

FAITHFUL ABUNDANT TRUE

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With study questions by **Lorie Keene**

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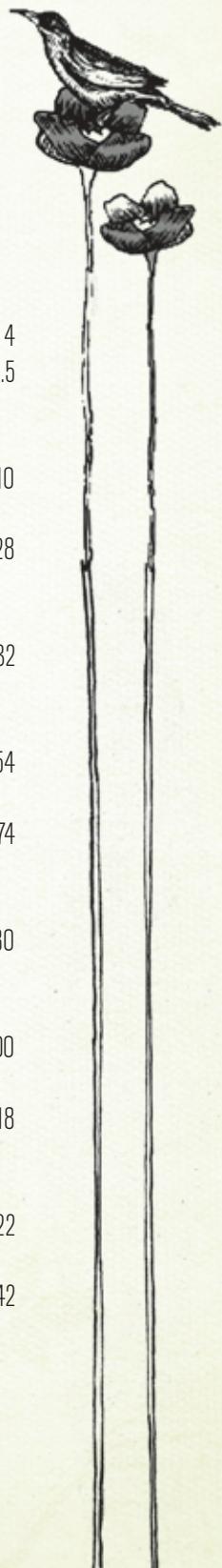
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WEEK ONE | DAY ONE

Are We Listening?

God, seated on His throne (Heb. 1:3) is *El Olam* (Gen. 21:33)—the everlasting God. He has no beginning, and He knows no end. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He lives and rules forever in righteousness. He is *Elohim*, your Creator.

El Olam is making intercession for you. If you want to go deeper still, then we must pay close attention to what He has said, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. After listening to the teaching the Father gave me for you, do you realize how God treasures you? You are so precious that God would speak to you through His Son. In these next two weeks of study I pray you will allow me to take you deeper into the Word of God. It is my passion that ...

- you truly hear in the depths of your heart and mind the word of God
- you discover *for yourself* what God has spoken
- discovering this truth for yourself, you will desire with all your heart, soul, mind, body, and spirit to live accordingly, to live in the “rest of faith”

Although your assignments for each day are not lengthy, they are designed to impact your life in a lasting way. The benefit and blessing you receive will be according to your commitment, your disciplined faithfulness, and perseverance. Even as I write, I am seeking the Father on your behalf.

As I prayed about my message for Deeper Still, God made it clear that I was to read to the audience the entire first chapter of Hebrews. This, beloved, is where we will begin. I want you to observe Hebrews 1 for yourself. However, before we begin, you need to understand exactly what you are reading. The words written in Hebrews 1, like all the Bible, are the very words God breathed through the unknown person who was His scribe for the Book of Hebrews.

I believe we would be more diligent about studying the Bible—about paying closer attention to Jesus as Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:1-3 says—if we realized that the Bible is God’s Word—not man’s.

Therefore, let’s explore several Scriptures that will help us value even more what we will see tomorrow in Hebrews 1. For the sake of continuity, since people use so many different translations of the Bible, please read the Scriptures listed below from the New American Standard Version.

Underline or put a box around every reference to the Word of God, including pronouns and synonyms (such as Scripture). You could use a symbol like this . Or pick a color and color it the same in all the texts. I am into colors as they are good for identification and recall. Then, in bullet points, under summary list

what you learned from the text about the Word of God. Nothing more, nothing less. Just the facts. Here we go.

You have had to deal with doubts. Among other things, Satan is a tempter and a liar. He not only tempts and lies to you, he also tempted Jesus. If we can see how Jesus handled the Devil, we can do the same. Therefore, our first Scripture will be Matthew 4:2-4. The part in capital letters is a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3.

Matthew 4:2-4

²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

³And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

⁴But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”

By the way, when you marked “word,” did you notice where that word came from? Write it down.

SUMMARY:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

SUMMARY:

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,

²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

SUMMARY:

John 17:14-17 is what Jesus prayed to His Father before He went to the garden of Gethsemane where He would be betrayed by Judas, arrested, and crucified the next day. Watch the Evil One (Satan, the Devil) in this passage. I mark him with a red pitchfork! By the way, “they” includes you and me (John 17:20). *Sanctify* means to set apart, to consecrate for God—it’s another word for *holy!*

John 17:14-17

¹⁴“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

¹⁵“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

¹⁶“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

¹⁷“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

SUMMARY:

Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

SUMMARY:

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Did you mark the “its” the same way you marked the Word? If not, go back and get them.

SUMMARY:

Now then, beloved. Now that you have diligently observed the text and discovered what it said for yourself, think about what you learned about the Word of God, the Bible! Review what you’ve seen; think about it.

If the Bible is what it says it is—and comes straight from the mouth of God—how important is it that you pay close attention to it? Have you? Have you honored it as it should be honored? Or have you preferred the writings—the books of men and women—above God’s Word?

WEEK ONE | DAY TWO

So Great a Salvation

Through the ages people waited for the coming of the Promised One, the Messiah who would bruise the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:1-15). Then in the fullness of time God spoke to us through His Son (Gal. 4:4). Surely we must pay close attention to what He said. What awesome truth you are about to explore as you observe Hebrews 1! Hebrews was written for those who believe in Jesus Christ, those who live this side of the cross. It was written for you, beloved of God.

Part of God's book, Hebrews' purpose is to transform you into the likeness of Jesus, the beloved Son of God, and to equip you to handle every and any situation of life—including the most difficult of circumstances. It is going to teach you what Scripture calls *the rest of faith*.

Today you not only have the privilege of reading through and observing the main characters of Hebrews 1:1–2:3, but you also have the promise that His Spirit will lead and guide you into all truth (John 16:13). Begin today's study in prayer, telling God what is on your heart and what you need to know to understand.

Read the following text and color every reference to God (the Father) yellow or the color you choose. If you don't have colors, then use a triangle, but color is easier to identify. Make sure you mark all pronouns and synonyms in the same way (for example, Majesty on high is a synonym for God). As you mark the pronouns, make sure it is a reference to God the Father and not God the Son. It can be a little confusing so if you don't know, don't mark it until you do.

Put a cross † (in red if you can) over every reference to the Son. Don't miss any pronouns or synonyms (such as Lord and God).

Dear One, as you read, remember this is the bread by which you live. Feast!

Hebrews 1:1-2:3

¹God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

⁵For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

⁶And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.”

⁷And of the angels He says, “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.”

⁸But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

⁹“YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.”

¹⁰AND, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

¹¹THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,

¹²AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.”

¹³But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”?

¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

^{2:1}For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

²For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

³how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.

We always tell our Precept students that when you observe the Scriptures you always want to focus on the five W's and an H: *who, what, when, where, why*, and *how*. You've already marked two very important who's: God and the Son. But you saw a third who, didn't you? One that Jesus was compared with—angels.

Read through the text again—aloud (it helps you retain what you read). This time mark or color the references to the angels.

Now once you've marked the text, you will want to find out what you learn from marking *God the Father, the Son, and the angels*. You do this by looking at your markings and then making a list of what you learn from this portion of God's Word about them.

On the next page list what you learn about God, about the Son, and about angels just from marking the passage. Include nothing more, nothing less. As you make your list, you'll find it helpful to put the verse number beside what you observed from each marking. This way when you review your list, you'll know where your insight came from.

If a truth is listed under The Son but it also relates to God, you need not list it in both columns. Just get it down. Let me give you an example. In verse 3 the emphasis is on the Son; therefore, list the facts under The Son.

Now then, let me get you started! Oh but I would love to do this with you. What a joyous time we would have! I would love to see your eyes and hear you share your insights. And I would love to hug your necks. You and your growth in the knowledge of God is so very precious to me.

GOD THE FATHER	THE SON	ANGELS
v. 1 I spoke to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and many ways	v. 2 was appointed heir of all things v. 2 God made the world through Him	v. 5 Never addressed by God as His begotten Son

Now use what you've found to worship the Father and the Son. In John 4:23 Jesus said we are to worship Him in spirit and truth. Look at the truths you've recorded and remember this is truth. It will never change; God is immutable. He is *El Olam*, the everlasting God. You can always trust Him to be God.

Oh beloved, did you see it? Write it down? "When He [Jesus] had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3). Oh the riches of salvation consolidated in these words! Jesus, who knew no sin, was made to be sin for you so that you might be made the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

Jesus became man—a human being—that He might bear your sins before His Father as your merciful and faithful high priest and make propitiation for your sins (Heb. 2:17). His sacrifice satisfied the holiness of God. Through Jesus' death for your sins, you were forever freed from Satan's power—the power of death. Why? Because your sins—past, present and future—were paid for in full. Jesus' work of redemption was accomplished in His death, burial, and resurrection; thus He sat down at His Father's right hand, the place of power and authority.

It's the Son who sits there, not angels. He's making intercession for you (Heb. 7:25). Surely you want to pay close attention to Him—to go deeper still.

WEEK ONE | DAY THREE

To Suffer for His Sake

Are you suffering because you are a Christian? Have you, like those in the Book of Hebrews, endured a great conflict of suffering? Has your suffering been because your husband or your kids walked away because they don't like something about you? about your Christianity?

What about your co-workers? friends and acquaintances in general? Are you shunned, talked about, laughed at, despised, rejected, exploited? It's not easy, is it? If you're like me, I've wondered what I've done wrong. How I could have shared or lived my faith more effectively?

As you heard when you listened to the first portion of my message, I understand the rejection, the pain, the loneliness, the angst. My firstborn won't have anything to do with me. He has shut off all communication. My sister tolerates me at a distance, and my brother flat out doesn't want a thing to do with me. He doesn't approve of me—he's sided with my son.

I share that only so you will know you are not alone. We are not the first to suffer and won't be the last. So how do we handle it, live through it, or with it?

The Book of Hebrews, written as an exhortation to those enduring a great conflict of suffering, has the answer. So let's dig deeper still and see what we can learn that will help us endure even as the Son of God endured—and as all true children of God are to endure.

Whenever you study a New Testament letter, you want to learn all you can about the recipients of that letter. To interpret Hebrews correctly, this is imperative. The best way to do that is to read through the epistle, color code every reference to the recipients, and then list all you learned from the text.

Now, don't panic, darling! I am not going to ask you to read through the entire Book of Hebrews and do that. I know that in this study your time is limited. You can go deeper still later if you like. For now I am going to take us, as I did in my message, to Hebrews 10 where we find a good synopsis of the recipients of this letter. In doing so, you and I will gain an understanding of why the author wrote what he wrote and why God has preserved it for His children.

Of course, by now you know why I am taking you to the text of Hebrews; you're smiling, aren't you? You've heard me; you are on to me! I want you, precious one, to discover truth for yourself so that you will know that you know this is what God says. So you are convinced this is what God says so you will not be led astray in these last critical epochal days.

Pray and begin. Read Hebrews 10:32-39 and color or underline every reference to the people the author was writing to. Mark every "you," "your," and mark the "we" in verse 39 the same color.

Hebrews 10:32-39

³²But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

³³partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

³⁴For 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.

³⁵Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

³⁷FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

³⁸BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

³⁹But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Now read the text again—this time aloud. As you do, see if anything answers the question when, or indicates a sequence of time such as *later*, *after*, or *then*. Circle it. When I mark my Bible, I mark all references to time with a green circle like this .

Now, diligent student of His Word, make your list. What do you learn about the recipients, and what are the author's instructions to them? You might put your insights under two different headings:

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS

INSTRUCTION(S)—EXHORTATION(S) TO THE SAINTS

If we carefully observed Hebrews from chapter 1 up to this point, you could almost surmise their suffering. However, Hebrews 10:32-34 nails the fact that they had suffered. The “after” tells us their suffering was in the past. It was a varied suffering as your list shows you. Everyone did not experience the same thing. Remember that, dear one, we all suffer but it is in various ways. James 1:2-4 calls them “various” trials. In the case of Hebrews some had apparently been put in prison. Hebrews 13:3 supports this with the exhortation to “remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated” since they are fellow believers.

Have you ever experienced suffering in any of those ways? If so, put a check beside them.

Are there any other ways you have suffered because of being a child of God and living like you truly belong to Jesus?

How did you handle the suffering?

Endurance—not fainting, giving up, shrinking back, drifting away, or walking away—is the will of God. You may be weak, you may be trembling, your knees may be knocking, your voice may be weak and squeaky high with fear, but hang in there. Don’t give up. Persevere.

According to the verses you just read, how does God feel about those who shrink back?

What does God have for those who keep their confidence in the Lord and endure?

You can know, if it is the will of God that you endure, then you can do it. Our sovereign God does not permit any temptation you cannot endure. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13. Look it up and write it on a card you can take with you.

So how does a “righteous one” live? What does verse 38 tell you?

The Scriptures were written with no chapter or verse divisions in the text; these were added much later. So without a break, what you just observed in Hebrews 10:32-39 would flow right into the faith chapter, Hebrews 11. *Faith* is the key word in this chapter. A key word is an important repeated word in the text that helps you unlock the meaning of the text.

We are going to come back and look at Hebrews 11 later; however, I want you to see what Hebrews 11:6 says about faith before we move on. Read it and put a symbol like this Δ over faith.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Now read it again aloud. This time mark the references to God. Either color them the same color or put a triangle over them. Then list below what you learn from marking God.

Now do you see the importance of faith, beloved? Talk to God about it and then tomorrow I want you to see why God had to say what He was saying to them.