

Title: Full Assurance of Hope

Text: Hebrews 6: 11

Date: November 30, 2014

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Last week, we began by looking at one of three passages which speaks of the believers assurance. Last time, we focused on the “Full Assurance of Understanding.” This time our subject is “Full Assurance of Hope.”

The writer had spoken that they had much to say about Christ. But the people were dull of hearing. Then he digressed to another subject. Then he comes back in verse 9 saying that he is persuaded they are true believers.

**Hebrews 6: 9: But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 10: For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11: And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE unto the end:**

He is not saying that by ministering to the saints they will come to a full assurance of hope. But he is saying that he desired they show the same diligence that they showed in ministering to the saints toward the full assurance of hope. They are saying they desire they show the same diligence toward Christ.

**Hebrews 6: 12: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13: For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, 14: Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15: And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16: For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife. 17: Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: 18: That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**

Hope is an earnest desire for an object, accompanied with the expectation of obtaining it. The believer’s hope is Christ, to be with Christ in glory in perfect righteousness. The assurance of our hope is Christ in whom God’s covenant-promise is sure to every believer.

## **GOD GIVES US A SURE HOPE**

First, we have an example of God giving believers a sure hope, “When God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.” (Heb 6: 13-14)

Abraham is given as the example because Abraham is the father of all believers. Every believer has a part in the same promise which God made to our father Abraham. In fact, every believer is the promise God made to Abraham.

One, God promised to multiply Abraham’s “seed”, “And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore.” (Gen 22: 16-17) Each of God’s elect, each one that Christ redeemed, and each one regenerated by God the Holy Spirit is Abraham’s seed. (Gen 22: 16-17)

Romans 9: 6: Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed

be called. 8: That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Ishmael was not a child of promise. He was a child of the bondwoman, a child of Abraham's works, God demanded he be cast out. Isaac was the child God promised, the child God produced. "In Isaac shall they seed be called." Esau was not. Jacob was a child of promise, "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated...So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (rom 9: 11-13, 16) God promised, "I will multiply thy seed." Those chosen of God, redeemed by God, regenerated by God, these are the children of promise.

Two, God promised Christ would prevail over all his enemies and thus the heirs of promise would prevail in Christ, "and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies." (Gen 22: 17)

Galatians 3: 16: Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

So you see, every believer has a part in the promise which God made to our father Abraham. When brings forth a believer, it is Christ himself fulfilling his promise to Abraham, possessing the gate of his enemies

### **PROMISE WITH AN OATH**

Next notice, when God entered covenant with Abraham, God did two things. One, God gave a promise to Abraham, "when God made promise to Abraham." (Heb 6: 13) Two, God also made an oath to Abraham, "when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." (Heb 6: 13-14) God could swear by no greater so he swear by himself. God laid himself under double obligation.

"And so, after [Abraham] had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." (Heb 6: 15) Abraham believed God "quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which [have no existence, into existence]", therefore, he was "fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." (Rom 4: 17, 21)

### **OATH FOR CONFIRMATION**

Next, God will have you who believe to understand why he added his oath to his promise to Abraham. So he gives an earthly example between men, showing why God added an oath to his promise, "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife." (Heb 6: 16)

When we make an oath, we swear by the greater. For instance, if we are testifying in a court of law, we make an oath that before God, we promise to tell the truth. When a man goes under oath before God then it is **confirmation** to us that he is telling the truth. It is our assurance. Therefore, having this confirmation, it is assurance, so it ends all strife or dispute.

That was the reason God added his oath to his promise to Abraham. It was for you who are the heirs of promise, "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath." (Heb 6: 17)

In the beginning, way back there when God made promise to Abraham, God went above what was necessary, for "the heirs of promise." God was promising to give Abraham heirs. They are God's elect, they are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; they are you who believe by God's grace. Yet, in God's promise to give Abraham heirs, God gave the heirs ourselves—more abundant assurance—by the way in which he made his promise to Abraham. Be sure to get this, God made the promise to Abraham, in the way he did, for you and I who God has created by his blood, by his Spirit, by his grace and given faith to believe.

What was God willing to show us? “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: That by two immutable things in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the Hope set before us.” (Heb 6: 17-18)

God was showing us the immutability of his counsel. So God made his promise. Then God confirmed his promise with an oath, swearing by himself, because he could swear by no greater. In both of which, it is impossible for God to lie. Now, God’s counsel by itself, his decree by itself, is immutable, unchangeable. “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Nu 23: 19) God declares “the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” (Is 46: 10) Brethren, it should be confirmation enough to end all our doubts when God makes his purpose known in our hearts. Yet, God went above and beyond that, God “confirmed it by an oath.”

## **CHRIST OUR SURETY**

When God swore by himself, God made Christ his Son, Surety for his people. It was when Abraham offered up his only son, Isaac, that Christ made this promise and oath to Abraham. And it was Christ who said, “Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.”

This was also immutable. And we see it at the cross. Abraham typified God the Father. Just as Abraham believed, “God provided himself a Lamb.” And because the promise was in Christ, God spared not his Son, “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Rom 8: 32)

All those for whom God delivered up his Son shall be given all God’s blessing freely, along with Christ. We are joint-heirs with Christ. Everything God gave his Son, God also freely gives all those for whom Christ died. We are given free justification, free redemption, free sanctification, free regeneration, free preservation, free resurrection, and free glorification.

Therefore, believer, you who are God’s promised seed, in Christ the promised Seed, have “two immutable things in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, [so that] we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the Hope set before us.”

## **CHRIST OUR HOPE**

Thirdly, who is this strong consolation? This hope we have fled to and laid hold of for refuge is Christ Jesus our Surety and Savior.

Our Hope and Expectation dwells within us as an anchor of the soul, “Christ in you the hope of glory.” (Col 1: 27) And our Hope is at God’s right hand, “Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the Forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” (Heb 6: 19-20)

Christ is our Strong Consolation, “For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ...And our hope of you *is* stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation.” (2 Cor 1: 5, 7) We are sure of the promises of God in Christ, “For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” (2 Cor 1: 20) When we have Christ as our Surety, as the Assurance of our Hope, then Christ is the end of all strife. Our hope is sure and stedfast.

So Christ is our Hope, the anchor of our soul, both sure and stedfast, and he is our Hope that has entered within the veil. The Psalmist said, “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou

in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.” (Ps 42: 11) “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation *is* from him.” (Ps 62: 5)

So we to whom God has made his everlasting covenant have Hope that we will be with Christ in glory in perfect righteousness and Christ is the Assurance that we shall have our Hope. This hope is by God’s everlasting counsel made double sure in Christ our Surety by whom God has sworn unto every chosen child. God covenanted by himself in Christ, making Christ our Surety, our Guarantor that he will bring us to himself in perfect righteousness.

Even better, Christ our Hope, as our Forerunner, has already entered within the veil into God’s presence as our High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. We cannot have a more sure hope than Christ dwelling in our hearts and seated at God’s right hand. “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.” (Ps 146: 5) “Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.” (Jer 17: 7)

Christ is the Full Assurance of Hope. Be diligent toward Christ do so unto the end of your life on this earth. Just as you go to Christ for the full assurance of understanding, go to Christ for the full Assurance of Hope. He is the one for whom we Hope and the Assurance that we shall certainly have that for which we hope. We will not find our assurance looking anywhere else but within the veil to Christ.

**Amen!**