

## Hope of Salvation

### Hebrews 6: 9-20

In previous statements (see Hebrews 6:4-6), the writer spoke with such strong language warning those who were in danger of apostasy. Now he turns his focus on the faithful followers of Christ.

Hebrews 6:9. Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation (NIV, emphasis added).

The writer confirms that he has seen evidence in their life of things that accompany salvation. If we examine those things that accompany salvation it would certainly include the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23, NIV). Those walking in salvation are walking in Christ—they are walking in agreement with or obedience to Christ. Jesus said, "If you hold to [obey] my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32 NIV, interpretation added).

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 (NIV, emphasis added) (cf. 1 Peter 1:17,22; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:4).



The writer continues to encourage his readers that God has seen their works (fruit) of righteousness, as evidence (the manifestation) of their salvation and God will not forget on the appointed day (c.f. 10:32-34). Historical reference seems to point to the love shown to fellow saints in poverty locally and in other cities (Bruce, p.126).

11. We want each of you to show this same diligence [persevering works of righteousness] to the very end, in order to make your hope sure [full assurance, KJV] (NIV, emphasis and interpretation added).

The writer wanted to encourage his listeners to continue allowing the Holy Spirit to manifest himself through them. He encourages them to set their minds on the goal of their faith—making their hope sure (surety of their salvation) (also see Colossians 3:1-3). The writer is not saying they are saved by their works of righteousness. He is saying that these works will come out of a state of being saved, and the true test of genuine salvation is that it continues (perseveres, endures) to the very end.

Jerry Bridges states, "No one can attain any degree of holiness without God working in his life, but just as surely no one will attain it without effort on his own part. God has made

possible for us to walk in holiness. But He has given to us the responsibility of doing the walking” (p.11).

12. We do not want you to become lazy [dull, indifferent][slothful, KJV; sluggish, NASV], but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (NIV, emphasis and interpretation added).

The writer does not want his listeners to just sit down and passively wait for Jesus to return. He calls for them to have an active faith that perseveres to the end in order to receive what has been promised. As John MacArthur states, “True faith is never seen as passive—it is always obedient” (p.32). We are instructed to “persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised” (Hebrews 10: 36, NIV).

To discover what has been promised we must look back to chapter 4, verse 1, which states, “Since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it” (also see Galatians 3:14). “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12, NIV). “This is what he promised us--eternal life” (1 John 2:25, NIV).



To be at rest is to rest in God. This does not mean to slumber or sleep. Rest is something that is already given us in God as a child of God. It is based on the finished work of Christ. Yet we have a responsibility to practice rest as a discipline.

We are to rest in grace. A position. A truth. God told the apostle Paul that God’s “grace is sufficient” (2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV). Grace has been defined as the unmerited favor of God. I would add that it is also the presence and power of God within the present moment. It is sufficient for the moment—no matter what that moment entails. To be at rest means to be continually in the presence of God with all of his resources available. This position is a reality—it is true—it is already done in Christ.

Our responsibility is to practice what is already done. We are to live it out. We are to live from that state of being and truth. The truth of rest and grace is the perspective that all of life can be seen from. It is a vantage point that is high above the world’s philosophy. The world has a philosophy that is contrary to rest and grace. The world’s philosophy is based on works and self (cf. Romans 12:2). God “has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” (2 Peter 1:4, 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 [patiently endured, KJV], Abraham received what was promised. 16. Men 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 offered to us may be greatly encouraged. 19. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It [this hope] enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20. where Jesus, who went before us [forerunner, KJV], has entered on our behalf. 20. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek (NIV) (c.f. Gen. 14:18-20; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:11). (NIV, emphasis and interpretation added).

Jesus is our forerunner and the surety of our admission to the dwelling-place of God (Bruce, p.132). He has entered into the Holy of Holies (cf. Hebrews 9) where God resides and has offered the sacrifice of his own blood for our atonement (right standing with God), and now makes intercession for us as high priest before God forever.

What encouraging words is the Word of God. He has made a promise to his people that will stand forever. His people now have great hope that is secure and rests in the very sanctuary with God and is overseen by Christ himself. We can stand firm and secure on the hope that we have in Christ and be confident as we continue to move forward to the day when we kneel where our hope and salvation rests. "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23, NIV).

## What's Your Next Step?

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