Growing Small and Going Big Our Confidence, Confession, and Courage

I. How NOT to Grow Strong Faith

- -step 1: Chase distractions rather than cultivate worship
- -step 2: Identify more with your circumstances than your Savior
- -step 3: Forgo community for the sake of convenience

II. BUT LET US... (Hebrews 10:19-25)

A. Draw Near in Confidence (vs 19-22)

1. Our New and Living Sacrifice

He's the Final Sacrificial Lamb taking our place in death for our sins

2. Our High Priest over Heaven

He's the Forever Great High Priest providing the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of relationship with God

JESUS IS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND THE MEDIATOR THROUGH WHOM WE RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE.

WE FIND OUR CONFIDENCE IN JESUS

B. Hold Fast to our Confession (vs 23)

1. Hold Fast

- -staying the course when others find themselves getting off course
- -don't get distracted
- -eternal perspective that dictates our earthly priorities

2. The Confession of our Hope

- -our confession is the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- -our hope is eternity with him

3. He who promised is faithful

-His promise:

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. -John 10:27-28

IT'S JESUS IN WHOM WE HOLD FAST HIS GOSPEL PROCLAIMS OUR ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE OF HOPE. WE FIND OUR CONFESSION IN THE GOSPEL

C. Stir Up Towards Courage

- 1. And let us consider...
 - -to take stock, make a plan, take note of
 - -consider carefully, discerning and detecting

2. Stir Up

- -to irritate and agitate
- -to allow access to in each others lives

3. Towards Love and Good Deeds

- a. Life apart from the body of Christ becomes:
 - -self-centered
 - -self-focused
 - -and short-sighted
 - -apart from community we become isolated
- b. The visual representation of Christ on Earth
- c. faith comes alive in community
 -it's where we see it working, and where we're
 challenged to work it.
- d. "encourage one another"
 - -to instill courage in another

-"to make a call from up close and personal

WE FIND OUR CONFIDENCE IN JESUS,
OUR CONFESSION IN THE GOSPEL,
AND OUR COURAGE THROUGH COMMUNITY

III. So Consider...

- A. Draw Near: How am I drawing near in worship to the Father in the confidence of Christ?
- B. Hold Fast: When am I tempted to place my hope in something other than Jesus? How can I instead hold fast to him?
- C. Stir Up: What step will I make today to be encouraged and encourage others through community this season?