

Hebrews - Jesus the Final Word: A Very Certain Promise

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Hebrews 6:1-20

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Reflection & Discussion

Hebrews 6 is a hotly debated passage of Scripture

Read and discuss Hebrews 6:1-6 (NIV)

⁶ Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.

⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

*What has your experience been with this passage?

*What thoughts or feelings could this section of Hebrews bring when read in isolation?

*Why is it important to read in a larger context?

‘Fallen away’ in this context means returning to acts that lead to death

Rejecting the grace of Jesus and instead trusting the OT sacrificial system to make us right with God.

*How do we know that this passage could not mean sinning, doubting, or drifting away from God?

*Where do we see the opposite of this in the Bible or our own lives?

This author teaches that we have trusted a VERY certain promise

Read and discuss Hebrews 6:13-20 (NIV)

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

*What do these verses say about the promises of God and why we would trust them?

*How does your hope in the character of God act as an anchor for your soul?

This author calls us to keep going, trusting God’s promise to experience fullness

Read and discuss Hebrews 6:9-12 (NIV)

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. ¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to

the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

*If the promise is dependent on God and not us, how does this offer security for our souls?

*How does the way we trust the promise deeply effect our experience of the promise?

This entire Hebrews sermon is about helping people avoid some specific flaws of the faith:

Putting hope in ideologies instead of our attachment with Jesus

Finding subtle ways to trust our own effort and obedience to save us

Closing our heart to the ways God wants to lead and helps us

*Which of these flaws is most present in your faith right now?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about recognizing flaws that might be sewn into our faith and coming to Jesus for help?

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