



**G.O.A.T. Greatest Of All Time**  
Confidence Coming Back  
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**Discussion Notes**

The Crossing Church  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### OPENING

**Jesus is the Greatest of All Time.** Yes, we have heroes in various sports who have performed far above the average player, but only one is the champion for the ages and He is Jesus Christ. This week we are continuing our series based upon the book of Hebrews. We Christians are anchoring our faith in the fact that Jesus is greater than our sin. It is the only hope we have – that Jesus is Who He says He is and will do all that He has promised to do. We have confidence that all of this is true – until we doubt. Our unknown author teaches us this week that our communities are there to build our confidence and to lift us up during discouraging times and that what Jesus did for us in the past, He will do again. Jesus is greater, so don't give up.

### SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>

**Hebrews 10:1-4** For since the law has been but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**Hebrews 10:7** Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written in the scroll of the book."

**Hebrews 10:9-10** Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Hebrews 10:16-25** This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. Then he adds: Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more. And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain that is his body. And since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as we see the Day approaching.

**Hebrews 10:32-36** Remember those early days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full 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 suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. And you need to persevere so when you have done the will of God you will receive what he has promised.

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

## OBSERVATION

The Israelites had been sacrificing animals for centuries in order to get rid of their sins, but it wasn't working -- they had to repeat the process over and over again until Christ came and took their sin once and for all. They were living under the **Old Covenant** which was contractual and said, "If you do this, I, God, will do that," but they weren't getting the results they were looking for because God never intended it to be the end all. It was to be a foreshadowing of Jesus Who is all over the Old Testament. If you read about David and Jonah, for example, you will see Jesus there. Repetition eventually gets the message across. If someone isn't getting it, we feel we need to say it again; or maybe they got it, but aren't doing anything with it; or they got it, but now they are losing confidence in it. Repetition establishes the context for the message and Hebrews' author knew that context is always important to our confidence. The new followers of Christ lost their confidence when their world was turned upside down through persecution and fear. They needed to be reminded of the context that, because Jesus came to die for their sins, they **no longer had to trust in their own external, repetitious works to get to God**. They could trust in Jesus' finished work on their behalf instead. There was no permanent solution until Jesus. He came to bring us a New Covenant -- "Believe in Me and you will be saved from your sins, once and for all." This is the covenant of grace.

**Question:** Where else in the Old Testament do you find Jesus?

## APPLICATION

When we understand the purpose of the Old Testament and its context, the New Covenant becomes fully the good news. Shadows never make sense until the object appears. Now we understand why Jesus came and why the cross matters. We can have confidence that there is so much our God wants for us in Christ because He made all things new. No bulls or goats are needed, because He wrote His law on our hearts and minds. There are no more rigid rules to follow. We can trust in Jesus' finished work instead.

**Question:** In what circumstances do you have the most confidence? Why is that true?

But the Valley of Discouragement, which is between what we think should happen and what actually happens, can still invade us and we start heading backwards -- it is called The Gap. It is the space of time between what we think should happen and what actually happens in our lives. We want to quit when where we are is not where we want to be. The demon voices begin to rage talking to us about our diets and the treadmills and our past failures, draining us of confidence.

**Question:** In what circumstances do you have the least confidence? Why is that true?

**Question:** When you start doubting or drifting away from Jesus, what do you do about it? What question(s) about your faith bother you the most? Where do you go to get answers?

**Question:** What is difficult about waiting through The Gap? What feelings are you dealing with?

This is when we need to reflect back to all of the times when God came through for us. This is the time when we can fill The Gap with prayer, worship and God's Word.

**Question:** Upon reflection, what has God done for you in the past? When has he come through for you big time?

In those moments when we remember His transforming us, we can take back our confidence. The same God who got us through The Gap once will do it again. But the situation won't change until our confidence returns. No one can take confidence from us -- we throw it away all by ourselves. We need to leverage the past into a more confident future. When doubt creeps in and we don't grab hold of it and fling it away -- we are allowing it to steal Jesus from us. It's just like sin, isn't it? To stay strong and hold on to our confidence, community is essential. It matters that we have others who are like-minded in our faith -- who are pushing and encouraging and challenging us. With them, if we begin to drift back to our prior state, we hear their voices encouraging us and boosting our confidence. **We have to follow Christ for ourselves, but we cannot follow Christ by ourselves.**

**Question:** Who are the people in your community? If you have been part of **The Rooted** experience, whom have you added to your community?

**PRAYER** Heavenly Father, we have all seen You move in our lives. You made a way when there was none, so help us to remember those times with gratitude and allow those memories to heal our failing confidence. In Jesus' name. Amen.