

## Spiritual Growth Questions for July 26, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Jesus: Our Sure and Steadfast Anchor

Hebrews 6:9-20. July 26, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

**Opener:** What is your favorite promise in the Bible?

1. **Read Hebrews 6:9-20 two times.** What stands out to you? How does the author's confidence in the believers addressed in 6:9-20 complement the severe warning that precedes it? In other words, how does the author use his admonition to encourage believers in the certainty of their salvation?
2. **Read Hebrews 6:10 and Hebrews 10:32-34.** Describe the work and love they had previously done and why this is an important characteristic of a genuine believer? What specific act of love could you engage in this week?
3. **Read Hebrews 6:11-15.** The writer is encouraging participation in service and warns against laziness. How can we balance the truths of God's faithfulness and our own human effort in daily life as believers? Consider how Abraham did it. Study Gen. 22:1-18 for an example. How does Abraham's life encourage us?
4. **Read Hebrews 6:16-17, 6:13.** How did the fact that God swore by himself encourage and equip Abraham to wait patiently for the promise. How can this encourage and equip us to wait for the fulfillment of God's promises to us?
5. **Read Hebrews 6:18.** How does God's unchangeableness encourage you to flee to him in times of trouble or temptation? As you think about your experiences as a Christian, what are some tangible ways the truth of God's Word has anchored your soul and encouraged you to hold on to the hope set before you? What is the significance of Jesus being our upward/heavenward anchor and place of refuge?
6. **Read Hebrews 6:19-20.** What does it mean for Jesus to be our forerunner? What is the encouragement of having Jesus in the most holy place on our behalf have for us?
7. Christian faith isn't optimism, a vague sense that things will probably turn out right. Christian faith is trusting, and going on trusting through thick and thin, in the God who made unbreakable promises and will certainly keep them.  
**Where in your life do you need to keep on trusting God's promises?**

Pray in silence for a few moments and meditate on God's promises. Ask God to speak his promises to you and listen for his voice.

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today, we will look at our great need to be anchored to Jesus no matter what trial we may face. Anchors are usually thrown down into water but this anchor is secured upward in heaven by our Jesus Christ our Lord. He is sure and steadfast. God will fulfill His promises and we wait patiently for His provision for our lives. He is faithful! He is trustworthy! He is able! His promises are our greatest inheritance!

Hebrews 6:9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Key Idea:** Being anchored to Jesus in heaven helps us on earth.

**Key questions:** What does perseverance look like? Who do we have for models of perseverance? What is the antidote for apathy and apostasy?

**What does perseverance look like?**

I. God is faithful to give clear \_\_\_\_\_ of perseverance.

Hebrews 6:9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.

**Feel sure-** a strong absolute conviction/ a settled conviction.

He is suggesting that this group fits in the category of good soil. Carson

**Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit-** Romans 8:15-16

**Outward things-** pure life, truthful tongue, forgiving spirit, generous heart.

**Lifestyle-** serving and love for the saints. (See Hebrews 10:32-34)

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**Earnestness-** the state of being fully engaged in the work. Guthrie

**Sluggish-** slow to learn, doesn't want his readers to lapse into laziness.

The great enemy of perseverance is sloth! Spiritual sluggishness is the enemy for all of us. We must work against it. Hughes

### **Spiritual fruitfulness is a catalyst for spiritual confidence.**

II. Abraham and Jesus are \_\_\_\_\_ of perseverance to follow.

Hebrews 6:13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. (Galatians 3:29)

Longsuffering is not an add on but an integral part of faith. The author is challenging his readers to face their difficulties with faith and perseverance.

The aged patriarch rested everything on God's Word. God guaranteed the fulfillment of his promise so Abraham waited patiently (25 years) to obtain what was promised. Gen. 15:6, 22:1-18, Hebrews 11:17-19.

- Promises by nature demand patience since the fulfillment of a promise seldom follows on the heels of the promise.
- Promises provide a superior basis for hope. Money, houses, positions, health and even people are transitory. The greatest security available is in God's promises!

Nothing tests us as much as our reaction to our own difficult circumstances. How do we react when things go wrong? What are like when we are disappointed? What are we like when we look death in the face?

**The promises of God are our greatest inheritance.**

Hebrews 6:16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

If human oaths put an end to all disputes how much more would God's oath put an end to all disputes. Kenneth Wuest

Hebrews 6:17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath. Hebrews 12:2-3

The basis for Christian hope is not wishful thinking but the solemn promise of God. D.A. Carson

**God will not change his position on His promises.  
His Son Jesus died, was buried and rose again to guarantee it.  
His promises supply a superior basis for hope!**

What is the antidote for apathy and apostasy? **HOPE**

III. Our hope centers on and is \_\_\_\_\_ to the objective promises of God!

Hebrews 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. .

The author reinforces God's unchangeableness in order to encourage the church to once again hold firmly. The church is a refugee who must flee to God for refuge and who needs strong encouragement. **Albert Moehler**

Hebrews 6:19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Sure-** something that cannot be made to totter.

**Steadfast-** sustaining one's step in going. Speaks of something that doesn't break down when put under stress and strain.

**Upward anchor-** Our lives are accessed and anchored in heaven.

**Anchored in heaven-** continual access to Father not just once a year.

Anchored in Jesus Christ/ our forerunner- who has gone to prepare a place for us. John 14:3. Our Melchizedekan priest who ministers/intercedes perpetually and eternally. Hebrews 7:25

**Where in your life do you need to keep on trusting God's promises?**

**God's promises anchor us to heaven.  
Being anchored to Jesus in heaven helps us on earth.  
Stand on His Promises!**