

WE HAVE AN ANCHOR

THE ENDURING HOPE AND BLESSING OF THE DILIGENT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ...





1. The diligent followers of Jesus Son of God are filled with hope, 6:11-12.

- (Hebrews 6:11–12 LSB) And we desire that each one of you show **the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end**, 12, **so that you may not become dull**, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- A. The spiritually diligent realize the full assurance of hope as they endure to the end.
- B. The spiritually diligent have an ever-increasing ability to hear God in contrast to the diminishing ability of the spiritually dull.
- (Hebrews 5:11 LSB) Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, **since you have become dull of hearing**.
 - (Luke 8:18 NLT) **So pay attention to how you hear**. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. **But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them**.
- C. The spiritually diligent increase in their skill in understanding truth and righteousness, good and evil, while the spiritually dull regress in these things.
- (Hebrews 5:13 ESV) For everyone who lives on milk is **unskilled in the word of righteousness**, since he is a child.
 - (Hebrews 5:14 LSB) But solid food is for the mature, **who because of practice have their senses trained to discern both good and evil**.



2. The work and love in ministry of the diligent followers of Jesus affirm their hope, 6:9-10.

- (Hebrews 6:9–10 LSB) But we are convinced about you, beloved, **of things that are better and that belong to salvation**, though we are speaking in this way. 10 **For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and continuing to minister to the saints**.

- A. Their work and love qualify their ministry as being of the better things that belong to salvation
- B. They are exhorted to maintain this **same diligence**.
- C. Specifically this means they are to maintain their earnestness in serving the saints and honoring the name of God.

D. Honorable ministry in the name of God builds the character of God into our lives which increases our assurance and strengthens our endurance.



3. The diligent followers of Jesus draw near to God through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

- (Hebrews 7:19 NLT) For the law never made anything perfect. But now we have confidence in a better hope, **through which we draw near to God**.

A. Being spiritually diligent is drawing near to God.

- i. We confidently receive mercy and find grace.
- (Hebrews 4:16 LSB) Therefore let us **draw near** with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- ii. We are affirmed in Christ's intercessory work that he is able to save us forever.
- (Hebrews 7:25 LSB) Therefore He is able also to save forever **those who draw near to God through Him**, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- iii. We receive cleansing from our evil consciences.
- (Hebrews 10:21–22 NLT) And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, 22 **let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean**, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

B. The spiritually diligent realize the full assurance of hope **because they believe the God of hope**.

- (Romans 15:13 LSB) **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- (Hebrews 4:2 LSB) For indeed we have had good news proclaimed to us, just as they also; **but the word that was heard did not profit those who were not united with faith among those who heard**.

i. We are rewarded for believing God.

- (Hebrews 11:6 LSB) And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for **he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him**.

ii. We are cleansed and purified from our double-

mindedness.

- (James 4:8 LSB) **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

C. Some draw near but some fall away—the dividing line is our diligence in following Jesus Son of God.

In stark contrast to the spiritually diligent the spiritually dull neither hear God nor believe him and as a consequence they fall away.

- (Hebrews 3:12 LSB) See to it brothers, that there not be in any one of you **an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.**
- (Hebrews 6:5–6a, 8 LSB) And having tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 **and having fallen away.**
- (Matthew 24:11–13 LSB) Many false prophets will arise and will deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness is multiplied, **most people's love will grow cold.** 13 **But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.**

D. The spiritually diligent experience the blessings of living in faith and patience as those who expect to inherit the promises of God.

- (Hebrews 6:12 LSB) So that you may not become dull, **but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**



4. God makes his promises to us in such a way to give us strong encouragement to take hold of his promises, 6:13-18

- (Hebrews 6:13–18 LSB) For when God made the **promise** to Abraham, since He could **swear** by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “I WILL GREATLY BLESS YOU AND I WILL GREATLY MULTIPLY YOU.” 15 **And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.** 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 **In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose,** guaranteed it with an oath, 18 **so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set**

before us.

A. God greatly desires to show us—the heirs of the promise—the unchangeableness of his purpose.

- (Romans 8:28 LSB) **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.**

B. It is very important that we give our attention to the example of Abraham who patiently waited and obtained the promise.

C. He shows us the unchangeableness of his purpose so that we will take refuge in his promise.

D. Taking refuge in God we find strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

E. Taking hold of the hope set before us we find tremendous strength and nourishment to endure.

- (Psalm 34:8 LSB) **O taste and see that Yahweh is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**



5. We have this hope of the sure and confirmed promises of God for all eternity as an anchor for the soul, 6:19-20.

- (Hebrews 6:19–20 LSB) **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul,** a hope both sure and confirmed **and one which enters within the veil,** 20 where a forerunner has entered for us—Jesus, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

A. Our hope is our anchor.

B. Our souls are anchored now in this hope.

C. This hope is sure and confirmed by our great high priest Jesus Son of God who enters within the heavenly holy of holies for us.

D. Drawing near to God in his most holy place is one of the most amazing privileges we have as believers in Jesus Son of God.

E. Drawing near to God is impossible apart from the work of our high priest Jesus Son of God.

- (1 Samuel 6:19 LSB) Then He struck down some of the men of Beth-shemesh **because they had looked into the ark of Yahweh.** He struck down of all the people, 50,070 men, and the people mourned because Yahweh had struck the people with a great slaughter.

We are refugees from the sinking ship of this present world-order, so soon to disappear; our hope is fixed on the eternal order, where the promises of God are made good to his people in perpetuity. Our hope, based upon his promises, is our spiritual anchor. The figure of the



anchor is not pressed; all that is meant is that “we are moored to an immovable object”—and that immovable object is the throne of God himself, established in the heavenly holy of holies. [Bruce, F. F. (1990). *The Epistle to the Hebrews* (Rev. ed., pp. 154–155). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.]