



Bethel South Sermon Notes – *“Don't Shrink Back... Don't Quit”*

Speaker: Ps Cruz Flores

Series: Jesus Is Better

Scripture: Hebrews 10

Main Idea

Because Jesus' work is finished, we can confidently draw near to God and faithfully persevere. Followers of Jesus are not called to drift or shrink back—we are called to endure in faith, together.

Jesus Finished What We Never Could

Hebrews 10 marks a major turning point in the book.

After explaining the superiority of Christ, the writer begins showing us how to live in light of what Jesus has done.

Under the Old Covenant:

- **Sacrifices had to be offered continually.**
- **Sin was remembered year after year.**
- **The blood of animals could never truly remove sin.**

Those sacrifices pointed forward to Someone greater.

Then Jesus came.

"Here I am."

He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice once and for all.

Unlike the Old Testament priests, whose work was never finished, Jesus completed the work of salvation forever.

After His sacrifice...

He sat down.

Because Jesus sat down, our standing before God is secure.

Our salvation is based on His finished work, not our ongoing performance.

The Danger of Drifting

The writer of Hebrews gives a serious warning.

People don't suddenly wake up one morning and decide to walk away from God.

Apostasy begins with drift.

It starts with:

- **Pulling away**
- **Becoming isolated**
- **Neglecting God's presence**
- **Slowly shrinking back**

Small compromises eventually become major departures.

The enemy rarely pulls us away all at once.

He distracts us one small step at a time.

Five Ways to Keep From Shrinking Back

1. Return

Because of Jesus, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place.

Don't stay in the outer courts.

Draw near to God with sincerity.

He is not pushing you away.

He is inviting you closer.

No matter how far you've drifted, God's invitation still stands.

2. Relationship

Faith was never meant to be lived alone.

Hebrews tells us to spur one another on toward love and good works and not neglect meeting together.

We all need people who can:

- **Encourage us**
- **Challenge us**
- **Correct us**
- **Pray for us**
- **Walk alongside us**

Ps Cruz asked an important question:

Do you have a "Nathan" in your life?

Just as Nathan lovingly confronted David, we need trusted people who care enough to tell us the truth.

Christian community isn't optional.

It's one of God's greatest protections against drifting.

3. Remember

Think back to when you first encountered Jesus.

Remember:

- **Your passion**
- **Your joy**
- **Your hunger for God**
- **The faithfulness of God through difficult seasons**

Looking back reminds us why we began following Christ in the first place.

Remembering God's faithfulness strengthens us to keep moving forward.

4. Rewards

God is a generous Father.

Scripture teaches that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Our motivation is never simply the reward.

But it is perfectly biblical to look forward to what God has promised.

Following Jesus always costs something.

But what He gives in return is infinitely greater.

5. The Righteous Live by Faith

Faith is not built on feelings.

Faith is built on truth.

Circumstances change.

Emotions change.

God does not.

The righteous continue trusting Him even when life doesn't make sense.

Ps Cruz pointed to the example of Leetha Ross and her family, who continued worshiping God through unimaginable grief.

Faith doesn't deny pain.

Faith chooses to trust God in the middle of it.

This Is Who We Are!

Hebrews 10:39 declares:

"But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

This isn't just encouragement.

It's identity.

As followers of Jesus:

- **We don't quit.**
- **We don't give up.**
- **We don't drift.**
- **We don't walk alone.**

We belong to those who keep trusting God.

And we help one another keep going.

Final Challenge:

If you've found yourself drifting...

Return.

If you've become isolated...

Reconnect.

If you've grown discouraged...

Remember.

If you've been living by feelings...

Choose faith.

Don't fight your battles alone.

Lean into the family of God and allow others to walk with you.

Because we are not people who shrink back.

We are people who endure.

Discussion Questions

1. Ps Cruz said that people rarely walk away from God all at once—it usually begins with slowly drifting. What are some subtle signs that someone may be drifting spiritually, and how can we recognize them in our own lives?

2. Which of the five ways to keep from shrinking back (Return, Relationship, Remember, Rewards, or Righteous) resonated with you the most? Why?
3. Hebrews encourages believers not to neglect meeting together. Why is genuine Christian community so essential for perseverance, and who are the people in your life that help keep you anchored in your faith?
4. Ps Cruz reminded us that Jesus sat down because His work was finished. How does understanding the finished work of Christ change the way you view your relationship with God and your own efforts to earn His approval?
5. Hebrews 10:39 says, "We do not belong to those who shrink back..." What is one practical step you can take this week to keep moving forward in faith instead of drifting backward?