

## Strong Encouragement to Seize Hope

### Heb 6:13–20

<sup>13</sup> For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” <sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup> For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup> So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, <sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong (ISCHUROS) encouragement (PARAKLĒSIS) to hold fast (KRATEŌ – mighty, power, seize) to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

### Strong (ISCHUROS) encouragement (PARAKLĒSIS)

- comes from:
  - the guarantee that God has established by oath
    - Salvation does not depend in any way on human effort
    - But this strong encouragement is meant to harness all of our effort
      - To seize, take hold of and hold fast to this hope
  - The glorious fact that we have a better covenant established on better promises
    - A new priesthood
    - A new commandment
    - A new covenant
    - A new and living way
  - Our high priest – who was tempted in every respect just as we are
    - Who presents His own blood on our behalf as a complete sacrifice
      - Once and for all
      - That has destroyed the one who had the power of death – the devil
  - The Son who learned obedience through suffering – as do we
    - And who has now received those who are being saved as His inheritance
    - Who strongly calls us alongside (PARAKLĒSIS) to gain an inheritance along with Him
      - We can go where He has gone
      - We can walk as He has walked
      - We can obtain promises related to the work God has for us, as He has done

We are encouraged to **hold fast** to the hope set before us

- Actually the word translated 'hold fast' is *krateō*, which means mighty, power, seize
- This is not a passive approach to hope
- Is active and continual
- Comes boldly, freely and purposefully in to the presence of God
- Is done with all our strength
- Heb 6:11 speaks of us being earnest about having this hope
- The word translated 'earnest' is *SPOUDĒ* – primarily haste, zeal, diligence, earnest care, carefulness

### **Heb 7:18–28**

<sup>18</sup> For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness <sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

<sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, <sup>21</sup> but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

“The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
'You are a priest forever.' ”

<sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

<sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

### **Heb 2:14–18**

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

### **Heb 4:14–16**

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### Heb 10:19–24

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast (KATECHŌ) the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

katechō

**1** to hold back, detain, retain. 1a from going away. 1b to restrain, hinder (the course or progress of). 1b1 that which hinders, Antichrist from making his appearance. 1b2 to check a ship's headway i.e. to hold or head the ship. 1c to hold fast, keep secure, keep firm possession of. **2** to get possession of, take. 2b to possess.

The hope set before us:

- Is not worldly (Hoping that this or that will happen)
- Is purposefully focussed on what we already have in Christ
- Is purposefully focussed on what He calls us to do / be in this life
  - The are promises He want to give us and have us receive by faith and patience
- Is given substance by faith in God (Heb 11:1)
- Underpins our zeal to imitate those who by faith and patience obtained the promises

### Heb 6:9–12

<sup>9</sup> Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. <sup>10</sup> For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. <sup>11</sup> And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness (SPOUDĒ – primarily haste, zeal, diligence, hence means earnest care, carefulness) to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

### Heb 11:1–3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

### Heb 3:1–6

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup> who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Some questions to ask in helping to apply this:

1. Would the people I meet daily notice (and maybe even ask me about) this hope? Would they see it in my eyes, hear it in my speech, experience it in my behavior?
2. What will it take to step into this kind of hope-infused, hope-filled way of life?
3. What do hope-filled, encouraged people look like?

### 2 Co 4:7–5:10

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

#### **Our Heavenly Dwelling**

<sup>5</sup> For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

### **Ro 5:1–5**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### **2 Th 2:13–17**

<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort (paraklēsis – can also mean 'encourage') your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

## Some of my answers to the questions

Would the people I meet daily notice (and maybe even ask me about) this hope? Would they see it in my eyes, hear it in my speech, experience it in my behavior?

- Sometimes but not nearly enough

What will it take to step into this kind of hope-infused, hope-filled, way of life?

- Would need to hear the voice of God daily
  - This can't be superficial
  - Requires time in His presence
  - Requires time meditating on the Scriptures
  - Requires time meditating on Him
  - Requires time listening to His voice
- Would also need to learn to live in response to Him, His word, what we know we have in Him and what He has called us to
  - Live with our hearts filled with hope
  - Live by faith (the substance of things hoped for

What do hope-filled, encouraged people look like?

There is a lot of overlap in my answers...

1. Shows up in my whole life – in all my thinking and feeling, in all my attitudes and behaviour
2. Shows up, in my speech in every context
3. An integrated lifestyle – God in the whole of my life – no sacred / secular divide – no misplaced earthly / spiritual divide
4. God as reference point for the whole of life – my thinking, feeling and doing in life – my expectations in life
5. Resting in my dependence on God (not anxious or striving)
6. Determines how I experience life (this is not determined by circumstances)
7. A positive expectation based on His word (not on my will or wants but on His will)
8. A blessing to those I meet in everyday life
9. Continual inflow and outflow (Holy Spirit, teaching, what I receive in His presence)
10. Am often in God's presence – listening, praying, trusting
11. An immediacy in my relationship with God – hear His voice today – fellowship with Him today

12. Live the whole of life from what flows into my life and out of my life in that relationship with God – walk before Him and be blameless (Abraham)
13. Growing in maturity – able to teach others what I have been taught
14. Able to avoid unbelief
15. Mix what I hear with faith
16. Am obtaining my inheritance – imitating those who by faith and patience obtain promises
17. Have my eyes fixed on Jesus
18. Am not sluggish
19. Able, ready and active in encouraging my brothers and sisters (daily)
20. Striving to enter His rest without relying on my own works
21. Striving for holiness – see the face of God (Heb 12)
22. Strengthening weak knees and feeble arms (Heb 12)
23. Throwing off everything that hinders me from living this way, from running the race set before me
24. Able to endure
25. Receive His discipline as a son
26. Producing that which belongs to salvation
27. Walk / live by faith
28. Purposeful in the way I live life – have heard what He has called me to – have a vision of what He has promised – have a strong hope (and faith) in Him to fulfil those promises – a hope that leads to action