



ANCHOR FOR OUR SOUL

Hebrews 6:13-20

Introduction: Life on the open Sea

I. Our Doubts: We All Struggle with Doubting the Promises God has Made

A. Story of Abraham

- o In Heb 6:14, the author cites a portion of Gen 22:17. The fuller text reads, “By myself I have sworn, declared the Lord...I will surely bless you and will surely multiply your offspring.”
- o In Genesis 22, God is asking Abraham to sacrifice his own son, Isaac!
- o What do you think would have been going through Abraham’s mind when God said this?

B. Key point: Sometimes it hard to trust God and believe the truth

- o What are some reasons that we struggle with believing God? Why do we doubt?
- o But we need to fight against our tendency to doubt God’s promises:

“You might imagine, however, from the doctrine of certain teachers that the gospel is “Whoever doubts shall be saved,” and that nothing could be more useful or honorable than for a man’s mind to hang in perpetual suspense, sure of nothing, confident of the truth of no one, not even of God Himself! Shame upon professed ministers of Christ that are laboring after the repute of being intellectual and philosophical by scattering doubts on all sides! The doctrine of the blessedness of doubt is as opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ as darkness is to light, or Satan to Christ Himself; it is invented as a quietus to the consciences of those proud men who refuse to yield their minds to the rule of God.”

—C.H. Spurgeon

II. God’s Reassurance: We Have Great Reasons to Trust His Promises

A. God’s Oath (v.13-17)

- o God “swore by himself” (v.13)
 - Swearing is when the truth of one’s testimony is backed up by a higher authority
 - There’s no one with a higher authority than God so he swears by himself!
- o God’s oath is an act of grace—its extra reassurance for doubting people



- God swears not because his word is in doubt but because we are in doubt!
- ****Note that God is compassionate—he goes out of his way to reassure us**

B. God's Character (v.17-18)

- o We can trust God's promises because of who he is
 - "unchangeable character of his purpose (v.17)
 - "it is impossible for God to lie" (v.18)
 - Your assurance is directly connected to your beliefs about God's nature . Theology matters!
- o Abraham was able to be obedient because he trusted God's character: "He considered that God was able even to raise him [Isaac] from the dead" (Heb 11:19)

C. God's Son (v.19-20)

- o Jesus "enters into the inner place behind the curtain"
 - In the OT temple there was a great "curtain" separating God from the people—only the High Priest could go behind it, and just once a year
 - Jesus is our great high priest who has gained real access to God and intercedes on our behalf
 - This makes Jesus "a forerunner on our behalf"
- o What Jesus has done provides a "steadfast anchor of the soul"
 - Anchors are normally go down in the water but this one goes up in heaven!

***Notice none of these reasons are about us—our hope is not grounded in who we are but in who God is*

III. Our Response: Be Encouraged to Hold Fast (v.15, 18-19)

A. Wait with Patience (v.15)

- o Abraham was given great promises but did not receive them right away
- o ****Patience is evidence of a heart that trusts the promises of God.**
- o Remember the negative example of King Saul (1 Sam 13:8-15)

B. Look forward with Hope (v.18-19)

- o In light of these truths we should "hold fast to the hope set before us" (v.18b)
- o Instead of looking around at our problems, or inward at our self, we need to look forward to the day we will be with Christ.



Discussion Groups

1. In what ways do you see people around you struggling to trust God and his Word today? How are you personally struggling to trust God's word?

2. In what ways have you incorrectly sought to reassure yourself? How did this passage help reassure you that God can be trusted completely?

3. How are you doing today in terms of waiting patiently on the Lord? What would it look like in the week ahead for you to do this?

