

*Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. Hebrews 10:32-34 (NIV)*

## **Hold On To Me**

**What are you willing to endure as one of my followers? What sacrifices are you willing to make as you follow me?** Lord, I'm willing to endure anything and everything I must as I follow you. I'm willing to sacrifice and give up whatever you ask me to give up. My life, all that I am, have and hope to be is in your hands. I am at your complete disposal. Use me however you desire.

**Why are you so willing to endure and make sacrifices as one of my followers? Do you think the road ahead will be easy? Do you think I won't ask you to give up something that is enjoyable or do something that is costly to you?** No, I don't think the road ahead will be easy. The road behind has not been that easy either. **No, it has not.** I know that if you ask me to give up something, it will be because you will have a good reason. But, I trust you and your goodness, mercy and love to me.

There have been plenty of times that you have asked me to give up something to do something for you that was far better and more important than what I was doing or wanted to do. Following and obeying you has always brought great blessings into my life. **Yes, it has.**

**Do you have any sense of what I might ask you to do for me?** Yes, I have a pretty good idea. **Tell me about it.** I have nothing specific in mind. I just have this general impression that you want me to give my life more fully to others. **Yes, that's right.** I know that I have been quite self centered and often too focused on myself. I know you want me to have my eyes on you with the question in my heart of "how can I be your servant and show your love to others that are in need?" **It pleases me that you have heard this from me. Keep your eyes open and I will show you who I would like you to serve and minister to on my behalf.**

**What will keep you going as you serve me? What hope and joyous expectation do you have in your heart to sustain you through trials that will be ahead of you?** I know that no matter what happens I will live forever with you in the splendor of heaven. **Yes, you will. Hold on to me. Allow my Holy Spirit to strengthen and sustain you as you follow and serve me.** Yes Lord, I will.

*Lord, thank you that I will have a far better life and possessions in heaven with you. I will keep my eyes on you as I live for you in this life. Help me to stand together with fellow believers to encourage them as we face suffering and trials. Amen*

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better And Lasting Possessions*

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

NIV

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better Things Waiting For You*

Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.

NLT

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Possessed Something Better And More Lasting*

But recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting.

NRSV

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better And Lasting Possession*

But be ever mindful of the days gone by in which, after you were first spiritually enlightened, you endured a great and painful struggle. Sometimes being yourselves a gazingstock, publicly exposed to insults and abuse and distress, and sometimes claiming fellowship and making common cause with others who were so treated. For you did sympathize and suffer along with those who were imprisoned, and you bore cheerfully the plundering of your belongings and the confiscation of your property, in the knowledge and consciousness that you yourselves had a better and lasting possession.

AMP

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better Possession And A Lasting One*

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

NASB

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better Possessions And An Abiding One*

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

ESV

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Enduring Possession For Yourselves*

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

NKJV

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Your Real Treasure*

Remember those early days after you first saw the light? Those were the hard times! Kicked around in public, targets of every kind of abuse—some days it was you, other days your friends. If some friends went to prison, you stuck by them. If some enemies broke in and seized your goods, you let them go with a smile, knowing they couldn't touch your real treasure. Nothing they did bothered you, nothing set you back.

MSG

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better Things Were Awaiting You*

Don't ever forget those wonderful days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you kept right on with the Lord even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were laughed at and beaten, and sometimes you watched and sympathized with others suffering the same things. You suffered with those thrown into jail, and you were actually joyful when all you owned was taken from you, knowing that better things were awaiting you in heaven, things that would be yours forever.

TLB

Hebrews 10:32-34

## **Spiritual Warfare** *Better And More Lasting*

Remember those days in the past when you first learned the truth. You had a hard struggle with many sufferings, but you continued strong. Sometimes you were hurt and attacked before crowds of people, and sometimes you shared with those who were being treated that way. You helped the prisoners. You even had joy when all that you owned was taken from you, because you knew you had something better and more lasting.

NCV

Hebrews 10:32-34

**Spiritual Warfare** – Hebrews 10:32-34

**In Context:** *Read Hebrews 10*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God’s Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. Hebrews 10:32-34

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Remember those | earlier days | after you | had received | the light, | when you | stood your ground | in a great contest | in the face of suffering. | Sometimes | you were | publicly exposed | to insult | and | persecution; | at other times | you stood | side by side | with those | who were | so treated. | You sympathized | with those | in prison | and | joyfully accepted | the confiscation | of your property, | because | you knew that | you yourselves | had better | and | lasting possessions. Hebrews 10:32-34

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you I will have a far better life and possessions in heaven with you. I will keep my eyes on you as I live for you in this life. Help me to stand together with fellow believers to encourage them as we face suffering and trials. Amen

**What It Means:**

***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How does remembering what it was like when you first came to Christ encourage you to keep following Him now?

**How has the Lord helped you to stand your ground in the face of great suffering and trials?**

When have you endured being exposed to insult and maybe even persecution for being a follower of Christ?

When have you been able to stand beside and encourage someone in their faith when they faced suffering and trials?

Who has stood beside you and encouraged you in your faith when you faced suffering and trials?

**Why is following Christ and living your life for Him not meant to be done in isolation from fellow believers?**

**How does knowing that you will have better possessions in heaven encourage you through loss in this life?**

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Stand side by side with fellow believers to encourage and strengthen each other when you face suffering and trials.

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to stand your ground and have faith in Him in the face of suffering and trials.

**Get Ready To Share:**

***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what encourages you to keep following Christ through trials.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you keep your eyes on Christ and your future in heaven with Him as you face trials and suffering in this life.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, help me to stand side by side fellow believers so we can encourage each other through trials in this life.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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