

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: CHRISTIAN ASSURANCES

HEBREWS 6:13-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Hebrews was written to encourage Christians who were struggling to remain faithful. (Heb. 8.1)
2. Hebrews 7 helps us to feel secure in our relationship with God and hope of heaven. (Heb. 7.3,16,21,24,25,28)
3. Those thoughts of security are introduced in the last section of chapter 6. [Read Hebrews 6.13-19]

I. HOPE BECAUSE OF ABRAHAM

- A. God's promise to Abraham illustrates the integrity of God.
 1. **HEBREWS 6.13,14:** *"For when God made a promise to Abraham..."* (cf. Gen. 22.15-18)
 2. **HEBREWS 6.15:** *"And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."*
- B. The promise and its fulfillment reinforces of hope.
 1. **HEBREWS 6.16,17:** God wanted us to have confidence in our relationship with God and hope of heaven
 2. **HEBREWS 6.17:** *"confirmed it with an oath."*
 3. **HEBREWS 6.18:** *"it is impossible for God to lie."*
 4. **HEBREWS 6.18:** *"we might have strong consolation."*

II. HOPE BECAUSE OF JESUS

- A. Our hope described.
 1. **HEBREWS 6.19:** *"This hope we have as an anchor."*
 2. **HEBREWS 6.19:** This hope *"enters the Presence behind the veil."* A reference to the Old Testament tabernacle.
- B. This hope exists because Jesus is our forerunner.
 1. **HEBREWS 6.20:** *"where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus."*
 2. Forerunner (prodromos): One who goes ahead to prepare and make things safe.
 3. How does Jesus prepare and makes thing safe for His people? (1 John 2.1; John 14.1,2)

CONCLUSION: If you are struggling with your faith, remember that your relationship with God is secure because of Jesus.

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

January 31, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

ARE YOU AFRAID?

Fear is a natural response built into our chemistry designed to protect us to danger. Sometimes fear can be crippling and prevent us from doing the things what we want or know we should. How many times have we allowed fear to prevent us from inviting someone to services? How many important conversations with our spouse or children have we avoided because we were afraid of confrontation?

There are two passages that might help us overcome our fear of following through with our responsibilities. The first passage is Matthew 10.24-31. It is in this passage where the disciples are told to go out and *"preach from the rooftops"* (Matt. 10.27). Three times in this passage, the disciples were told not to fear. In each of these passages, we learn what can help us overcome the fear of reaching out to others.

The first thing I need to remember is that God knows my heart. Others may accuse me of wrongdoing, but God knows otherwise (Matt. 10.24-26). Second, I need to remember that I am to be more afraid of God than of what others might do to me (Matt. 10.27,28). Third, I need to remember that God will take care of me (Matt. 10.29-31).

When we are feeling afraid what are we to do? *"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You"* (Ps. 56.3).
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LIVING A LIFE OF PURPOSE

MARK 1:14,15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many live their lives without any direction or purpose. They seem to be rowing with one oar in the water.
2. Jesus lived His life with purpose. He knew why He was here, what He had to do, and where He was going.
3. Mark 1.14-20 shows the purpose in the life of Jesus and how He brought that purpose into the lives of others.

I. JESUS: A MAN WITH PURPOSE

- A. What did Jesus do?
 1. **MARK 1.14:** “*Jesus came to Galilee, preaching*” He heralded a message of authority. (cf. Matt. 7.29)
 2. **MARK 1.15:** “*and saying...*” The idea is that of speaking in an organized fashion.
 3. **MARK 1.21:** “*He entered the synagogue and taught*” He engaged in discourse to provide instruction.
- B. What did Jesus say?
 1. **MARK 1.15:** “*The time is fulfilled.*” (John 2.4; Gal. 4.4)
 2. **MARK 1.15:** “*the kingdom of God is at hand.*” The church is about to be established. (Matt. 6.33; 16.18,19)
 3. **MARK 1.15:** “*Repent and believe in the gospel*” (Mark 12.41; Jonah 3.10).
- C. This was His purpose. (Mark 1.38)

II. ARE YOU LIVING A LIFE OF PURPOSE?

- A. Our purpose is to glorify God.
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 10.31:** “*do all to the glory of God.*”
 2. **1 CORINTHIANS 6.19,20:** “*glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s*”
- B. We have been given a set of abilities.
 1. **EXODUS 31.1-4:** “*I have filled him...in all manner of workmanship, do design artistic works*”
 2. **ROMANS 12.6-8:** “*Having gifts differing...*”
 3. **PSALM 139.16:** God has a plan for our lives.
- C. We are to use the abilities God gave us to live a life with the purpose of bringing Him glory.

CONCLUSION: Jesus came with the purpose of salvation.

DYING IN FAITH

Has God given you everything that you have asked of Him? Has He protected you from every harm? Have you lived your life never having a need unmet? Life can be unpredictable. One moment, we are doing well and feeling content. The next moment, we find ourselves in despair and deep need (Phil. 4.12).

In Hebrews 11, we are presented with a list of individuals who exemplified faith in their lives. As specific individuals are identified such as Adam, Noah, and Moses, there are a collection of individuals who are simply identified as “*the prophets.*” Many of these individuals were taken care of by God. They “*subdued kingdoms,*” “*stopped the mouths of lions*” (perhaps a reference to Daniel), and “*escaped the edge of the sword*” (Heb. 11.32-35).

There are also those individuals who did not have what they needed provided for them. We are told that some of them “*were tortured.*” Some of them had “*mockings and scourgings*” and “*chains of imprisonment,*” Some of them were “*stoned, they were sawn in two...were slain by the sword...destitute, afflicted, tormented*” (Heb. 11.35-38).

In all these examples, there is one thing that they all had in common. That commonality is found in verse 13: “*These all died in faith.*” Regardless of their circumstances, they remained faithful to God. Those that enjoyed great success in life were faithful. Those who suffered severely remained faithful. What gave them the ability to remain faithful even to the point of death whether God delivered them from their hardships or not?

Verse 13 explains that they “*confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” What kept them faithful was knowing that there was something better that was coming. They “*seek a homeland*” (v. 14). They “*desire a better, that is, a heavenly country*” (v. 16). Moses “*looked to the reward*” (v. 26). Every one of them died faithful knowing that God promised them heaven.

Some will allow the hardships of life to cause us to question our faith. God never promises us an easy life. But He does promise an eternal home to those who are faithful. Do not let life’s challenges cause you to lose faith. Trust in the promise of God that there is something better that is to come. Looking to that promise, remember the words of Jesus: “*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life*” (Rev. 2.10).

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