

LIFE Bible Study: Hebrews 6:13-20

For Discussion: What place does trust have in your relationships? What happens to the dynamic of a relationship when there is a lack of trust?

Read Hebrews 6:9-20

For review: In Hebrews 5:11-6:12, the author pauses in his teaching to warn his readers about the danger of spiritual immaturity. They were to persevere in their pursuit of ongoing growth because the symptoms of those who would only regress in their faith temporarily are disturbingly similar to those whose faith would ultimately prove to be false. Following that warning, he gives a word of encouragement and expresses his confidence that their lives of service arose out of a genuine love for God, despite their present dullness of hearing, and exhorts them to earnestly emulate the lives of those who faithfully persevered to inherit what was promised them. From there, the author proceeds to expound on why such a life of devotion is a worthwhile pursuit and the assurance that believers have from God as they dedicate themselves to it.

The author begins with a focus on the oath God made to Abraham and its significance (v.13-14). What is the purpose of an oath (Gen. 24:2-4; Ex. 22:10-11)? Why are oaths necessary for transactions between people?

Which aspects of God's character are revealed in His willingness to swear an oath by Himself, both as the one who swears the oath and as the one by whom the oath is sworn? What difference does this oath make to His promise?

Continuing from his exhortation that his readers be “imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (v.12), the author cites a very real example in which faith and patience led to the receiving of God’s promise (v.15). What is significant about Abraham being chosen as the prime example of this (Gen. 12:1-4 & 21:1-5; Gen. 22:1-18)? What commonalities might there be between Abraham’s experience and ours of waiting for God to fulfill His promise?

What things tend to draw you away from believing something God has clearly said or make it difficult to wait in faith? What would a response of faith and patience look like when faced with these things?

The author ends this section with reference to a curtain that Jesus has passed through on our behalf. What is behind this curtain (Heb. 9:1-7 & Lev. 16:2)? What is significant in Jesus being a “forerunner” who goes behind the curtain? How can this truth be a steadfast anchor for our souls (v.19)?

Reflection and application

We face a world that tells us that following God is simply not worth it. However, God’s Word reveals that He is trustworthy in all He says and that the stakes are eternity. By His own initiative, God has gone out of His way to make Himself believable to us. His doubly confirmed, irrevocable promise is a hope that holds us steady as we go through the buffeting storms of life. In light of this, we can live with assurance that Jesus’ own will one day follow Him behind the torn curtain because His life, sacrifice, and eternal high priestly office make us fit to draw near to God with confidence (4:16). Until then, we can also trust that God is steadfastly resolute not only to accomplish salvation on our behalf, but also to carry out to the utmost His sanctifying work to make us holy starting even now (Phil. 1:6).

What tests your patience and wears on your faith? God has made Himself known and proven that He is deserving of our trust. Take courage to hold fast to the salvation offered by the one who holds fast to you. He will supply the faith and endurance you need to see His purposes accomplished according to His perfect timing.