

Hebrews 6:9-20 – Faithful and Forever – Lesson Summary

A constant struggle in our home is my inability to look ahead. It took years for me to sync my calendar with my wife's. She's constantly reminding me to look ahead when planning anything else on our schedule. I tend to be someone who lives in the moment. I'm focused on the task at hand or the circumstances I'm in rather than what the future might hold. Sometimes this is beneficial, however, often it isn't. Consider our faith. When we live only in the moment allowing our feelings or circumstances to dictate our understanding of God we often fail to see the broader picture. Instead of faith we find doubt. Instead of contentment we find disappointment. And instead of truth, we exchange it for a lie. The author of the letter of Hebrews challenges his audience's understanding of their current situation by challenging them to live with an eternal perspective in mind. He points them to a faith that leads to the forever promises of God.

The beginning verses of Hebrews chapter 6 can be a controversial passage. Some argue that the author warns that people can walk away from their faith in Christ. I don't believe that that's the correct understanding of the passage. In this instance, he is likely addressing individuals who were admirers of Christ but not followers. An admirer of Christ enjoys the good things about Jesus while being unwilling to enter into the suffering of Christ. When called to sacrifice, submission, or righteousness, they turn from Him completely. One commentator says it this way, "Christless Christianity replaces the crucified and risen Christ with a culturally compatible Jesus who inspires popular admiration..." I believe the author of Hebrews uses this description in order to provide a contrast to those he addresses in the second half of Hebrews 6. He concludes this chapter speaking to those of true faith as he encourages them with the promises of God. I believe there are **3 characteristics of this promise** that should bring all believers hope.

God's promise is to people. The author specifically references Abraham as he encourages his readers to faith. Gen. 15 provides a picture of God's promise to Abraham. In doing so, we see a deeply personal and relational God. Throughout Scripture we see God make promises to Adam and Eve, Noah, the people of Israel, David, many others, and Christ himself, who then makes countless promises to His disciples and those who profess Him as Lord. The author of Hebrews is reminding those who have remained faithful that God has made that promise to them as well.

God's promise is through Himself. This is an amazing truth. God makes promises that He swears upon Himself. The God of the universe willingly commits Himself to punishment should He go against His word. The security of such promises should encourage us to press on when things seem to hard. Throughout Scripture God continues to show us that He is a promise keeping God. In Christ we see the fulfillment of those promises.

Finally, **God's promise is forever.** Hebrews 6 ends with the assurance that Christ has become our High Priest forever. His sacrifice on the cross is sufficient to cover all our sins and usher into the presence of our Heavenly Father for all eternity. His resurrection secures the promise to make all things new. Revelation 21 and 22 declare that there will be a day in which Christ returns to claim His Church and establish a new heaven and new earth in which He will dwell with us forever. When we find ourselves struggling to trust the promises of God due to our circumstances, struggles, or doubts, we must look ahead and fix our eyes upon the eternal promises of God. God calls us to be faithful to Him because He is first faithful to us.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Would you consider yourself to be a planner? Do you look ahead or are you more likely to live in the moment? Have you ever experienced any negative consequences for failing to look ahead?
- 2) How do you think you'd live your life differently if you knew the details of how the major life issues would play out?
- 3) What are some of the promises of God throughout Scripture? Do you believe that God is faithful to keeping these promises? How does that encourage you in your struggles with temptation, the brokenness of this world, and your doubts?