

JESUS: OUR MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

A STUDY OF HEBREWS

Steve Larson • 11-2-2025
Final thoughts on Hebrews – Hebrews 13

Introduction:

Hebrews is a wonderful book, but it is an exhausting book. It has very intense warnings and amazing encouragements. It calls followers of Jesus to be “*all in*” even in times of incredible suffering.

What does it mean to be “all in” with Jesus. It means that he is with you at the center of your life. He drives your values, attitudes, actions, words, and relationships!

1. Value your marriage even more when times are difficult – 13:4

Hebrews 13:4 ^(NASB 95) 4 Marriage <i>is to be held</i> in honor among all, and the <i>marriage bed is to be</i> undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
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So often men use stress at work as an excuse to abandon the needs of the family. They come home emotionally spent and feel perfectly justified in withdrawing either emotionally or even physically from the life and challenges of the family.

The writer gives two challenges to husbands and wives.

I. Marriage is to be held in honor among all!

If you’re married, loving and serving your spouse is your highest priority. If you don’t intentionally invest in loving your spouse, your love will fade, and your relationship will drift.

God created us for intimacy. Intimacy with him (Gen 2:7) and intimacy with a spouse (gen 2:25)
The first emotion Adam and Eve experienced after listening to Satan’s lies and disobeying God was **Shame!** The first action was to **cover themselves!**

The second emotion they experienced was fear and their second action was to hide from God.

That’s what we’ve been doing ever since. Distancing ourselves from each other and hiding from God!

Intimacy is a great gift, but it is not easy to develop and maintain. It takes focus and intentionality to experience intimacy. It does not come naturally, but the reward is worth it!

There are 5 kinds of intimacy

- Spiritual intimacy – understanding what’s going on in each other’s relationship with God
- Intellectual Intimacy – connecting with each other about what you are reading and learning.

- Emotional Intimacy – understanding where your spouse is emotionally and sharing that with your spouse.
- Physical Intimacy - enjoying physical sexual union and physical love.
- Social Intimacy – What’s going on with friendships.

Why is intimacy hard? It’s because we’re selfish! It’s a lot easier to withdraw into our own lives. Because we’re ashamed – afraid to share who we really are.

If you’ve “lost your first love,” I encourage you to listen to the words of Jesus:

Revelation 2:5 (NASB 95) 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first.

Do the things you used to do when you were dating and when you were first married. Husbands, renewing your marriage starts with you.

1 Peter 3:7 (NASB 95) 7 You husbands, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Do you hear what Peter is saying? How you treat your wife is related to how your prayers get answered! Be a lifelong student of your wife! Learn to honor her as a genuine partner! This is a challenge that I still pursue!

So, what if you don’t **feel like doing it? Your feelings are not who you are! Your faith is! Obey God and do the actions of love. Trust the feelings to follow.**

The writer now follows up with a serious point: The *marriage bed is to be undefiled*. Simply put, sexual intimacy is to be between a husband and wife! No one else.

1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (NASB 95) 18 Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

How do you flee immorality? By not allowing yourself to be put in a situation where sin could take place? Also, by not feeding your flesh with impure thoughts and images. Finally by avoiding people to whom you are attracted.

This is followed by a warning. God will judge immoral people (including premarital sex, homosexual sex and any other perversion of God’s plan of one man and one-woman enjoying God’s gift of sex in marriage.

God’s judgement may come in the form of a broken family, or children who can never look at the guilty party as a godly example, I’ve seen so many people throw away their lives for a short season of excitement.

The writer of Hebrews is telling us in normal times your marriage must be your priority and in difficult times, it becomes even more important to have a strong, pure, satisfying marriage! Connie has been my partner through difficult times and wonderful times. She balances me, she challenges me, she supports me, and I hope before God, I have faithfully done the same for her!

2. Live in contentment – 13:5-6

Hebrews 13:5–6 ^(NASB 95) 5 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,” 6 so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”

Contentment is being grateful and satisfied with what God has given you!

Money will either be a great slave or a horrible master

In both this command and the previous challenge, the corresponding challenge is equally present: “Guard your heart”

Proverbs 4:23 ^(NIV84) 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Make sure: Be intentional about setting your focus on the things that you cannot see. Drive your values down to your character so that you are free from the love of money. **Guard your heart** Our hearts grow where we feed them!

This is such a protection. It will help keep you from overspending and going into debt. You will discover that contentment is a blessing that will extend to every area of your life.

The world wants to drag you down to its thinking, its values and its priorities. It wants to make you think that the dodgers winning the world series is really important. It wants you to think that money and material things are what really matters; but God says we need to be intentional.

Being satisfied with what God has given you will deliver you from the trap that you always need *more* or *better*.

You will discover that money and the material things it buys will either great servant, or a horrible master.

Listen to Paul

1 Timothy 6:6–10 ^(NASB 95) ⁶ But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

One of the great steps towards contentment is generosity!

1 Timothy 6:17–19 ^(NASB 95) ¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

What is the basis for the peace that contentment brings and the courage to face life?

Hebrews 13:5–6 ^(NASB 95)

⁵ *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “**I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,**” ⁶ so that we confidently say, “**THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?**”

Similar to what God said to Joshua:

Joshua 1:9 ^(NASB 2020) ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Psalm 139:1-18 has been the basis of my confidence for the last 13 years as I’ve travelled all over the world! God knows everything about you, He is always with you and he is working all things to help you become more and more like Jesus! God has my back!

The eternal God who created the heavens and the earth has promised, *I will never leave you or forsake you, He has committed to be your helper – Bottom line, you can be free from fear and have peace because man cannot stop the hand of God!!!!*

Point: Living all in for Jesus Walking with him, obeying him, depending on his Spirit for power every day is a life of absolute blessing. It's not the easiest way to live, but it is the best!

What gets ever more exciting is that you experience the presence of God wherever you go and whatever you do!

Questions? Steve Larson, j.stevelarson@gmail.com