



The Upside-Down Anchor of Hope

Lesson Nineteen • Hebrews 6:18-20

To **HOLD FAST** to the warning of Hebrews 5:11–6:20, we must **feel how** the argument is made and **understand what** the argument is. (See HANDOUT.)

First, FEEL How the Argument Is Made...

A Persuasive Argument with Rhetorical Irony: *Logical (Logos) + Emotional (Pathos) + Ethical (Ethos)*

Then UNDERSTAND What the Argument Is...

A third warning to apathetic believers (spiritual sluggards who are hard of hearing and drifting away) about becoming apostate unbelievers (spiritual sluggards who are hard of heart and fall away) by assessing their apathy and admonishing them to diligently grow to a state of maturity, while alerting them to apostasy's final judgment but then assuring them of final salvation in order to anchor their hope in God's secure purpose of finally entering into His holy presence by persevering faith in Jesus, their Forerunner who has already entered within the veil to be their eternal High Priest like Melchizedek!

True believers will HEAR and HEED this STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT to HOLD FAST with PERSEVERING FAITH in God's UPSIDE-DOWN ANCHOR of HOPE that ENTERS BEHIND the Veil Where JESUS HAS ALREADY ENTERED for Us!

The Upside-Down Anchor of Hope Enters Further Up and Further In!

1. Final Salvation Is Anchored in God's **UNBREAKABLE** Promise. (6:13-15)

Abraham: The Pattern of Persevering Faith in God's Unbreakable Promise in Three Tenses!

PAST PROMISE	PRESENT FAITH	FUTURE HOPE
Abraham received the promise from God.	Abraham persevered by faith in God and His promise.	Abraham obtained the promise as a picture of final fulfillment in the future.

IMITATE the father of all those who have persevering faith until our final salvation!

2. Final Salvation Is Anchored in God's **UNALTERABLE** Oath. (6:13, 16-18a)

The Question: "Can God be trusted to keep His promise to His people even in the hardest of trials?"

SWEARS by one "greater" (Himself!) to provide greater assurance to Abraham's heirs of His unbreakable promise.	SETTLES any doubt or dispute over whether God will keep His unbreakable promise and unalterable oath since both are unchangeable!	SECURES God's unbreakable promise by His unalterable oath which seals His unchangeable purpose with His unchangeable character.
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3. Final Salvation Is Anchored in God's **UNCHANGEABLE** Purpose! (6:18-20)

Three Word Pictures Securely Tie Together Our Hope of Final Salvation

➤ The nautical **ANCHOR** makes our hope sure and steadfast in the storms of the present. (6:18-19)

1. We are to **TAKE HOLD** of this hope set before us.

2. We are to take hold of the hope of **ENTERING** further up and further into God's holy presence.

3. God Himself has given us **STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT** to hold fast to this hope set before us!
4. God has given us this hope as an **UPSIDE-DOWN** anchor so our souls could be sure (certain) and steadfast.

- The priestly **ENTRANCE** means our hope is living in the very presence of God in the future. (6:19b)

Is this upside-down anchor of hope the exalted person of Christ or the unchangeable purpose of God?

1. Entering to dwell in God's presence is the **HEART** of His plan, purpose, and promise.
2. Another phrase is added to further **EXPLAIN** "the hope set before us."
3. The word for "entering" emphasizes *entering into a place as a **GOAL*** and is used this way throughout the sermon-letter.

[1] entering God's rest (3:11, 18; 4:1, 3, 5, 10) [2] our hope that enters where Jesus our forerunner has already entered for us (6:18-20); and [3] Jesus' entering into the Holy of Holies as the ternal high priest and sacrifice for sinners (9:12, 24-25); and [4] Jesus entering the world in the incarnation to be perfectly obedient (10:5).

NET "which reaches inside behind the curtain,"

4. Jesus is not presented as the hope but as the **FORERUNNER** who has already entered into our hope for us!

- The trailblazing **FORERUNNER** mediates our hope as the eternal High Priest like Melchizedek now and forever. (6:20; 4:14; 8:1; 9:24)

How Secure Is God's Upside-Down Anchor?

It is wrapped around and anchored to Jesus who is the eternal high priest according to the likeness of Melchizedek!

Who Is This Hope for? We who have taken REFUGE!

"so that...we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us." (v. 18)

What Does "We Who Have Taken Refuge" Mean?

1. Continues the theme of being **WEARY PILGRIMS** on the wilderness journey. (Ch 3–4; 11:13)
2. Echoes fleeing to cities of refuge as manslayers who **DESERVE DEATH**. (Numbers 35:6-32)
3. Echoes **LAYING HOLD** of the horns of the altar seek mercy and avoid judgment. (Exodus 21:12-14; 1 Kings 1:50-53; 1 Kings 2:28-29)

The Immutable Basis for a Sinner's Hope

"God is for us! In His Son, the perfect High Priest and perfect Sacrifice, He has provided for all that we will ever need to get through these difficulties and inherit the final salvation God has destined us for. True, we need to respond with faith and endurance throughout this pilgrimage (6:12). But our faith is directed to one who has promised on oath to provide for our every need, and we endure knowing that blessing at the end has already been secured for us." – Doug Moo

Christian epitaph from the catacombs of St. Sebastian on the Via Appia, Rome.

Flanked by symbols of an anchor and fish:

"Atimetu, a slave born in the emperor's household, lived 8 years and 3 months. Earinus and Potens [made this] for [their] son."



Hold Fast to God's Upside-Down Anchor of Hope! Move Further Up and Further In with Persevering Faith in Jesus!

- ☐ Run to Jesus as your refuge of safety when struggling, tempted, tested, and especially when you have sinned!
- ☐ Hold fast to the anchor of one day living in God's holy presence with a persevering faith and laboring love.
- ☐ Move forward with Jesus as our Forerunner, *the God-Man who has already blazed the trail into God's presence for us!*
- ☐ Draw near to God's throne of grace knowing you are always welcome and will always find who and what you need to stay fixated, hold fast, and move forward until you enter His final rest! (4:16)

Holding Fast to the Third Warning Passage • Hebrews 5:11–6:20

To HOLD FAST We Must FEEL HOW the ARGUMENT IS MADE and UNDERSTAND WHAT the ARGUMENT IS in Hebrews 5:11–6:20!

First, FEEL How It Is Made...

A Persuasive Argument with Rhetorical Irony: *Logical (Logos)* + *Emotional (Pathos)* + *Ethical (Ethos)*

5:11-14	6:1-3	6:4-8	6:9-12	6:13-20
SHAME	EXHORTATION	FEAR	CONFIDENCE	SECURITY
IRONY!	IRONY!	IRONY!	IRONY!	HOLD FAST! → Chapters 7-10
Ready to learn about Melchizedek (5:1-10)? NO! You're <i>sluggards who are hard of hearing!</i> You need the <i>basics again!</i>	Better to <i>be led froward</i> and <i>progress beyond</i> the basics! <i>Don't relay the foundation</i> of gospel ABCs, instead <i>build on them!</i>	Because those who remain sluggards are <i>apostates who fall away</i> and <i>can't be restored to repentance!</i> <i>Forewarned is forearmed!</i>	But <i>you're beloved</i> and <i>we're convinced</i> of your salvation despite our sharp talk! So <i>be diligent to inherit the promises</i> not <i>full-blown sluggards who fall away!</i>	Because God's <i>immutable character, unbreakable promise, & unalterable oath secures His unchangeable purpose</i> which is anchored in Jesus, so HOLD FAST!
You're NOT READY for Melchizedek!	The Persuasive Argument Is Rhetorical: <i>Logical (Logos) + Emotional (Pathos) + Ethical (Ethos)</i>			NOW You're READY for Melchizedek!
REGRESS Leads to Apostasy • PROGRESS Leads to Maturity • PAST TIME to DIGRESS as Spiritual Sluggards!				

Then UNDERSTAND What the Argument Is...

A third warning to apathetic believers (spiritual sluggards who are hard of hearing and drifting away) about becoming apostate unbelievers (spiritual sluggards who are hard of heart and fall away) by assessing their apathy and admonishing them to diligently grow to a state of maturity, while alerting them to apostasy's final judgment but then assuring them of final salvation to anchor their hope in God's secure purpose of finally entering into His holy presence by persevering faith in Jesus, their Forerunner who has already entered within the veil to be their eternal High Priest like Melchizedek!

5:11-14	6:1-3	6:4-8	6:9-12	6:13-20
ASSESSES THEM <i>Spiritual Apathy!</i> Are you ready to learn about Melchizedek? NO! You've the virus of being spiritual apathy who are hard of hearing and in danger of becoming hard of heart!	ADMONISHES THEM <i>Spiritual Advance!</i> You can't remain spiritual sluggards! Be led forward by God into a state of maturity by building on the foundation of the fundamental ABCs.	ALERTS THEM <i>Spiritual Apostasy!</i> Only two options: Keep growing in maturity or fall away in apostasy! It's impossible for apostates to be renewed again to repentance! True believers don't look back and fall away.	ASSURES THEM <i>Spiritual Application!</i> Be diligent in mature application to the end and don't be apostate sluggards! Despite our sharp talk, we're confident you'll bear fruit consistent with salvation. Diligently apply like mature believers who imitate those who inherit the promises	ANCHORS THEM <i>Spiritual Appetite!</i> Because God's unchanging character and oath are eternally secure, so are we! Our hope is secure in God's unchanging purpose and His Son's presence inside the veil as our Forerunner and High Priest like Melchizedek!
You're NOT READY for Melchizedek!	The Persuasive Argument Is Rhetorical: <i>Logical (Logos)</i> + <i>Emotional (Pathos)</i> + <i>Ethical (Ethos)</i>			NOW You're READY for Melchizedek!
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IRONY!	IRONY!	IRONY!	IRONY!	HOLD FAST! → Chapters 7-10
REGRESS Leads to Apostasy • PROGRESS Leads to Maturity • PAST TIME to DIGRESS as Spiritual Sluggards!				

True believers will HEAR and HEED this STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT to HOLD FAST with PERSEVERING FAITH in God's UPSIDE-DOWN ANCHOR of HOPE that ENTERS BEHIND the Veil Where JESUS HAS ALREADY ENTERED for Us!

The Anchor Holds

I have journeyed
Through the long, dark night
Out on the open sea

By faith alone
Sight unknown
And yet His eyes were watching me

Chorus

The anchor holds
Though the ship is battered
The anchor holds
Though the sails are torn

I have fallen on my knees
As I faced the raging seas
The anchor holds
In spite of the storm

I've had visions
I've had dreams
I've even held them in my hand

But I never knew
They would slip right through
Like they were only grains of sand

Chorus

I have fallen on my knees
As I faced the raging seas
The anchor holds
In spite of the storm

I have been young
But I am older now
And there has been beauty
That these eyes have seen

But it was in the night
Through the storms of my life
Oh, that's where God proved
His love to me

Chorus

I have fallen on my knees
As I faced the raging seas
The anchor holds
In spite of the storm

I have fallen down on my knees
As I faced the raging seas
And the anchor holds
the anchor holds
the anchor holds
In spite of the storm

<https://lawrencechewning.com/the-anchor-holds>

In Early Christian iconography in the Roman catacombs (c. late 100-400 AD), one often finds on the tombs of the departed Christians an anchor as a symbol of their firm hope in eternal life with their Savior.



This is the printers mark of Thomas Vautrollier, a Huguenot refugee to England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The Latin phrase *anchora spei* means "anchor of hope." Reaching down from heaven is a hand firmly gripping the anchor.



My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

This hymn was written by Edward Mote, a pastor at Rehoboth Baptist Church in Horsham, West Sussex. Mote wrote around 100 hymns, this one, which he wrote in 1834, being the best known of his.

The hymn "**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**" was published anonymously in several hymn collections before first being attributed to Edward Mote in a collection of approximately 100 of his hymns published in 1837 under the title *Hymns of Praise, A New Selection of Gospel Hymns, Combining All the Excellencies of our Spiritual Poets, with Many Originals*. Mote's original title was "**The Immutable Basis for a Sinner's Hope**" in this collection.

The refrain of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" refers to the *Parable of the Wise and the Foolish Builders* and builds around the metaphor of Christ as a rock with a firm basis in Scripture.

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand

first stanza declares God's grace; **stanzas 2 and 3** concern the application of that grace in times of trouble. In the **final stanza**, Mote brings his hymn full circle with the ultimate realization of God's grace.

The lyrics vary somewhat among various hymnals, but customarily the phraseology adheres to Mote's original. The hymn became very popular and has been subject of many interpretations and covers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Hope_Is_Built_on_Nothing_Less

"The Immutable Basis for a Sinner's Hope"

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

3 His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
In Him, my righteousness, alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.



Christian epitaph of Atimetus from the catacombs of St. Sebastian on the Via Appia, Rome. Flanked by symbols of an anchor and fish: "**Atimetus, a slave born in the emperor's household, lived 8 years and 3 months. Earinus and Potens [made this] for [their] son.**"

<https://www.jesuswalk.com/christian-symbols/anchor.htm>