



## [Hebrews 10:35-39](#)

(35) Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. (36) For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. (37) For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. (38) Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. (39) But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

*King James Version*

This is not the first time [faith](#) or its opposite, unbelief, is mentioned in Hebrews. The very purpose of the entire epistle is to recapture, build, and sustain in its recipients their faith in the superiority of [Jesus Christ](#) Himself and in His message, [the gospel](#) of the Kingdom of God.

Notice the strong, earlier statements Paul makes regarding unbelief:

» [Hebrews 3:12, 19](#): Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living [God](#). . . . So we see that [the Israelites in the wilderness] could not enter in[to the Promised Land] because of unbelief.

» [Hebrews 4:2](#): For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

These are weighty statements. The Israelites failed to accomplish their responsibility of walking from Egypt to the Promised Land primarily because of one weak element in their character. They did not believe God or His messenger [Moses](#). They did not listen thoughtfully or yieldingly.

Because of the warning contained within [Hebrews 10:35-39](#), chapter 11 places the virtue

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of faith in direct contrast to the [sin](#) of unbelief by exposing what unbelief caused to occur. The Israelites drew back in fear rather than trusting God and boldly going forward. Thus, the main point of the epistle of Hebrews is that they will be destroyed who, by failing to put their trust in the living God, shrink back from this Christian war we have been called to fight, whereas those who believe will be saved.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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