrase is symbolic and speaks a new dynamic spoken of by Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 where we are told that, “*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*”

Having reviewed these let’s move on in this “**The secret of Christian life**”!

## II. Vs. 23 Unmovable

Vs. 23 The second “**PRIVILEGE**” or responsibility in light of our **PROVISION** we need to apply to “*Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*” The second **PRIVILEGE** we gained because of Gods **PROVISION** has two aspects too it:

1. **First, this speaks of our security:** If you will, **trusting in Jesus finished work on the cross has given us sure footing when the ground we have been standing upon in this world is falling apart.** The Greek wording here is quite revealing as

it means too: *“Have a firm hold so that what you are holding on to you are the master of it.”* Taken my concealed carry permit I learned the importance of grasping the gun as if you own it. That’s the idea here! The word confession in the Greek means to *“agree with the statement of another”* but it carries the idea of much more than just intellectual agreement it means to **take it to heart!** This is NOT speaking of something that we do to KEEP ourselves saved but rather evidence that we are saved because we trust Jesus words and works and not our own effort. Because of this there must never be a hopeless follower of Jesus, we are not merely hang on, we are attached the **Anchor of our soul** and have our security on the **Rock of our salvation!** Paul said it this way in Romans 8:35-39 *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

2. **Second, it ensures that we will never need to retreat:** Since **our confidence is in Jesus finished work we can have complete confidence that there will never be a new discovery, some new technology or truth that will cause us to have to abandon our trust in Jesus and go back to our old religious ways.** The Greek has it *“without wavering”* and the phrase means to **lean backwards.** The idea is

best understood in the story of the Israelites who had trusted in God to lead them out of Egypt but when things got tuff started murmuring about going back into slavery. Have our lives anchored on Jesus means that we can move forward in life and never have to go back. When the disciples were facing greater and greater opposition to the point that many of Jesus followers left Jesus asked those who remained if they also wanted to leave to which in John 6:67-68 Peter answered Him saying, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”* Of all humans; followers of Jesus must be the most optimistic and full of joy: Because we know that Jesus *“who promised is faithful”*! If you were trusting in me, try as I might not to disappoint you I’m certain that it wouldn’t take much time before you realized that I’m not always faithful, but Jesus is! That’s why I find it so easy to talk about Jesus, I know Him to always be faithful and because of this I know that He will always fulfill each and every promise He has made to us!

### III. Vs. 24-25 Stirred up

Vs. 24 The third **PRIVILEGE** or responsibility in light of our **PROVISION** *“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”* This privilege is all about the body of Christ and considering others before ourselves. The word in Greek speaks of attentive and continuous care for another spiritual growth. It again has two parts to it as two things need to be exercised and stimulated in the Christian:

1. **Stirring up love**: The Christian is never measured upon their “profession” but rather upon their actions of love. So often people want to make their faith “private” but we are here encouraged to *“make our expression of faith public”* as

it is in its very essence God's love! Our responsibility is to love because He has first loved us. The Church would be far more effective in reaching a lost world if they practiced loving each other more. When questioned by one of the scribes in Mark 12:28-30, "*Which is the first commandment of all?*" Jesus answered him by saying, "*The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.*"

2. **And good works:** Though the believer is not obligated to "good works" to obtain the love of God, we are obligated to "good works" because we have already received the Love of God. In Luke 12:48 Jesus said, "*For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*" Every person has the need to love and be loved it is as basic as the need to breathe but only in Jesus is the purity of this available.

These two characteristics are hall marks of true Christianity the question is how and where are we to exercise them?

Vs. 25 The writer suggests two ways to achieve this:

1. **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...but exhorting one another:**

This suggests that the charter of the meeting was to be encouraging and exhorting.

They were to gather together to not to be entertained or for merely social

gathering but instead they were to be challenged and to challenge each other.

They were to be meetings where the word of God was taught by the Spirit of God

and that there was an expectation that what they heard would be applied. We are here today to be transformed into His image and to celebrate that transformation. Neither was the gathering just to be informational, it was alive with the hope and possibility of becoming more like Jesus! This is where we are to stir up love and good works.

2. ***And so much more as you see the Day approaching***: The “DAY” mentioned here is a reference to the soon return of Jesus. So as evil becomes more visible in our society we aren’t to retreat to caves we are to advance and infiltrate! We are to speak of God’s goodness over the world’s ugliness, God’s truth’s over the world’s lies. So if you think the world is coming to the close then its not time to go on the defensive it’s time to go on the offensive.

We have been given these amazing **PROVISIONS** but they come with great opportunities and **PRIVILEGES** to: Draw Near, Speak Out and Stir Up! That’s what the Christian life is having these amazing **PROVISIONS** so that we can exercise these amazing **PRIVILEGES!**