



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 6:13-20

We all need truth to hold onto in life — for the trial of a life-shattering crisis, or for the discouragement that comes from months of persevering in life’s daily demands. We all need something strong to stabilize us in life’s difficult seasons. One of the most difficult seasons of my life came when our three-year-old daughter suffered a debilitating illness for nearly two years.

The illness left our normally vivacious child unable to eat or speak for months at a time. We pursued the best medical treatment in the country, researched her condition tirelessly, and prayed with all our hearts. Finally, shortly after her fourth birthday, the severity of her condition lessened, and by the time she was five, it had nearly disappeared.

Throughout the most difficult stretches of our family struggle, these five promises regularly reminded me that God would carry us through the trial. In the years since the ordeal, these words from Scripture continue to be an anchor for my soul. No matter what part of your life is difficult right now, if your hope is in God, these promises will hold true for you as well.

1. God goes with you.

“It is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Above all else, our comfort comes from knowing that God won’t abandon us when life becomes challenging, uncertain, or painful. He is faithful to stay with us (Matthew 28:20). His faithfulness doesn’t mean that life will be easy or trials won’t come; his faithfulness means he won’t ever leave us, even when the trials come. We can cling to this promise when we feel misunderstood, betrayed, and abandoned. The Lord will never abandon his children.

2. God will accomplish his will.

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. (Psalm 138:8)

It was difficult to see that God was working to fulfill his purpose in our lives when our daughter was chronically ill. Years later, I am convinced that he used this trial to instill a deep well of compassion in our child. He used it to teach her parents to trust him with their precious child. He worked in our hearts after she was healed to cultivate a deep gratitude for the healthy lives we once took for granted.

3. God gives wisdom.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (James 1:5)

We can trust that when we ask God for wisdom, he will make clear all that we need to know. It’s easy to shoulder the heavy weight of trying to search out every answer to a particular problem. God’s promise is that if we ask, he will show us what we *need* to know — maybe not everything we *want* to know, but everything we *need* to know in order to glorify him.

Whether it’s a conscientious father who doesn’t want to make the wrong career choice for his family, or a mother mulling various diets or medications for her children, we can trust that God will direct our steps (Proverbs 3:5–6).

4. God will meet you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 4:8)

It's comforting to know that when I seek the face of my Father, he promises to meet me. God is not only "with me" in a general sense, but he draws near to me personally. I might not feel a tangible encounter, but I can trust that he is listening and that he wants to meet with me. When difficult times arise in our lives, it's tempting to grow frustrated and even bitter. In our bitterness, we're tempted to turn away from God. But he longs for us to draw close to him, and he promises to draw close to us.

5. God works where you cannot see.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19)

God calls his people to trust in what is not yet seen. Though a desert is before them, he is preparing to send a river of deliverance. We can cling to the same promise. When we cannot see what the hand of God is doing, we can trust that he is working all things for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28).

If life has you discouraged today, take heart. God is always working. Cling to the promises in his word, and rest your life on them. His word will never return empty, and you can trust him to fulfill every promise.¹

Watch It Bible Principles

Watch Bible Principles #11; Heb. 6:9-20 www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples

Open it

1. **What has been the greatest promise that you have ever made to another human being? (For those who are married, let's assume that is at the top of the list - what else is on the list?) Have you been faithful to keep that promise?**

Read it

Hebrews 6:13-20

Explore it

2. **What was God's promise to Abraham?**

¹Stacey Pardoe, "God Carried Us With Promises", www.desiringgod.org

3. **What did Abraham have to do before obtaining the promise?**

4. **Who are the “heirs of promise”?**

5. **What does verse 18 tells us is impossible for God to do?**

6. **Who dwells in the “inner place behind the curtain”?**

Apply it

Hebrews 6:18 says we can "have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us." You might immediately think of a hope or a dream. As the author tells of Abraham and how he clung to God's promise, you might find the strength to hold onto promises you think God has personally made to you.

The author, though, isn't trying to connect you to your dreams, but God's. He wants you to know the promise God made Abraham is one Christians are recipients of today. We are meant to believe the promise Abraham believed. If we understand the promise God made to him, we will have an anchor for our lives today.

So, what was the promise God made to Abraham?

7. **Read Genesis 12:1-3. What did God promise to Abraham? Were all of the promises made to Abraham for Abraham? How specifically did Abraham see God fulfil part of His promise to him in his lifetime?**

8. God, in making these promises to Abraham, “swore by Himself” (6:13). What does this mean? What are some things that people swear by today?

9. In verse 15 of chapter six, we read that Abraham “waited patiently.” How long did Abraham wait? How patient was he? Was his patience perfect?

10. Why is God’s fulfilment of this particular promise so significant?

11. What are some promises of God that you are waiting for Him to fulfil in your life?

12. How can a believer keep trusting in God when He delays answers to prayers for years? Why does God make us wait?

13. How can you develop more patience, so you have more confidence to be more faithful to Christ? How would this help you in your ministry with other people?

14. What does it mean to you that God is a God of promises, and keeps His Word? How can your church communicate this better? What would it do for your church?

We can indeed seize the hope He sets before us in Jesus. It is not a hope that is a potential or wish dream. It is reality, created and upheld by God Himself. We can seize it, not because of who we are as the recipients, but because of the character of the Giver. The author wonderfully describes the hope God gives as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.

15. Ultimately, the promises of God in the Gospel provide us with a “steadfast anchor” for our soul. Take some time to list some Biblical promises that provide an anchor for you during the storms of life.

I love this image. God has provided us, really and truly, a life in Him that anchors our soul through all the ups and downs of our present life. Have you ever been in a boat that is anchored? In a storm, you hope that the anchor you are counting on is both sure and steadfast. And we are attached to God as a boat to an anchor. We have no need to go elsewhere to look for what might help us be more in control of staying afloat.

This hope, the author goes on, enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf. The hope that God promises through His Messiah, that He upholds by His oath, is realized, actualized in Jesus. We are attached to Him, because He has attached Himself to us. And when He ascends behind the curtain, into the very presence of His Father, He brings us with Him, He doesn't sever the attachment. And all of this is now reality in Christ.²

16. What are the “two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie”? (v.18) What is the significance of our hope “entering within the veil.” (v.19)

² http://www.trinitystudycenter.com/hebrews/hebrews_6-13-20.php

In verse 20 of our text, the author mentions Jesus as our high priest, within the veil, where God's holy presence meant instant death to any sinner who dared to go there. Although people's eyes are blinded so that they do not see their sin and God's holiness, every sinner needs a refuge from God's coming judgment. Jesus Christ is the refuge that God has provided. The question is, have you fled to that refuge? Have you trusted in Christ alone to save you from your sins? If your hope is in your good works, you are not saved. Your hope of salvation must be in Christ alone.³

- 17. As a believer in Jesus Christ, our complete hope rests in him and his work on the cross. How do you balance the tension between “saved by grace alone through faith alone” and Hebrews 6:18 - “take hold of the hope set before us”? How would you explain salvation and sanctification to an unbeliever?**

³ Steven J. Cole, <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-19-anchor-your-soul-hebrews-613-20>

This study was compiled and questions were written by Steve Lombardo (Plano Campus)—www.villagebible.church/smallgroup