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Week 16 Sermon, January 7, 2024

Hebrews 6:13-20 – *The Anchor of the Soul*

Discussion Questions

1. Promises must be received by faith. Abram—later Abraham—is the recipient of God’s promise (v.13) yet we, His offspring by faith, are the objects. Turn back to Genesis and examine the character of Abraham’s faith and the certainty of God’s promise. What is the promise to Abram (Genesis 12:1-3, 18: 17-18, 22: 17-18)? How does Genesis 15: 1-6 connect to vv. 14-15 here in Hebrews 6? On a scale of 1-10, how patiently do you wait for God? How does looking at Abraham's example strengthen your faith?
2. Compare an *oath* with a *promise* (see v.16). Why does God guarantee His promise with an oath (v.17)? What encouragement do you find in passages like Galatians 3:29 and Romans 4:18-24? What does Jesus say about oaths in Matthew 5:33-37? Ask the Lord for continual wisdom and strength in your commitments.
3. Think about the purpose of an anchor. The Christian’s anchor has ascended into heaven (see v. 19). How is Christ, the Living Word, an anchor for your soul? What can you do in times of drifting from the Lord? How can you encourage yourself and others to “hold fast to the anchor,” trusting that “it shall never be removed”?
4. Samuel Rutherford wrote, “I rejoice in the hope of that glory to be revealed, for it is no uncertain glory that we look for. Our hope is not hung upon such an untwisted thread as, ‘I imagine so,’ or ‘It is likely,’ but the cable, the strong tow of our fastened anchor, is the oath and promise of Him who is eternal verity. Our salvation is fastened with God’s own hand, and with Christ’s own strength, to the strong stake of God’s unchangeable nature.” What additional encouragement does Rutherford’s rejoicing bring you?

*Additional Reflection:*

Our lives are filled with broken promises. How well do you keep your word? What does failure in this area do to relationship? We mustn’t try to fulfill God’s promises on our own, nor are we capable of accomplishing our word to another apart from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal relationships where trust has been broken, whether on your part or the other person. Pray for forgiveness and reconciliation.

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