

## **Unshrinkable**

Pastor Carl Toti

February 28 - March 1, 2015

### **Hebrews 10:32-37 (NLT)**

<sup>32</sup> Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. <sup>33</sup> Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. <sup>34</sup> You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. <sup>35</sup> So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! <sup>36</sup> Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. <sup>37</sup> "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay.

### **Hebrews 10:38-39 (ASV)**

<sup>38</sup> But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup> But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul.

**Internal shrinkage happens to the best of us when we begin to notice that we have lost a step with God. Something is missing in our relationship with the LORD. Low on joy? Low on gratitude? Overstocked on guilt. Overstocked on blame.**

**It's INVENTORY DAY, it's time to make an honest appraisal.**

**The shrinkage of our faith can be imperceptible. We can start our faith journey with enthusiasm and sincerity and after we have clocked a considerable amount of mileage on our spiritual odometer we begin to practice our faith out of habit. Delight has become duty! We become spiritually bored and disconnected we magnify the wrong and minimize the good around us.**

**The writer of Hebrews sets the inventory guide for us to follow when he says,**

### **Hebrews 10:38-39 (ASV)**

<sup>38</sup> But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup> But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul.

**The writer of Hebrews quotes from a familiar passage from Habakkuk 2:4, a verse picked up by the Holy Spirit and dropped into the New Testament three times. Each time the verse is quoted it has a different grammatical emphasis. "The just [Rom. 1:17] shall live [Gal. 3:11] by faith" (Heb. 10:38).**

*"Before those words broke upon my mind I hated God and was angry with him because, not content with frightening us sinners by the law and by the miseries of life, he still further increased our torture by the gospel. But when, by the Spirit of God, I understood those words—'The just shall live by faith!' 'The just shall live by faith!'—then I felt born again like a new man; I entered through the open doors into the very Paradise of God."*

**-Martin Luther (Theologian, Priest & Reformer)**

### **WHAT IS FAITH?**

Ancient Christian's had three Latin words that differentiated mere belief from biblical, New Testament faith. Notia, assensus, fiducia. These three words mean knowledge, assent and trust.

### **KNOWLEDGE (Notia)**

Faith isn't a giant leap into the unknown but an intelligent step into knowing. There are things we can KNOW about Christianity.

### **ASSENT (Assensus)**

The facts alone point to Christ as KING. But assenting to the facts alone can't save us. Knowing something to be true and assenting that it is true doesn't necessarily make it true for you on a personal level. You could be dying of thirst and someone offers you a bottle of water you can know and even agree that water could save you but unless you consumed it you would die.

### **FAITH (Fiducia)**

Knowledge and agreement must lead to TRUST.