



[Hebrews 10:22-24](#)

(22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (23) Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. (24) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

New King James Version

The first thing Paul lays out in this transition is a three-step trigger to prime the Hebrew Christians' latent memories so they will be armed with foundational incentives to rouse themselves spiritually and start moving forward. In verses 22-24, he makes three exhortations.

First, "let us draw near." In other words, get moving! He says, "Take advantage of this privilege of coming before [God](#), and believe without doubting, knowing your sins are forgiven and remembering that God is faithful and [merciful](#) to forgive." Recall that in the performance of their duties, [the priests](#) had to wash their hands and feet before entering the holy place. This is why Paul mentions water. He is alluding to the Hebrews' need to become clean. He urges them to [repent](#) of their lackadaisical attitudes and to meet with their Maker in prayer.

Second, he commands them to "hold fast your profession." Paul uses a similar phrase five times before this. Apparently, lackadaisical drifting was a particularly common problem for them. He wants them to show by their conduct that they believe in what God has promised in the [resurrection from the dead](#). In short, he advises, "Remember your conviction in the awesome [hope](#) of our calling." These people were allowing [the world](#) to get them down; they were succumbing to a "what's the use" resignation. They were not busy confirming their souls. Paul exhorts them to continue, to persevere in the [grace](#) God had already shown them, not wanting them to waste it by failing to look ahead and be persistent. He presses them to yield to God and to allow themselves to be reassured that He is faithful to His promises.

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Pay special attention to the third exhortation in verse 24. The word "consider" is very emphatic. He urges them to think upon and to strive for unity by giving conscientious care to each other. He wants the Hebrews to give special attention to their brethren's circumstances, trials, temptations, weaknesses, and needs. They need to "fire each other up" to promote [love](#) for God and for each other and to carry out our common responsibilities. Christians do this by setting a good example, by occasional suitable exhortations, by acts of [kindness](#), and by expressions of appreciation.

Notice that as this exhortation begins, Paul calls upon the "big three" Christian virtues: [faith](#), hope, and love. These would form the foundation of what the Hebrews must do if they were to reverse their slide toward the [Lake of Fire](#). These virtues must be implemented because they affect the quality of a person's [relationship with God](#). Because a Christian has [God's Spirit](#), these virtues are already part of him. However, each individual must himself choose to use them to turn his life around; no one can do this for another. Of course, it is understood that God is always there to help a person do this.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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