

SERIES: HERE'S HOPE

“Our Steadfast Hope”

Hebrews 6:13 – 18

Hebrews 6:11 We want each of you to go on with the same hard work all your lives so you will surely get what you hope for.

12 We do not want you to become lazy. Be like those who through faith and patience will receive what God has promised.

13 God made a promise to Abraham. And as there is no one greater than God, he used himself when he swore to Abraham,

14 saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.”

15 Abraham waited patiently for this to happen, and he received what God promised.

16 People always use the name of someone greater than themselves when they swear. The oath proves that what they say is true, and this settles it once and for all.

17 God wanted to prove that his promise was true to those who would get what he promised. And he wanted them to understand clearly that his purposes never change, so he made an oath.

18 These two things cannot change: God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. These things encourage us who came to God for safety. They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given.

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, sure and strong. (NCV)

Big Idea – Our hope is solid and sure because it is based on Christ the solid Rock!

Our Christian faith calls us to stake our eternal destinies upon the promises of God.

Why it is important that we understand the nature of those promises and how they are realized in our lives.

1. God's Unchanging Purpose

Hebrews 6:17 God wanted to prove that his promise was true to those who would get what he promised. And he wanted them to understand clearly that his purposes never change, so he made an oath.

God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised

God's promises are credible because:

God's promises are grounded in His character.

He has the absolute ability and the uncompromising integrity to fulfill them. They are, therefore, completely credible.

They are confirmed by a sacred oath

So important is it to God that His children believe in His promises that He on several occasions confirmed them by a sacred oath. He has voluntarily sworn by the highest power in the universe—Himself (Genesis 22:16; Isaiah 45:23; Jeremiah 22:5). It is as if God raises His right hand to us and says, “I will keep my promises, so help Me, Me!”

Hebrews 6:18 “These two things cannot change: God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath.”

God’s promise and God’s oath are “two unchangeable things”

They are fixed and immutable.

They are as certain as the setting of the sun (Jeremiah 33:20, 21).

Jeremiah 33:20, 21 “This is what the LORD says: I have an agreement with day and night that they will always come at the right times. If you could change that agreement, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant...”

God’s promises are conditional.

not all of God’s children “inherit what has been promised” (Hebrews 6:12). This is not due to any failing on the part of God. It is due to some failing on the part of man.

Attached to God’s promises to man are his expectations of man. One may see this all through scripture. It was true of his promise to David (1 Kings 2:4; 1 Kings 9:4-7). It was true of his promises to Israel through Moses (Deuteronomy 4:23ff). And, in the example which the author cites here, it was true of his promise to Abraham.

The condition which the author says the believer today must meet if he is to enjoy the fulfillment of God’s promises is “patience” (v. 15).

As God made Abraham wait for his child of promise, so also does God make us wait to see the ultimate fulfillment of his promises. By this the genuineness of our faith is “tested.”

2. Our steadfast Hope

God did this so that ... we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:18, 19).

There is nothing more Christian than hope. Along with faith and love, it is one of the three principle graces of the Christian life (1 Corinthians 13:13). We are a people who are

“saved by hope” (Romans 8:24) and who live “resting on the hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2).

The character of Christian hope.

Those cheerful expressions—“all will be well,” “look on the bright side,” “hope for the best”—that we often use are mostly just sentiment, wishful thinking, empty optimism. The paths of life are strewn with the victims of such misplaced and ungrounded hope.

Christian hope, however, is not based upon the empty wishes of men but upon the nature and character of God. As long as our hope is founded in Him, it will never fail us, it will never let us down.

The consequences of Christian hope.

Hope is the Christian’s asylum (refuge, have, shelter, sanctuary, retreat)

Hope is the Christian’s anchor, like a spiritual mooring to bind us to the “Rock of our salvation”

Psalm 95:1 “Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.”

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

“That is why we live by believing and not by seeing.”

(2 Corinthians 5:7)

Every obstacle in your life is subject to change.

The unseen is the spiritual realm where the promises of God exist.

Your faith brings those unseen things into this natural realm.

When you are fixed on something, you can’t be moved. There’s a determination that fuels your focus.

When you fix your eyes on the unseen—the promises of God—your faith will not be moved by your circumstances and you’ll eventually see those promises come to pass.

Decide now, today to fix your eyes and mind on the promises of God.

Meditate on His promises until they become more real to you than the air you breathe.

Declare that His promises will come to pass in your life.

Declare that you have His favor.

Declare that you are more than a conqueror.

My Anchor Holds

We have an anchor that keeps the soul

Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,

Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,

Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.