

# Hold Fast

Hebrews 6:19: "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul..."

Because Jesus is our anchor, we can trust God no matter what we are facing in our lives.

What are some of the ways you are needing to trust God today?

## Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ...

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ...

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Key Point:

When you are struggling to trust God, remember **God's promise** as a way to anchor your soul.

When you are struggling to trust God, remember **God's promise** as a way to anchor your soul:

1. What is God's Promise?
2. How does God's Promise enable us to trust God?
3. God's Promise and our Application

When you are struggling to trust God, remember **God's promise** as a way to anchor your soul:

1. What is God's Promise?

Verse 13-14: For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

Rodney Starks: "There was nothing new in the idea that the supernatural makes behavioral demands upon humans – that gods have always wanted sacrifice and worship. Nor was there anything new in the notion that the supernatural will respond to offerings – that the gods can be induced to exchange services for sacrifices. **What was new was the notion that more than self-interested exchange relations were possible between humans and the supernatural.**"

Two thoughts to highlight:

1) The God who Swears!

Verse 13-14: For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

Two thoughts to highlight:

2) "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

Verse 13-14: For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

Genesis 1:28: And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Application: The God of the Bible desires for your blessing and flourishing.

When you are struggling to trust God, remember God's promise as a way to anchor your soul:

1. What is God's Promise?

2. How does God's Promise enable us to trust God?

1) God's Promise is backed up with an oath.

Verses 16-17: For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath (Gen 12, Gen 15).

“Whatever it takes”

- The Avengers End Game

“‘Whatever it takes’ means everything else in my life will now arrange myself around this central commitment. All my time is on the table. All my treasures. All of me.”

- Christopher Watkin

2) God didn't have to give an oath, but He did.

Verses 17-18: So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath...

“See how kindly God as a gracious Father accommodates himself to our slowness to believe; as he sees that we rest not on his simply word, that he might more fully impress it on our hearts he adds an oath.”

- John Calvin

3) God's Promise will stand because God cannot lie.

Verses 17-18: So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Numbers 23:19: “God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

1 Samuel 15:29: “He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind, for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”

“God cannot lie. (So therefore...)When He says we are forgiven, it's true. The fact that we believe adds nothing to the forgiveness. A person might say they believe the sun is shining, but the sun doesn't shine or shine brighter with that admission of truth.”

- Chad Bird

#### 4) God's promise is fulfilled in Jesus!

Verses 19-20: We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

1) In Jesus God blesses us, and in Jesus we are able to flourish.

Galatians 3:13-14: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

2) Jesus in our anchor who connects us to Himself. Usually, anchors go downward but this anchor pulls you upward!

Sinclair Ferguson: “And the glorious thing (the writer) says is that we are not anchored on earth. We're anchored in heaven; and we're not just anchored in heaven, we're anchored to one who has gone into the very presence of God and who appears there on our behalf. He is the fore-runner...in a sense, he is not only steadying us in this world, he is hauling us in to the world that is to come.”

Therefore, we can trust God.

Trusting God and plausibility structure underneath it:

1. God is a Promise Keeper (God's Oath)
2. God did not have to but He gave an oath to reassure us (God's grace and kindness)
3. God cannot lie (God's character)
4. God's promise is fulfilled in Jesus. (God's Son)

When you are struggling to trust God, remember  
**God's promise** as a way to anchor your soul:

1. What is God's Promise?

2. How does God's Promise enable us to trust God?

3. **God's Promise and our Application**

God's Promise and our Application:

1. **Since God keeps his promises, we can trust God in all that he says and will do.**

- God promises to meet your needs: Luke 12:22-31
- **God promises to hear your prayers: Matthew 7:7-11**
- God promises to never leave nor forsake you: Hebrews 13:5
- **God promises to forgive all your sins if you trust in Jesus: Ephesians 1:7**
- God promises to strengthen you and dwell with you by his Holy Spirit: Ephesians 3:16
- **God promises to bring you into glory: Colossians 3:4**

God's Promise and our Application:

2. **Since God keeps his promises, we can patiently wait.**

Verse 15: And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Abraham as a case study of waiting:

1. Waiting as trusting in God

2. Waiting can be hard

3. Waiting can be long

4. Waiting even when others prosper

Isaiah 40:31: "...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Wrapping up:

When you are struggling to trust God, remember  
God's promise as a way to anchor your soul.

Different uses/functions with anchors:

1. To stabilize the vessel & slow it down (act as a brake)
2. For temporary anchoring on small boats.
3. Some anchors have the ability to swivel.
4. Some anchors have extremely strong holding power.

