

THE LIFE OF FAITH #4

MAY 21, 2023

INTRO:

The importance of faith can never be overemphasized. Without it, the Gospel benefits no one. It's like having a car without a battery or gas.

CONTINUE: HEB. 6:11-12

Faith has three supports – love, hope, and patience. Love energizes our faith; without hope, faith has nothing to give substance to; and it takes patience and faith working together to inherit God's promises. The writer explains faith's foundation.

The Foundation for Faith (HEB. 6:13-20)

To what lengths would God go to convince us He will fulfill His promises to us? How extravagant would His efforts be? Is there a limit to what He would do or say in order for us to be assured His promise cannot be broken? We use statements like:

- “Cross my heart and hope to die!”
- “I swear on my mother's grave!”
- “May lightning strike me now if I'm lying!”

Abraham wanted full assurance that what God promised He would perform. He wanted an ironclad guarantee that God could be counted on. **GEN. 15:8 AMP** “By what proof will I know that I will inherit it?”

The Oath (HEB. 6:13)

In a court of law, we are asked to swear to God that our testimony is true. God is the greater, we are the lesser, and by swearing to God, our oath is final confirmation that we can be trusted.

- God has a problem. What can He swear by? Nothing is greater than God!
- There's only one thing God can appeal to in taking an oath: Himself. This means to break a promise is to dishonor and despise His own Name. It's like perjury.
- **GEN. 15:18** God made a covenant with Abraham. He swore by an oath.
- **EX. 32:12-14** Moses intercedes on the strength of the covenant and God repents.

Two Unchangeable Things (HEB. 6:17-18)

First, God swore by an oath, or made promises to Abraham. Second, God can't lie. God never changes, what He promises, He performs (**NUM. 23:19**).

- We are the heirs of promise (**GAL. 3:29**).

Abraham's Faith (HEB. 11:17-19)

God made two statements that seemingly would be contradictive. Notice the challenge and conclusion. He was so confident God had to raise Isaac from the dead, He didn't hesitate to offer Him as a sacrifice (**GEN. 22:5, ROM. 4:20-21**).

- This is an example of perfect faith (**JAMES 2:21-22**).

Conclusion:

Faith is not a blind leap into darkness. It's acting on a promise of God knowing He can't lie because of His oath. To what length has He gone to convince us of His integrity? The answer is found in **HEB. 7:22**. The blood of Jesus stands as our ironclad guarantee.