

HEBREWS 6:11-20

There are four things we can learn from our text: God has made promises, it takes faith and patience to inherit the promises, we are to follow those who inherited the promises and we are the heirs of promise.

1. God has made promises.
 - A. A promise made in the human realm is only as good as the character of the person we're dealing with. **PSALMS 15:4**
 - B. God has made many promises.
 - He swore by an oath to bless Abraham. **HEBREWS 6:13-14**
 - The promise of eternal life. **1 JOHN 2:25**
 - The promise of the Spirit. **ACTS 1:4**
 - The promise of Christ's return. **2 PETER 3:3-4, 9**
 - The promise for honoring parents. **EPHESIANS 6:1-3**
 - The precious promises of **2 PETER 1:4**.
 - C. God always keeps His promises.
 - **GENESIS 21:1 (NLT); JOSHUA 23:10, 1 KINGS 5:12, 8:20, 56.**
 - **TITUS 1:2, HEBREWS 10:23**
 - D. We have a book full of promises made by a God who cannot lie, and who has the power to keep every promise He has made. How are the promises God made inherited?
2. Faith and patience are necessary to inherit the promises.
 - A. **HEBREWS 6:12 (ESV)** "sluggish" slugs are slow. They're weighed down by algae growing in their hair. They're slow moving like the Israelites in **JOSHUA 18:3 (MESSAGE)**. Slothful means lazy, idle and apathetic. They had no motivation or initiative.
 - B. Faith and patience work together. It's not faith alone or patience alone.
 - Faith is based on what God promised or said. We must find out what God promised and believe in His character and integrity. **ROMANS 4:20-21**
 - Patience is the ability to tolerate delays without becoming annoyed or anxious. **HEBREWS 10:35-36** Satan will always try to get us out of faith. **LUKE 22:31-32** Patience is developed by properly responding when our faith is tried. **JAMES 1:2-4**
3. We are to imitate those who inherited the promises.
 - A. Abraham – 25 years, Noah – 50-80 years, Joseph – 17 years, David – 15 years, and Moses – 40 years.
 - B. God promised Simeon he wouldn't see death until he saw the Lord's Christ. **LUKE 2:25-31** – No one or nothing could take his life until the promise was fulfilled.
4. We are the heirs of promise. **HEBREWS 6:17**
 - A. We are legally entitled to inherit every new covenant promise. **GALATIANS 3:29**

CONCLUSION: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 (NIV)

Like Joseph God may give you a dream of becoming a doctor, lawyer, engineer, teacher... Between the dream and its fulfillment attempts will be made to annoy and discourage you. Be like Joseph and understand the process. Laugh in the pit, laugh in the prison and like Paul say "sirs, I believe God that it shall be even as it was spoken!"