



Hold fast, knowing that it is Jesus who REALLY holds you fast.

How can we know that Jesus REALLY holds us fast?

How can we know that Jesus REALLY holds us fast?
Because Jesus is the greater and better High Priest who establishes the greater and better (new) covenant.

As we read Hebrews 8, remember the context:
The author is speaking primarily to Jewish Christians who were thinking of going back.

Hebrews 8:1-13

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ...

They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. ...

For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ...

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ...

For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

- Hebrews 8:1-13

Key Point:

When you struggle, question, and wonder if Jesus really holds you fast, remember 1) that Jesus is the greater and better high priest who 2) establishes the greater and better (new) covenant.

First Key Point:

When you struggle, question, and wonder if Jesus really holds you fast, remember 1) that Jesus is the greater and better high priest...

Jesus is the greater and better High Priest:

1. Sit vs Stand.

Verses 1-2: Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

Takeaway: In contrast to the Old Testament Priests who are always standing, Jesus sits.

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b. Receive this truth as words and declaration coming from the King! ("seated at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven")

Application:

Jesus really holds you fast. When your feelings say otherwise...

Andrew Murray: "Feeling always seeks something in itself; faith keeps itself occupied with what Jesus is... Forget not that the faith, of which God's word speaks so much, stands not only in opposition to works, but also in opposition to feeling, and therefore that for a pure life of faith you must cease to seek your salvation, not only in works, but also in feeling. Therefore let faith...speak against feeling. When feeling says, 'In myself, I am sinful; I am dark; I am weak; I am poor; I am sad,' let faith say, 'In Christ, I am holy; I am light; I am strong; I am rich; I am joyful.'"



Jesus is the greater and better High Priest:

1. Sit vs Stand.
2. Old Testament Priests offering gifts and sacrifices vs Jesus offering the ultimate gift and sacrifice of Himself.

Verses 3-4: For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.

How this encourages us:

Jesus the greater and better High Priest offers Himself as the ultimate gift and sacrifice out of love for you and me.

Such love enables you to engage God and not avoid, be aloof, or run away from God.

Richard Sibbes: "Shall our sins discourage us, when he appears there only for sinners? Are you bruised? Be of good comfort, he calls you. Conceal not your wounds, open all before him and take not Satan's counsel. Go to Christ, although trembling...we shall be healed and have a gracious answer. Go boldly to God in our flesh; he is flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone for this reason, that we might go boldly before him. Never fear to go to God, since we have such a Mediator with him, who is not only our friend but our brother and husband."

Jesus is the greater and better High Priest who offers himself in love for us.

Instead of hiding, avoiding, and running away from Jesus in shame, go to Jesus knowing you are a beloved child of God in Christ and you have access like no other.

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus is the greater and better High Priest:

1. Sit vs Stand.
2. Old Testament Priests offering gifts and sacrifices vs Jesus offering the ultimate gift and sacrifice of Himself.
3. Copy/Shadow vs the Real.

Verse 5: They serve a **copy and shadow** of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

Knowing that Jesus is the true and REAL (not copy) High Priest who intercedes for us, there is great joy and confidence we can have in our faith.

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me."

- Robert Murray McChyenne

One thought before moving on:

The Old Testament Sacrificial System was not terrible or bad.

Second Key Point:

When you struggle, question, and wonder if Jesus really holds you fast, remember 1) that Jesus is the greater and better high priest who 2) establishes the greater and better (new) covenant.

Verses 6-13: But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ...

not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ...

And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Jesus establishes the greater and better (new) covenant:

1. "I will..."

Verse 10: For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Thoughts/Takeaways on “I will...”

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2. “I will...” = “I, and I alone, will...”
In the New Covenant, we see that God **alone** can save, will save, does save. Therefore, you and I must turn to Jesus alone, not anyone or anything else.

John Calvin: “We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else. If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is of Him. If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in His anointing...If we seek redemption, it lies in His passion; if acquittal, in His condemnation; if remission of the curse, in His cross; if satisfaction, in His sacrifice; if purification, in His blood...” ...

“...if mortification of the flesh, in His tomb; if newness of life, in His resurrection; if immortality, in the same; if inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in His entrance into heaven...In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in Him, **let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other.**”

Jesus establishes the greater and better (new) covenant:

2. The new covenant will bring internal transformation through the work of the Holy Spirit and will apply to **ALL**.

Verse 11: And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

“...They shall **all** know me, from the **least** to the **greatest.**”

“Least to the Greatest” means Anyone and Everyone. That means **YOU**, no matter what you have done or not done, no matter your past, no matter what someone has done or said to you. **YOU** can know Jesus.

Jesus establishes the greater and better (new) covenant:

3. There is unending mercy every time you draw near the throne of grace. God does not and will not hold your sin against you.

Verse 12: For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

In Closing:

When you struggle, question, and wonder if Jesus really holds you fast, remember 1) that Jesus is the greater and better high priest who 2) establishes the greater and better (new) covenant.

He will hold you fast. He really will.

Blake Long: "...The promise of Jesus holding us fast is a balm to our souls, a healing touch to our wounds. We'd never make it without his firm, loving, merciful hold on us. For the times we try to let go - whether intentionally or not - He will never let us go. He will hold us fast. This precious truth is proclaimed over and over again throughout Scripture. Jude 24 says, 'Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.'..."

"Elsewhere, Paul writes, 'I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ' (Phil. 1:6). Jesus will hold us fast. God will not let go of us nor will He allow us to flee from His grip. Christian, meditate on this reality. When you're stuck, frustrated, and apathetic, remember these words: 'Jesus will hold you fast.'"

- Blake Long

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Hold Fast

REDEEMER