

# Anchored in Heaven

"No Turning Back" (Study of Hebrews) - part 8  
Pastor Bob Johnson, January 26th, 2020

## Five Foundations of Spiritual Maturity:

(see last week's outline)

## Abraham's Hope & God's Faithfulness:

(Hebrews 6:13-20)

## How To Have Hope When It is Hard:

### 1. Remember ...

(Romans 4:17, Luke 18:27)

### 2. Rely ...

(Romans 4:18, Hebrews 11:17)

### 3. Recognize ...

(Romans 4:19-20)

### 4. Rejoice ...

(Romans 4:20-21, Romans 12:12, Romans 5:2)

## Three Kinds of Deliverance:

- C ...
- P ...
- E ...

## This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our third week of this 12 week study of Hebrews 5-11. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in March.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

## Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning, we looked at the story of Abraham where God called him and his wife to pack up and move out to a new land. It was a journey of maturing faith for both of them.

Has God ever called you out of your "geographic comfort zone" to build your faith? Please share details :)

Abraham had to let go of a lot to make room for new experiences in the land of Canaan. Some transitions that God leads us through don't have as much to do with where we are, but what we are trying to hold onto.

Sometimes to move toward a new dream, an old dream needs to be let go of. How has a 'death of a dream' prompted you to redirect your passion and ambition to something else?

Toward the end of his message, Bob mentioned 3 kinds of deliverance: circumstantial (changes around us), personal (changes in us) and eternal (ultimate deliverance in heaven).

How have you seen God deliver you using circumstantial or personal changes?

As Christ followers we are encouraged to trust in God's promises including what the Bible says about heaven (no pain, no sorrow, no injustice etc.).

How can our confidence and awareness of heaven affect our perspective while we wait and at times endure here?  
(for further insight, read 1 Peter 1:3-9).

## Digging Deeper:

1. As we learn to trust and walk with God, we are not called to take 'blind leaps of faith'. Although Abraham was invited to trust God and leave his home without much to go on, most examples in the Bible are those who had opportunities to have past experiences to base their next step of trust on.

One example of a step of faith that wasn't such a blind leap was Peter climbing out of the boat and walking towards Jesus. (Matthew 14:22-33).

Read and reflect on the passages below and share the insights and experiences Peter had with Jesus before he was invited to become a water walker.

Luke 5:1-11

Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 8:14-16

Matthew 9:10-12

Matthew 14:13-21

Before you chose to become a Christ follower, can you think of any experiences, people, Biblical truths etc. that helped you take your 'step of faith' by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

As you continue to follow Jesus, what helps you continue to take the daily steps and 'leaps of faith' to follow him and do what He calls you to do?

2. Abraham believed God and struggled with some doubt at the same time. It can be difficult to understand how faith and doubt can co-exist. How does Mark 9:14-24 help us understand that we can have both doubt and faith?

Can you think of any explanations of what this man meant by his request to help him overcome his unbelief?

We all deal with doubt at times. Have you ever found yourself asking God to help you with your doubt or unbelief? If so, explain.

3. Our faith in God and what Jesus has done for us is credible and not a mere 'blind leap of faith'. But ... we all deal with some doubts from time to time. Understanding how to live with both faith and doubt is foundational to navigating all that life throws at us.

As we are on a journey to increased maturity (eventually), we can grow in our confidence to live boldly and securely as a Christ follower. One way we grow even as our faith grows, is growing with others and serving others.

How does James 2:14-26 reinforce that this confidence we have in Christ is not just an idea to hold onto, but also something to act on?

What would you say to someone who says, "I can't serve others or share with others what I know about God ... until I have all my questions answered and no longer have any doubts." ?

Is there anything small or large that God is calling you to take action on that you have been neglecting or need to pay better attention to?

## Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Before we wrap up are sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?