

“THE ANCHOR HOLDS”

Text: Hebrews 6:10-20

Subject: “How to be Mightily Encouraged in the Lord”

Introduction

(Notice Verse 18 that is before us)

“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to be, we might have a (what?) **A strong consolation.**” (Which means)

“To be strongly and mightily encouraged”

Question: What does it mean to be “mightily encouraged”?

Question: Why do people need to be “mightily encouraged”?

Question: How does God see to it that you are “mightily encouraged”?

Question: Who is it that produces people “mightily encouraged”?

Question: And how can I leave this meeting “mightily encouraged” regardless of how I came in here?”

The Setting of Our Text:

- ◆ Hebrews is a letter to Jewish believers.
- ◆ These believers were being tempted, tested and tried.
- ◆ Some were thinking about leaving grace to go back under law.
- ◆ Some were thinking about drifting and slipping backwards.
- ◆ Some were in position to hear a great Word from God.

(Notice Hebrews 5:10)

“Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.”

(Notice Hebrews 7:1)

“For this Melchisedec King of Salem, priest of the most High God.”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ This entire section about Jesus (our great High Priest) is interrupted between 5:10 and 7:1.
- ◆ And this interruption is one great exhortation to keep growing in the Lord (to reach your fullest potential).

(In 5:11-14, Four Symptoms of a Non-Growing Christian)

1. (V. 11) There was **dullness** in hearing the Word:
(Which means, some were slipping because they stopped feeding on the Word.)
2. (V. 12) There was slothfulness in **sharing** the Word:
(Some were still saying “feed me, feed me” when it was time for them to be teaching others.)
3. (V. 13) There was the danger of resisting internal **change**:
(Some were still living on milk, or a baby food diet continually).

4. V. 14) There was failure to discern between good and evil:
(Which means, some believers quit exercising their spiritual man and became undisciplined,)

(Four Symptoms of a Danger Zone Christian)

1. Failing to keep feeding on the Word of God.
2. Failing to get out of the feeding line and start feeding others.
3. Failing to grow deeper by living only on a milk diet.
4. Failing to exercise your spiritual man that results in the inability to discern between flesh and spirit.

(Then, Chapter 6 is the “Let’s Move On” Chapter)

(V. 1) “Therefore leaving the elementary teachings about Jesus, let’s go on to perfection (or maturity and spiritual growth).

(Let’s Go Beyond)

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ◆ Repentance | ◆ Water baptism | ◆ The Resurrection |
| ◆ Faith | ◆ Laying on of hands | ◆ The final Judgment |

- ◆ These are vital but we don’t dare stop there

(Chapter 6 is a “How To” Chapter)

In (Vs.1&2) How to move on and keep growing

In (Vs.3-6) How not to shame the Lord

In (Vs.7-9) How to grow good fruit instead of thorns and briars

In (Vs.10-12) How to keep diligent and patient in serving God

In (Vs.13-20) How to be a “Mightily Encouraged” man or woman of God.

(Question)

In (V. 10) What encourages you to keep ministering to people (and not faint)?

In (V. 11) What encourages you to be diligent to the end (and not falter)?

In (V. 12) What encourages you to despise slothfulness (and look forward)?

What is it that produces a “**Mightily Encouraged**” spirit within me today?

(Three Absolutes That Are Guaranteed)

- I. **We Are “Mightily Encouraged” Because of God’s Word to Abraham**
(V. 13) “God made a promise to Abraham.”

Question: What was God’s promise to Abraham?

Answer: It is recorded in Genesis 22:17:

“In blessing I will bless thee, and I’ll multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven.”

Question: What did God promise Abraham?

Answer: He promised Abraham a son (Isaac).

Question: What did God do with His promise?

Answer: He kept His promise and gave Abraham a son.

Question: How does this “Mightily Encourage” every one of us?

Answer: It encourages us because of the way it happened:

- ◆ Abraham was only 75 years old when God promised him a son.
- ◆ But Abraham didn’t have the answer of a son until he was 99 years old.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ For 25 years, Abraham had to do what?
(V. 15) “And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”

(Two Activities of Abraham)

1. He patiently endured for 25 years.
2. He obtained the promise of a son; Isaac.

Question: How does this encourage the Hebrew Christians being tested by fire, and how does this encourage me?

1. Abraham had to endure many obstacles.
2. Abraham’s circumstances were less than ideal.
3. Abraham saw no visible signs for 24 years.
4. Abraham was tempted to be discouraged by outward appearance.
5. Abraham made mistakes along the way.

(But Abraham Received What God Had Promised)

- ◆ And God says in (V. 18) that this promise fulfilled should give you strong consolation” or “A mighty dose of encouragement” (In other words).
- ◆ You might be waiting for answered prayer like Abraham.
- ◆ You might be waiting “on hold” like Joseph.
- ◆ You might be waiting day after day like Daniel
- ◆ You might be waiting and up-tight like David with Saul
- ◆ You might be waiting and “fenced in” like Job
- ◆ You might be waiting and anxious like Elijah

But God has a word for you, what is it?

“If I promised and came through for Abraham, then be encouraged because I’ll come through for you.”

(In Other Words, Like Abraham)

- ◆ Your answer is not based upon what you see!
- ◆ Your answer is not based upon how you feel!
- ◆ Your answer is not based upon where you are!
- ◆ Your answer is not based upon how long it’s been!
- ◆ Your answer is not based upon how difficult it may be!

(Instead)

- ◆ Your answer is based upon who God is and what God says to you!

Question: How many of you believe God could have answered Abraham at age 75? (Then why wait?)

Question: How many of you believe God can answer your prayers?

II. We Are “Mightily Encouraged” Because of God’s Word to Himself

(V. 16) “For men verily swear by the greater; and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.” (What does it mean?)

- ◆ When a witness takes an oath in court, he is confronted with the words “So help me God”.
- ◆ He is calling upon the greater (God) to witness for the lesser (himself).
- ◆ There is none greater than God so God says here, He is answering (or making an oath) to Himself. (In other words)
- ◆ God has pledged Himself to Abraham, God heard that oath He made (and guess what?)

(V. 18) “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God (To what?) “It was impossible for God to lie.”

Question: How does this encourage every heart?

Answer: Because Abraham is not the only recipient of God’s pledge and commitment.

(V. 17) “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise.”

Question: Who are the heirs of promise?

Answer: This is you and me!

Question: How do we know that we are included in Abraham’s spiritual seed?

Answer: Galatians 3:9: “If you are in Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God had a word from the Hebrew Christians who were wearied, discouraged, and faint because of what they saw, (and)
- ◆ God has a word for you if you are tempted to judge by what you see, or feel discouraged by outward appearances.

(What is the word?)

1. As God came through for Abraham, so God will come through for you!
2. As God could not lie to Abraham, God cannot lie to you!

II. We Are “Mightily Encouraged” Because of God’s Word to Us

Question: What is God’s word to me?

Question: What is it that produces (V. 18) in me; a strong consolation (or a “Mightily Encouraged” spirit)?

Question: How can I believe a God that cannot lie when I'm less than perfect?

Question: And how can I believe a God when life is filled with stormy seas?

(Hear God's Word for You)

#1. You have a refuge

"...Who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."

Question: What is a refuge?

Answer: This refuge here refers to the Old Testament cities of refuge:

- ◆ God appointed six cities where a man could flee if he accidentally killed someone.
- ◆ Three were on the east side of Jordan, three were on the west side.
- ◆ Nothing (and no one) could harm the person as long as he remained in the city of refuge.
- ◆ Nothing could touch him or hurt him as long as he stayed in the refuge.

Question: Who is our refuge today?

Answer: (V. 20) Jesus, who has gone on to heaven before us!

Question: How does our refuge (Jesus) give us strong consolation?

1. We know that Jesus is our High Priest interceding for us.
2. We know that nothing can touch us without His approval.
3. We know that whatever surprises us, doesn't surprise or scare Him.
4. We know that Jesus is responsible for those who belong to Him.

#1 – We Have A Refuge (But)

#2. You have an Anchor (V. 19)

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul."

Question: What does an anchor have to do with me?

Answer: Life is described as a journey on the sea in Psalm 107:

(V. 25) "Stormy wind and waves."

(V. 26) "Their soul melts because of trouble."

(V. 27) "They are at wits end."

(V. 28) "They cry to the Lord in their distress."

(V. 29) "The Lord makes the storm a calm."

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Life can be a storm (with unexpected adversity).
- ◆ Life can be unpredictable and unpleasant at times.
- ◆ Life lets us all know that we need an anchor.

How (in V. 19) is the hope we have like an anchor of the soul?

Answer: Because hope does for the soul what an anchor does for a ship! (Repeat)

1. An anchor preserves the ship itself when the wind and waves pound against it.

2. An anchor gives security to the passengers in the midst of external agitation.
3. An anchor enables the ship to endure so it can stay on course and reach its destination.
4. An anchor grasps something solid below that you cannot see (to endure the things that you can see).

Question: Who is our anchor?

Question: Who is the only one qualified to be trusted and leaned upon?

(V.19) “The one who has entered within the veil (Heaven) (Jesus)

Question: What encourages us to trust this anchor?

Answer: Two things to never forget in (V. 19)

#1. He is sure (and) #2. He is steadfast

- ◆ The word sure (means) “Cannot slip”
- ◆ The word steadfast (means) “Cannot break”

Conclusion

(What is the invitation and plea to us all?)

1. In (V. 18) the only one safe in the refuge city was the one who fled to that city.
 - ◆ So we who are guilty must flee (run) to the only One who can save us.
2. In (V. 19) as the anchor that holds is something outside of the ship,
 - ◆ So our anchor is Someone outside ourselves (Jesus) no self-reliance will do.

Altar Call

- ◆ So, if you are not saved and in need of forgiveness; run to the refuge today.
- ◆ If you are saved and need calm for a troubled heart; run to the One who will be the anchor to sustain you.

AMEN!
Bill Kirk