

Hebrews 6:13–6:20: HOPE THAT ANCHORS THE SOUL

I. Introduction

Glory be to God for our refresher on the elementary teaching of Christianity last session. This week the passage presents a powerful guarantee of God's faithfulness. We saw how in the story of Abraham, God didn't just make a promise; He backed it up with an oath by His own name, since there is no higher authority. This "double guarantee" or "2 factor authentication" provides us with two unchangeable things—God's word and His oath—which act as a "strong encouragement" for us to seize the hope set before us.

This hope acts as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure, that doesn't just hold us in place but actually enters the "inner sanctuary" behind the curtain. There, Jesus has already entered on our behalf as our permanent High Priest in the order of Melchizedek, acting as the Forerunner who ensures that where He is, we will one day be also.

Let's pause together and dig deeper into the main message of the passage here which centers on the unwavering hope we have, anchored in God's faithfulness and His promises. As we talk about hope as the anchor for our soul, think about how an anchor works: it keeps a ship steady, no matter how rough the waters get. In the same way, the hope we have in God holds us firm through challenges and doubts. This hope isn't vague or wishful thinking—it's solid, secure, and rooted in the very character of God. The passage tells us that our hope actually enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus has already gone as our High Priest. That means our hope is connected to Christ Himself, who is in the very presence of God, interceding for us and guaranteeing our future.

So, as we reflect, let's encourage each other to hold tightly to this hope, especially when life feels uncertain.

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Hebrews 6:13-6:20

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

1. The "Pinky Promise" vs. The Oath: Why do you think God went through the trouble of making an oath to Abraham if His word is already perfect? What does this tell us about God's desire for us to feel completely secure?
2. Abraham had to wait a long time after the promise before he "obtained" it. In our world of high-speed internet and instant delivery, why is waiting on God so much harder today?
3. We usually think of anchors as things that go *down* into the mud, but this anchor goes *up* into the heavenly sanctuary. What are the "storms" in your life right now where you need your soul to be anchored firmly in heaven rather than in your circumstances?
4. The "inner sanctuary" was a place of total holiness and mystery. If Jesus is already there hanging out on our behalf, does that make God feel more approachable or still distant to you? Why?
5. A "forerunner" is someone who runs ahead to clear the path. How does it change your confidence to know that Jesus isn't just watching you from a distance, but has already walked the path you're currently on?
6. The text says it is "impossible for God to lie." When you hear a promise in the Bible that feels "too good to be true," do you tend to trust God's character or your own temporary feelings?
7. On social media, everyone tries to prove their worth through likes and "receipts." How is God's oath to you different from the way the world tries to validate or "verify" who you are?
8. How does having a "sure and steadfast" hope change the way you handle loss of loved one or significant possession?

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?