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“YOU’VE GOT THIS, JUST HOLD TIGHT”

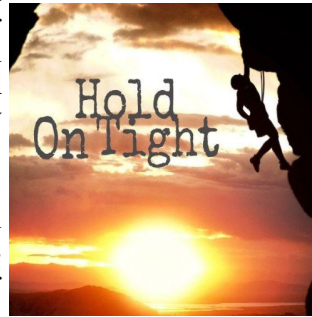
He was oh so proud of himself, twelve years old and for the first time ever, he had successfully tossed his looped rope over the head of a few months old calf. Naturally the calf wasn’t having any part of that, as the frisky bovine took off running with the young buckaroo holding on for dear life. A shout rang out from his father “You’ve got this, just hold tight!”, he then ran over to lend his son a hand. Together they were able to subdue the calf.

“Free climbers” know all too well the necessity of holding tight, as they use no other tools than their hands and feet as they ascend sheer faced rock cliffs. Some, for the sake of safety have someone belay them as they employ the use of ropes and other safety gear. Nevertheless, there remains the appeal and verbal encouragement, “hold tight, you’ve got this”.

How many times have we been on the receiving end of the appeal, “to hold on, you’ve got this, don’t let go”? While it may not have been while scaling a rock faced promontory or holding on while a rambunctious calf does its best to shake off a lariat. In Revelation, chapters two and three, twice the aspect of holding on is brought forth. To the church in Thyatira one of those times is found. “*But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them-I place no other burden on you. Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.*” (2:24-25) Hold fast to the truth, never let it go.

“*I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.*” (Revelation 3:11)

Paul, writing his second epistle to Timothy challenges him in the following manner. “*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*” (2Timothy 1:13) In 1Thessalonians, chapter five and verse twenty-one the following is seen, “*But examine everything carefully, hold fast to that which is good.*”.



Inasmuch as the Christians of Hebrews descent were struggling with holding on to the truth about Christ, the author of Hebrews pleads with them to “*consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession*” (3:1) In that consideration to then take a firm hold of the truth found in Christ. Recognize one’s relationship with Jesus, who is the Christ, is of paramount import, it must be held onto no matter what. “*For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.*” (3:14)

“*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession*” (Hebrews 4:14) Factor in as well what is found in chapter ten and verse twenty-three of Hebrews, “*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering. For He who promised is faithful.*” In short, the author is basically saying, “you’ve got this, don’t give up, hold tight.”

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To be sure there are times when it may seem as if we are losing grip, but thanks be to God that we can in faith get a stronger hold. Take time and re-acquaint yourself with those seen in Hebrews 11. Appreciate the sentiment expressed in Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Him strengthens me.*” On top of which we can reach out to those of like precious faith to lend a hand as it were (see Hebrews 12:12-13) (wbe)

THE BULWARK