

Hebrews 6:13-20

Week Nine

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Heavenly Father, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:5

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 6:13-15

1. Look back to 6:12. How do God's people inherit his promises?

For Discussion: In what ways does it help you to follow someone else's example who has already walked the same path and made it?

Critical Connection: In verses 13-15, the Hebrew's author gives us an example of one of the saints we are to imitate. (When God first called Abraham, he was named Abram meaning *father of a nation*. God later changed his name to Abraham, meaning *father of many nations*.) Read the following Scriptures and answer the questions:

-What was the exact promise that God made to Abram?

-What was the barrier to this promise?

-Why did God count Abram as righteous?

-How can the life of Abraham encourage those whose faith is wavering?

Genesis 12:1-3 “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 15:2-6 “²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”

2. How did God confirm or seal his promise to Abraham according to verse 13?

Critical Connection: Read the verses below and answer the questions:

-After waiting 25 years for God to give him a son through which to fulfill his promises, how did God give Abraham the ultimate test of his faith in the promise?

-How did Abraham’s actions complete his faith according to James 2?

-After Abraham passed this test of his faith, how did God confirm even more strongly for Abraham that he would keep his promise?

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13,15-18 “After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you...

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son...

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

James 2:21-22 ²¹ Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.”(NLT)

3. Verse 15 tells us that Abraham obtained the promise. “...The verb used here, *epitynchano*, is not the ordinary verb for "receive" or "obtain"; it has the particular connotation of "arriving at" or "reaching.”” How did Abraham finally arrive at or reach the promise according to verse 15?

-What are the implications of *arriving* or *reaching* compared to *obtaining* or *receiving*?

Picture and Ponder: “Abraham did receive the son who was promised – Isaac through whom all the promises would later come true, namely, through Isaac's descendant. It is in Christ that the seed of Abraham brings blessing to all the nations, gathering children of faith as numerous as the stars in the sky. Hence the apostle Paul could write, "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him," that is, in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20).”²



Waiting patiently is one of the hardest things to do! Especially when you are waiting for something you dearly desire to come to pass. And especially when the thing you want seems impossible. And especially when you want it now!

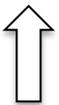
James 1:2-4 says, “*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*” This is exactly what the original readers of Hebrews were going through – a testing of their faith. The author is encouraging them and us with Abraham’s example. Waiting patiently takes perseverance, but it is worth it because when we persevere, we reach the Promise!

- ❖ Why do you think God makes us wait?

- ❖ What promise are you waiting for God to fulfill? How does faith in God help you be patient?

- ❖ If you are waiting on God to fulfill a promise, how can you make the waiting profitable?

- ❖ Unlike Abraham, we have seen the ultimate promise of a Savior already fulfilled. Spend some time meditating on the fact that every promise of God finds its yes in Jesus! (2 Cor. 1:20)



Jesus, help me to see the trials and waiting in my life as tests of my faith instead of seeing them as only obstacles to survive. When I begin to doubt or grow tired of waiting help me to look to you and believe.

For Discussion: How does growth in assurance come through perseverance?

Day 3- Hebrews 6:16-17

4. How does the NLT describe why people take an oath in verse 16?

Scholar's Note: "In the context of ancient culture (when people generally feared God), swearing by a greater thing helped assure truth. And if one swore by God, it served to end an argument. This was especially true in Hebrew culture where lying while making an oath was a transgression of the Third Commandment against misusing the name of God and so deserved the punishment of God (cf. Deuteronomy 5:11). Therefore, we see that human oaths were a powerful assurance of carrying out one's word." ³

5. According to verse 17, why did God confirm his promise with an oath?

Picture and Ponder: "God did not have to swear by an oath, but he did so as a condescension or accommodation to human weakness." ⁴

6. How does NLT translate the *unchangeable character of his purpose* in verse 17?

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-God promised Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars and that the world would be blessed through him. How then, does this promise relate to us?

Galatians 3:16, 29 “Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ...-And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

7. How does it impact you that God *desired* (the Greek word used means the deliberate exercise of his will ⁵) to assure his people that his word could be trusted?



God you are so compassionate to our weakness. Thank you for bending down to assure us of your unchanging promises! Thank you for sending Jesus as the ultimate guarantee of your promises!

Day 4- Hebrews 6:18

7. What two things are unchangeable according to verse 18? (See NLT)

-Why is this true?

-What does this truth about God do for us?

Scholar's Note: Scholars are divided on what the two unchangeable things are. Some commentators see them as God's purpose and his oath, others as God's oath and his promise. In any case, God's promise, oath and purpose are all totally reliable and steadfastly unchangeable!

8. How are believers described in verse 18?



Spend some time meditating on these sweet verses about refuge:

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Psalm 18:30 “This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.”

Psalm 25:20 “Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you”.

Psalm 28:8 “The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.”

Psalm 31:19 “Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!”

Psalm 34:22 “The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.”

❖ How is God a refuge? What themes from Hebrews can you see in these verses?

❖ Which verse is most precious to you right now and why? Spend some time in prayer thanking God for being your refuge.

9. In verse 18, it says, *the* hope. What is *the* hope? (Look back to 5:9 for help.)

Scholar's Note: "...hope in 6:18 refers to an objective future reality that is desirable and sure for all who seize it...When a thing is sure it can still be a hope if it is future and desirable. "6

Day 5- Hebrews 6:18-20

10. How is *the hope* in verse 18, described in verse 19?

Picture and Ponder: "The Greek harbors were often cut off from the sea by sandbars, over which the larger ships dared not pass till the full tide came in. Therefore, a lighter vessel, a "forerunner," took the anchor and dropped it in the harbor. From that moment the ship was safe from the storm, although it had to wait for the tide, before it could enter the harbor.... The entrance of the small vessel into the harbor, the forerunner carrying the ship's anchor, was the pledge that the ship would safely enter the harbor when the tide was full." 7

11. According to verses 19-20, where has Jesus gone on our behalf?

Critical Connection: The high priest was allowed in the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat for the sin of himself and the people (Lev.16). God's glory rested on the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place. Read the verses below and answer the questions:

-What separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place?

-Understanding that the Holy Place was where the priests served and worshipped and The Most Holy Place (or Holy of Holies) was where the glory of God rested, what did this veil represent?

Exodus 26:33-34 "And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy. You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place.

-What does the curtain being torn in two symbolize?

Matthew 27:50-51 “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And Behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And the earth shook and the rocks were split.”

-Where is the true inner place behind the curtain?

Ephesians 1:18-20 “¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.”(NLT)



Refuge, holding fast, and anchor all bring to mind shelter and security in a storm. What an amazing blessing in the storms of this life to be sheltered by God and anchored to Jesus, the source of eternal salvation, by the unchanging and true tether of God’s promise.

- ❖ What is the difference between holding fast to the hope set before us and having false assurance?

- ❖ How do we hold fast?

- ❖ What things cause us to loosen our grip on Jesus?

- ❖ How is God’s promise and unchanging purpose an anchor for you when doubts assail you? What tangible ways can you take hold of the hope set before you?



Jesus, thank you that you are the sure and steadfast anchor for my soul. Thank you for going before me, tearing down the barrier and making a way for me to come into God’s presence!

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 2700-2703). Kindle Edition.

² Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 2700-2703). Kindle Edition.

³ Hughes, R. Kent. Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word) (Kindle Locations 2903-2904). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Hughes, R. Kent. Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word) (Kindle Locations 2903-2904). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Morris, Leon. The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Vol. 12 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1974), p. 60 Hughes, R. Kent. Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word) (Kindle Location 4388). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Piper, John. Article, Jan. 1, 2007 <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-use-of-hope-in-hebrews>

⁷ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 2786-2789). Kindle Edition.

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