

## Hebrews – teaching #6

### Hope The Anchor for Our Soul

#### Opening thoughts

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[Buck-Naked Faith: A Brutally Honest Look at Stunted Christianity.](#)

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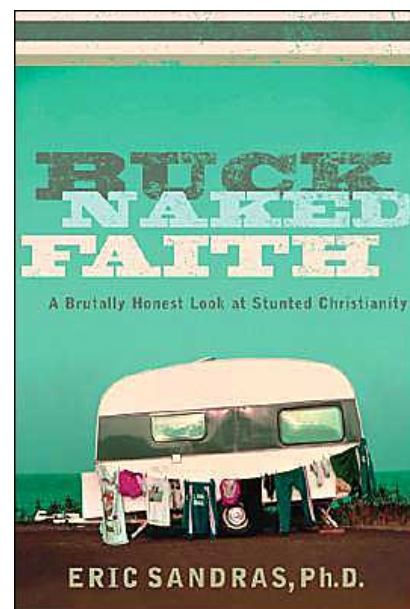
- Once in awhile God exposes us to ourselves and we have a chose to make – will we harden our hearts or will we cling to the life line God throws us.
- The journey begins with honesty.
- Duplicity will never lead to authenticity

#### The journey is just as important as the destination

- The condition of your soul will determine the depth and authenticity of your journey.

#### Soil conditions determine our relationship with God

- Hard path – hardened heart - (Brent's thinking on Hebrews 6)
- Rocky soil – spiritually thin or shallow – when trouble and problems come:
  - Hurts – offences – self worth – attitudes - that go unchecked
- Congested with weeds & thorns – cares of life or wealth - chokes out a chance for authenticity
- Good soil is broken soil – it occurs when we become aware of our condition and need for cultivation. – 30-60-100X's what was planted.



**Although Hebrews is a gravely serious book bit is one that leads us to victory.**

Hebrews 6

<sup>1</sup>Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, *[or from useless rituals]* and of

faith in God, <sup>2</sup>instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And God permitting, we will do so.

- Time move past the elementary issues of faith and to put the principles into action.
- Surface Christianity wants to deal with basic issues – not that they aren't important – not forget, but move beyond the basics.

<sup>4</sup>It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, <sup>6</sup>if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. <sup>7</sup>Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. <sup>8</sup>But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. (Parable of the sower issue)

❖ **Transition** - Now the book of Hebrews crests the hill of sternness and moves on to encouragement. We can make it!

<sup>9</sup>Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. <sup>10</sup>God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to **make your hope sure**. <sup>12</sup>We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

<sup>13</sup>When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." [Gen. 2:17] <sup>15</sup>And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

<sup>16</sup>Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup>Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup>God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

## Hebrews five key points of encouragement that we can make it

Vs. 18 ... we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

### 1. We need each other to make the journey.

Personal pronoun - "We" & "us" rather than "you" - We are all in this together – not an issue of

judging, blaming and being critical but helping each other.

- <sup>1</sup>Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...
- <sup>3</sup>And God permitting, we will do so.
- <sup>18b</sup> ...we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.
- <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
- 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

## 2. God has a purpose, he has made a promise and has sealed it with an oath - and he can't lie.

- <sup>17</sup>Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

## 3. We have been given the assurance that it can be done.

- We have been give examples of faithful people who believed in the promise and persevered.
- If others have done it and so can we. Chapter 11 is dedicated to this.
- <sup>13</sup>When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." [Gen. 2:17] <sup>15</sup>And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.
- <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. <sup>12</sup>We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

## 4. He has thrown us a life line of "hope" – it is the anchor that will hold us secure and firm and connect us to him forever. Without hope our lives will drift and end in shipwreck.

- <sup>18b</sup> ...we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. (This hope is anchored to Christ and is tied to eternity.)
- <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. (Hang on to that hope!)
- Without hope our lives will drift and end in shipwreck.

- Analogy - The story of “Hope” spinning through the clouds.

## 5. God is for us. Jesus is the High priest who came down to help us. If God is for us who can be against us.

- <sup>20</sup>... Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.
  - He has revealed himself to us – Nature, Scripture, Signs and wonders, fulfilled prophecy
  - He made provision for us.
  - He has made a place for us
  - He is interceding for us.
  - He has destroyed the enemy for us.
  - He so loved us that he died for us.

### Romans 8

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.