

Matchless part 14

Hebrews 6:13-20

The Title Of The Message: “God’s Promises Our Assurance”

The Key Word: Immutability

The Thought: God’s promises can be trusted, they are based in His unchanging character and come with abundant blessings, even in the suffering.

The Breakdown:

Verses 13-15 God’s Promise Is Sure...

Verses 16-18 God’s Unchanging Promise...

Verses 19-20 God The Anchor Of Our Soul...

Verses 13-15 God’s Promise Is Sure...

Hebrews 6:13-14 NKJV - For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 NKJV - saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

For when God made a promise... Notice we have here the promise made by God, sometimes we run around saying God promised me this and God promised me that only to be let down because this was something we desired rather than what God promised, sometimes we put our faith in the promises of men, or of government, or of education, or even the career’s that we chase after only to find them to be hollow empty promises, and so we get discouraged, we go into depression, we suffer from anxiety and things like this, but when God makes a promise

we can be sure that He keeps His promises, notice here that God makes a promise to Abraham but because there was no one and nothing to swear by that was greater He swore by himself!

Surely blessing I will bless you... In order to make the promise credible since there is no one greater than himself He has to swear by Himself. And the promise was to bless and to multiply him that is his descendants, the wording here is interesting though God says blessing I will bless you multiplying I will multiply you. Meaning blessing I will bless you greatly and multiplying I will multiply you greatly and God continues to keep His promise to Abraham, when the Lord makes the promise it is more than complete it never gets broken no matter what others do.

Hebrews 6:15 NKJV - And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

And so... I think about Pastor Chuck Smith, being frustrated for seventeen years until he learned how to patiently wait, realizing that if anything was going to happen it would not depend on his efforts but on the power of God, who said in **Zechariah 4:6** Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord. Before Pastor Chuck learned this he was stuck spinning his wheels, much like Abraham and Sarah who had been waiting for the promise but had become frustrated and discouraged coming up with a plan of their own Abraham would have a child by another named Ishmael by the insistence of his wife Sarah, it seemed like a good idea but it disastrous consequences, and this was not what the Lord had in mind, instead Abraham had to learn how to patiently endure so that when God worked in their lives the only One who could receive credit would be God! When people saw a 100 year old man and 90 year old pregnant women they could only say this is the power of God, this wasn't done by man's might, ingenuity, or power but it was done by God's power alone.

He obtained the promise... Notice it is only through patiently enduring that he received the promise, he didn't receive it when he gave up and

tried his own way, but that's what we settle for, God has given us a vision but we tend to settle for our less instead of God's best, I'm single and I'm getting older and so I settle for the unbeliever or someone who pretends to be a believer, prayer doesn't work so I'll just stop, I can't understand the Bible so I won't read, we live in the desert so this is just the way things are done, they don't have any expectation so I won't ask any of them either. You can tell when the pastors, assistant pastors, elders, deacons, leaders and servants have settled, all you have to do is look around some of their churches, they are filthy, dirty and haven't been painted or improved, haven't been cleaned, that's just the physical, some might think I'm focusing too much on the physical, but I want to point out that the physical often times is tied to our spiritual, by being a good steward of both the physical and spiritual we are patiently enduring to receive the promise of the eternal, when that trumpet blows and we are called to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV) 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

As long as we are here on this earth we occupy, there are promises for us that are meant for this earth but we must endure, but those things are meant to glorify the Lord, promises that we can be changed, the promise of a transformed life, so when we are enduring we can quit smoking or vaping, I can quit drinking, I can quit cussing, I can stop being angry over the wrong things, I can take responsibility for my sin, but those things are difficult and impossible for me! Yes you're right! They are,

but if we remember who is making the promise then He deals with the impossible, so if we endure He takes away the difficult and the impossible and makes things possible. How else could a seventeen year old come down to battle with a stick and a sling, and defeat a seasoned warrior who was a giant, David trusted in the Lord and He removed the difficulty and impossibility, what about Moses? When he had to lead over 2 million people across the red sea? He trusted in the Lord who split the sea for him and let Israel cross on dry ground! God took away the impossible and the difficulty because Moses endured. The same is still true for us today, how will we be able to provide for our families when I've lost my job? How will we eat? How will we pay the mortgage or the rent? How will I keep from getting the virus when I'm a first responder or have to drive the public busses? Trust the Lord endure, and let the Lord take the impossible and the difficult away because with God all things are possible.

Luke 18:24–27 (NKJV) 24 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” 27 But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

Again we will suffer tribulation, anxieties, and things like this but in the midst if we endure God can and does work in us.

Romans 5:3–5 (NKJV) 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

James 1:2–5 (NKJV) 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of

God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Verses 16-18 God's Unchanging Promise...

Hebrews 6:16 NKJV - For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

For men indeed swear... When God made the promise to Abraham He confirmed it with an oath, its something we still do today, when I was in the world it was popular to say I swear to God, I swear on my moms grave, I put that on my kids, I did that in the world because I was such a liar I had to have something greater than me to make sure people knew I was telling the truth, that was the problem back in the day with Jesus, the Jews were into making oaths but they were tricky to make an oath, Jesus addresses this in.

Matthew 23:16–22 (NKJV) 16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ 17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? 18 And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

The original purpose of making an oath was to settle any doubts or arguments but the Pharisees turned it into something bad, al of a sudden it was like trying to read a California ballot you don't know what to expect! And getting tricked into to voting for something your don't want or are against.

Matthew 5:33–37 (NKJV) 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

In this case thought the writer shows us that because God has made the promise we can know it’s not based on mans fickle heart or even carnal nature seeking to get out of it, but instead His promises are sure and dependable.

Hebrews 6:17-18 NKJV - Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 NKJV - that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Thus God... God was determined to show us that His promise is unchanging, so He made an oath, so we have His word which was by itself good enough but He makes the surety of the promise greater by confirming that promise by an oath, and since it is impossible for God to lie we now have a strong consolation that we can be sure or have a strong encouragement of that promise because it is a sure thing, unlike people who make promises that just sound to good to be true, like emails from Nigeria of lone millionaires who died and now want to give their wealth to you, God’s is promise is true, but what’s the promise? Look at the rest of verse 18 it says “Who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us, what hope? The hope of salvation that has come by the completed work of Christ.

Fled for refuge... This phrase “**Fled for Refuge**” would draw the Hebrews back to the Mosaic Law that said that the children of Israel

were to assign certain cities to be set up as cities of refuge, people could run to these cities if they killed someone they could run to these cities, then the priest of the city would investigate and if they found that this was an accident, they would have to live in the city until the priest died and then they could move back home, and the avenger of blood could not touch them. Now that being said since we have fled to the Lord we have this same guaranty of salvation in the the avenger of blood can't come and take our lives.

I should point out that there were some instructions that needed to be followed, first if they were guilty of murder they would be given over to the avenger of blood, second if they got caught outside the city while the priest was alive the avenger of blood could take their lives, but the same is true for us isn't it? If we have given our lives to Christ but then turn back, leaving the refuge of His love and protection we run the risk of being taken out!

Verses 19-20 God The Anchor Of Our Soul...

Hebrews 6:19-20 NKJV - This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 NKJV - where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

This hope we have... Because we have the promise of salvation, that hope becomes an anchor for our souls, in the catacombs of Rome where Christians would hide or go to worship the Lord in order to get away from persecution, the one symbol they found the most of was the symbol of the anchor! Back in the day when the sailors would anchor the ship they would take the anchor in a skiff to a secure place in the harbor so that it hold the ship steady, Jesus is the forerunner who is the anchor of our souls went behind the veil the is the veil that once separated us from the throne of God and He is our High Priest forever, so that no matter what storms come our way, as long as we are anchored in His word and His promises we have this sure hope that He will do what He has said, because our anchor is not on this earth but in heaven

and it doesn't keep us down but causes us to move forward until we get to our goal.

Application:

1. God's promise comes with abundant blessing. **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
2. God's promise is sure that is reliable, because He has sworn by Himself and impossible for God to lie.
3. God's promise is unchangeable, He has given His word and sworn by himself. **Hebrews 13:8** (NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
4. God's promise is an anchor for our souls, that anchor that Jesus has secured for us behind the veil of the temple in heaven, and is able to keep us steady in uncertain times such as this.