

Hope Anchored - Hebrews 6:13–20

Introduction

Every one of us knows what it feels like to be shaken.

A phone call.

A diagnosis.

A financial setback.

A relationship that suddenly feels fragile.

A future that feels uncertain.

These are moments in the life of faith that we don't talk about much. And it's not the moment of crisis or the moment of loss. It's not even the moment of doubt. It's the moment when hope gets tired. You still believe. You still show up. You still pray. You still read the Word. Well, on most days. But the waiting has gone on longer than you expected. The answers haven't come the way you hoped. And slowly, quietly, you begin to wonder how much longer you can hold on.

You know, storms have a way of revealing what we're really anchored to. When life is calm, everything feels secure. But when the winds rise and the waves hit, there is only one anchor that holds.

Hebrews 6 gives us one of the most beautiful pictures in all of Scripture: **hope as an anchor for the soul – firm and secure**. Not because we are strong and steady, but because the One who holds us is faithful.

Let's walk through today's passage and see how God gives us a **Hope Anchored** in His faithfulness.

God Tightens the Rope – (Hebrews 6:13–15)

To explain this hope, the writer of Hebrews takes us back to Abraham. Not to highlight Abraham's strength. Not to say, "Be more patient." But to teach us about what God does when His people are worrisome and vulnerable. When His people are tired.

Verse 13 tells us that when God made His promise, "*He swore by Himself.*" This is another one of those statements typically glossed over in our reading, but this detail matters. Not just for Abraham, but for us as well. God did not swear because Abraham demanded reassurance. God did not swear because Abraham negotiated the terms. God swore because He chose to bind Himself more firmly to His word, to His promise. We need to understand that this reality is divine resolution. It is God's divine initiative.

God steps into human uncertainty and says, "*Surely*" – (meaning, I will do what I promised)– "I will bless you and multiply you." And here's where this meets us. When your grip weakens, God

does not let go. When your doubts creep in, God reminds you of His assurances. He tightens the rope and gives you the strength to regrip.

This means hope does not depend on how steady you feel today. It depends on who is holding you.

Some of you are not doubting God—you're just tired of holding on. Hebrews reminds us that hope is secure not because you never loosen your grip, but because God never loosens His.

So, when you feel yourself slipping, don't panic. Don't assume you're failing. Lean into the truth that God has already acted, and it is His actions that serve as the anchor for your hope. This truth reminds me of what the Psalmist said in 62:5-8:

*For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.*

Anxiety Meets Assurance – (Hebrews 6:16–18)

Here the Hebrew author pauses to explain why God would do this, why God would go this far. Humans swear by something greater than themselves to confirm what they are saying and to solidify their commitment. The point is that God has nothing greater, so He swears by Himself.

Then comes the sentence that cuts straight through all uneasiness. It removes all anxieties. The writer states, *“It is impossible for God to lie.”* What a powerfully true statement. Our anxiety thrives on uncertainty and worry. This statement reminds us that Hope thrives on the confident assurances from the Father.

God does not remove every unknown, but He does remove fear that the unknown might undo His plan. Unfortunately, this is where many believers struggle. It's not that we doubt God's Power or His abilities. We worry that circumstances might somehow outrun His promises.

Hebrews says it's not possible!

God gives two unchangeable things that we can hold with confidence – His promise and His oath. He does this so that His people might experience strong encouragement. And here's what that means for us.

When anxiety or worry rises, God will not leave you guessing. He gives you truth. He gives you assurance. You don't have to solve every unknown problem to have peace. You don't have to see the outcome to trust the One who holds it. That's what the disciples had to learn in the boat.

Mark tells us that while the storm raged, Jesus was asleep. And they woke Him with a question that sounds a lot like ours does at times: *“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”* (Mark 4:38b)

Notice what they didn’t ask. They didn’t ask Him to explain the storm. They didn’t ask Him to show them the outcome. They didn’t even ask, why? They just needed to know whether He was still with them. Whether He cared or not?

I love how Jesus answered their question. There was no lecture, no reminder of the Law. He simply answered it with His presence.

Then He looked at them and said, *“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”* Not because the storm wasn’t real, but because His presence was greater.

And that’s exactly what Hebrews is reminding us. The disciples didn’t need the storm explained. They just wanted to be assured that He was with them and that He was as concerned about the situation as they were. Hebrews says God has done even more than that. He has bound Himself to His word. He has secured our hope beyond the storm. And it is impossible for Him to lie.

The storm may be loud, it may be rough, but it cannot outrun the promises of God. That’s why hope rests – not in calm seas, but in a faithful God. A God of Hope! Hope Anchored!

The Anchor Revealed – (Hebrews 6:19–20)

Now the writer gives us this image that brings everything together.

“We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.”

In the boating world, an anchor is the difference between drifting and destruction. But this anchor behaves differently. It does not sink into the sea. It enters the inner place behind the curtain. This phrase would have stopped the original hearers cold. What’s behind the curtain?

The Holy of Holies – the place of God’s presence. The place no ordinary person could enter.

And Hebrews says: *“Jesus has gone there as a forerunner on our behalf.”*

This means our hope is not anchored in this world at all. Not in circumstances. Not in stability. Not in relief. Not even in resolution. Instead, your hope, our hope, is anchored in the presence of God – held firmly by Jesus Himself.

And here’s the truth we need to hear. When the storm doesn’t stop, God doesn’t move the anchor. Instead, He reminds us of where it’s secured.

Some of you are waiting for the storm to calm before you feel safe, before you feel secure. Hebrews says security comes from knowing your anchor is already secure. So, when life feels unstable, don’t ask, *“Why is this happening?”* Ask, *“Where is my hope anchored?”*

Because storms don't destroy anchored souls. They reveal what's been holding them all along.

And your anchor is not in this world. Your anchor is in the presence of God – held fast by Jesus Himself.

Conclusion

The same Jesus who was present in the storm is the One who now holds our hope secure in the presence of God. Hope is not something you manufacture. Hope is something God uses to anchor your soul. It is anchored in His work; in His assurance; and most importantly in His presence. Time spent waiting is not time wasted. Groaning does not mean failure. And moments of weakness are not defeat. Why?

Because your hope is not shifting and drifting around. It is anchored. And the anchor of your soul is not an idea. It is a Person. Jesus has gone before you. Jesus holds you firmly. Jesus will not let you drift.

(Play Invitation Song – Blessed Assurance)

As we close today, I want to do what Scripture often does when it speaks about hope. I want to pray for this over you. Will you join me in a closing prayer?

Father, as we sit humbly and filled with anticipation, I am reminded of Paul's request for the church in Rome.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13)

You Father are the God of hope. Fill Your people – not with certainty about circumstances, but with joy and peace that only comes from trusting You.

For those who are tired, for those who are anxious, for those who feel like they're drifting; hold them fast, give them assurance, anchor their souls in you.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, cause hope to rise - not because life is easy, but because You are faithful. And may we leave this place anchored and secure in Your promises, steady in Your presence, and confident that the One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

I ask these things in the name of Jesus, our forerunner, our anchor, and our hope.

Amen.