

## ***FIRM TO THE END***

*(Hebrews 3:12-14)*

Hebrews 3:12-14 provides us with the comforting truth that true believers persevere in faith to the end and are eternally saved. Christian perseverance is one of the hallmarks of true saving faith (Matt. 24:10-13). A genuine believer continues to follow, love, serve and abide in Christ until the end even amidst the onslaught of trials, persecution and Satanic opposition. A true believer remains firm in the faith to the end. As we reflect on the truths of our passage, we will consider three divine instructions pertaining to Christian perseverance.

1. ***Guard your heart from the \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Perseverance in the faith involves spiritual vigilance that guards one's heart from the sin of unbelief (Heb. 3:12). Unbelief is the root sin which led the Israelites of Moses' days to rebellion and disobedience to God (Heb. 3:7-11; Ps. 95-7-11). The author of Hebrews issues the same warning to Jewish Christians to take heed of this evil heart of unbelief which stops trusting God and ultimately renounces Jesus in times of difficult trials and intense suffering (Heb. 10:32-34). A true believer never gives in to unbelief. A genuine Christian keeps trusting the Lord and His Word in the day of trouble (Ps. 50:15).  
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2. ***Value the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Perseverance in the faith entails the recognition of the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13). Sin is deceitful because it presents itself to us as pleasurable, satisfying and fulfilling. But eventually sin hardens the heart and causes spiritual ruin and destruction (Mk. 4:19). The Jewish Christians in the book of Hebrews were being seduced to believe the lie that Jesus is not enough and that the once and for all sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is not sufficient (Heb. 10:12,14). In light of the deceptive lies of sin, believers are instructed to help one another to persevere in the faith through mutual exhortation. Christian perseverance is a corporate responsibility and a collective accountability. God has designed to preserve His church through believers exhorting one another with God's Word every day.  
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3. ***Hold on to your \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Perseverance in the faith is the evidence of one's sharing in Christ and the proof of ones' partaking on God's saving grace in Jesus (Heb. 3:14) The reality of one's salvation is demonstrated by the perseverance of his or her faith. A true believer continues in the faith, remains steadfast and does not shift from the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:21-23). A genuine Christian holds on to his or her confidence in Christ. Our Lord Jesus Himself is our assurance and the guarantor of our perseverance in the faith. We who place our full confidence in Christ could boast only in Him who promises to give us eternal life, to sustain and protect us and to enable us to be firm in our faith to the end (Heb. 3:6; John 10:27-28; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Jude 1:24-25).  
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