

# Through Faith and Patience

## Hebrews 6:12

Not an exhaustive study of this chapter, but something I really want to focus on. V12

Been reading Hebrews again. Really has stuck out.

Came up several times this week with different people, in different circumstances and brought up in different ways, in fun ways and not so fun ways.

*Friends sensing God has something for them right around the corner  
Working hard and making sacrifices to get out of debt because they knew it could hinder the promise **borrower is servant to the lender***

**Heb 6:12 KJV - That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

### Faith: pistis

- conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it
- relating to God
- the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ
- relating to Christ
- a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God
- the religious beliefs of Christians
- belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same
- fidelity, faithfulness
- the character of one who can be relied on

### Turn to Hebrews 11:1-16

#### Patience

patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance  
patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

#### Inherit

to receive a lot, receive by lot

esp. to receive a part of an inheritance, receive as an inheritance, obtain by right of inheritance  
 to be an heir, to inherit  
 to receive the portion assigned to one, receive an allotted portion, receive as one's own or as a possession  
 to become partaker of, to obtain

### **Promises**

announcement  
 promise  
 the act of promising, a promise given or to be given  
 a promised good or blessing

### **Followers**

an imitator

**1Co 11:1 KJV Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.**

**1Co 11:1 NKJV - Imitate me, just as I also [imitate] Christ.**

**When we say that we are Christians (little Christs...)  
 Or even if we're trendy and say we're Followers of Christ**

**Are we truly imitating him?  
 Are we truly imitating Paul?**

**Could our lives of faith at all be confused with Jesus', Paul's, Abraham's, Jeremiah's, Samuel's, David's, etc?**

It will always be our own life in Christ in the sense that God has a story of faith for you and I to walk out

**Phi 2:12 KJV - Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

**And we far too often rely on others' experiences to justify, rationalize or explain or own...when in fact, their experience, although seemingly the same on the surface, could be completely contrary when taken in light of the promises God gives and the faith that is required to get there.**

**In light of that...**

**Aren't promised things usually good?** No one would stick around for a promise of a bad thing

- Going on vacation

- Getting a raise
- Parent promising to do something with you as a child

God is a good Father...and we being evil know how to give good gifts...how much more him  
And his promises are usually for something that literally would take a miracle to happen

Perhaps that's why we don't have patience...because perhaps we don't believe it will happen

**Don't we want to have those promises come to pass in our life?**

**Who wouldn't want something good, amazing, astounding, eternally significant happen in their life?**

If it's a good thing, wouldn't the promise make you stick around through something not fun? I think we use promises for these reasons sometimes...sort of the dangling carrot

And I think God might use it in our lives this way...although I think that's the elementary reason. The fleshly reason to stick around just to get the promise.

I think the bigger reason is to actually see God work and know Him better through His sufferings. That the waiting, the patience required, will teach us something about Jesus and what He went through for us and when we get the promise we'll be happy we got it, but joyous and fulfilled that we know him in a way we never could have without the patience.

That in this fallen world, the only way to get to know the "deeper" things of God, is through a bit of "suffering" (and sometimes, honestly, is it really suffering, or is it just a bout of impatience we're having)

**Phi 3:7-11 NKJV - But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

I want to try and read the whole chapter and touch on a few points because I feel it helps put the verse into context and larger perspective as to why we should hang on to it.

## **Hebrews 6:1-3**

### **Let us go on to perfection**

We'll never be perfect in this life, but we can be sanctified over the course of it

**But why do we hang out in the elementary school of faith when it's about time that we have our masters degrees and even have started our own practices?**

**Heb 5:12 NKJV - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need [someone] to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.**

Ouch, Paul is saying, you've been around long enough to know it all by know well enough to be teaching others.

*Doctor who's not a doctor on House*

I love that these things he lists are "elementary" - I think some of these things entire denominations still struggle with yet they claim mastery of the faith

***the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.***

**Here's the hard part**

**:4-8**

**If someone tastes the goodness of God and still decides to fall away**

- Have they truly tasted?
- Did they have a real repentance?
- Were they shallow/rocky soil?

I think this passage can speak of someone who never really knew the Lord but just tasted or "tested"

But I think that this passage is warning us...that yes, we can decide to follow Jesus. We can't "lose" our salvation as if by accident, but we can certainly "choose" to not like it and turn our back on it

And if someone does that...says that they've known Jesus and then chosen not to, renounced their faith

It's because they've always chosen something/someone else

And I think...I'm no scholar...although I have seen far too many people do this in my life...

**That I think they tasted God sincerely...**when that time to inherit the promise came...they didn't stick around long enough to inherit it.

**When they tasted the bitter of sorrow**, of trial, of waiting or even just not getting what they want when they wanted it (like a temper tantrum baby). They stormed off. Decided to taste something else.

**That's when the enemy swooped in** and offered them a taste of his wares, his fruit...that tasted great in that moment of weakness...but the end thereof is death

**And when they've chosen that...it is impossible to repent again**

Because if you say the cross can't do it for you...nothing else can. There's nothing left to turn to, except the weak and beggarly elements.

And as Christians...I think...if we don't graduate from the elementary principles...we're in grave danger of falling short of the kingdom.

But that's a different message for a different time

## **:9-12**

### **Things that accompany salvation**

These "signs" will follow the believer. If you've truly accepted the Lord and seek to imitate him...you're going to start seeing things happen in your life that have no other explanation than him (even things before you came to know him you'll see in a different light)

And others might be the first to notice it

### **For God is not unjust to forget your labor of love**

I think sometimes we fall away, or at least fall short of inheriting the promise God has for us is because we grow weary

We've been serving God hard, loving others, suffering, but somehow in that time we've forgotten to let God gas us up...we've forgotten to abide in him or even if we have, we haven't rested

**Gal 6:9 NKJV - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

The enemy loves to get us busy...and one place we should never be busy is at the feet of the Lord

Mary v Martha

When we're sitting at his feet, resting - it's the first part of patience

I'm a type A - i can be impatient because I like to get things done. Wanting to get it done can be impatience in me. Not wanting to sit around but having to do something.

This can be good and bad.

Also, on the flip side I can be lazy and procrastinate because I don't want to do something...again because I'm impatient in how long it'll take to do when I just want to get to doing the thing I want to do. E.g. I want to watch TV right now, I'm impatient in how long (5 minutes) it'll take to put my mess away...

**And I think this plays out far too often in our lives of faith**

- **We grow weary because we forget that the road is supposed to be hard and narrow and lonely**
- **We grow weary because the road is hard and we haven't rested**
- **We grow weary because we look at the length of the road instead of the destination**
- **We grow weary because we forget to look back and see how far we've come**

**The importance Communion** - I think it can address all of these things and more

**The diligence of the full assurance of hope until the end**

It takes diligence to make it to the end

It requires hope to get there

If there's no hope at the end, why continue?

Suicide. The hope that the suffering can end now

**Don't become sluggish...**imitate others who walk out their faith and receive the promises

### **This isn't a name it and claim it message**

**But guess what...**if God has promised you something (don't think he has, there are 66 books chock full of promises to YOU) we need our lives to immitate those in the Bible.

You don't need a beard or sandals or some great army...you just need faith and patience.

**To simply believe and wait.**

**Because that's all it takes to inherit the promises of God.**

**Believing Him that's it's true and that he will give you the promise. That the promise isn't too good to be true.**

**Heb 11:6 NKJV - But without faith [it is] impossible to please [Him], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and [that] He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

And again, if we can't even believe the elementary stuff, the overarching stuff...it's harder to believe the personal, amazing stuff.

### **Jacob's birthday**

*10 days out, long time to him*

*What did he have to do to get the gifts?*

*Just wait! He could do anything he wanted for these past 10 days and today would still show up and he'd still get his presents*

Why? Because he's getting them by inheritance...he's my son, I love him, of course I'm going to give him gifts. I don't even have to promise because if i have to promise it might show there's something wrong

But you know what I did do? I kept reminding him it was his birthday, how excited I was to see him get his gifts and play with them and I can't wait to play with them with him. I can' wait to give him a hug and see his happiness.

And I think, somehow, me being evil, can see a glimpse of God and his promises to us

**That he promises us, not because He has to or is trying to make it up to us or is something wrong with him...but because there's something wrong with us:**

### **Unbelief**

**That I bet Abraham and Sarah if they really believed God was who He is...the maker of all. The one who owns all the cattle who made heaven and earth. That because they had a**

desire for a child...that they could have believed perhaps without even getting the promise

**Psa 37:4 NKJV - Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

Yet God does promise us things. Especially in a fallen world that is hard. Is lonely. Is tough. Is tempting.

That we can learn to trust him at his word.

**Psa 32:8-11 NKJV - I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse [or] like the mule, [Which] have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all [you] upright in heart!**

But that as we do trust him at his word...we start getting to a point that his word of course is trustable. We believe even the elementary and then even the seemingly fantastic!

We begin to see that the entire book is for all humanity collectively...but also you and I individually, personally.

And at that point, we don't always need a specific word or something...we begin to see His face, his eyes and that he's guiding us by them.

We already know what he's going to say. We already know what he's going to do. Because he's already done it. He's already said it all. He's already promised it all.

He is our Father who loves us totally, completely...and of course he's going to give us the desires of our hearts...far beyond even just our every day needs (lillies of the fields)

Because He is God. Nothing is impossible with him.

**And if we have the desire, and it's from him...it'll come to pass.**  
**IF we but go THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE**

And if somehow we don't get it...then we never needed it. But I tell you, he gives us these desires of our hearts because it helps us see him.



My kids...i see God in ways I never would have saw him before, especially because of how completely awful I was and the things I did were before him...that his gift to me of children, a desire of my heart, regularly reminds me of his grace and goodness.

That me, someone not deserving of children at all, in fact the opposite, would have four here on earth...

**I can't get over it. I can't contain it. I can't explain it. Other than Yes, Jesus. He is my God. My father. My King. My friend. The lover of MY soul.**

And you know, if I somehow don't get other things that I want in life...my deepest desires, dreams, hopes...and if I'm being patient and having faith in God for them...well then he'll take those desires away or I'll see that the desire is so great it can only be fulfilled on the other side of this life.

## **:13-20**

**Surely** there is no doubt. What God says he will do. But also, it's who God is. God is far beyond even perfect. There is no shadow or turning in him. We can trust his word because of his character.

He doesn't just do or promise or fulfill or perform miracles because he has to. These things are the very being of who He actually is.

### **FOR GOD IS LOVE. 1 John 4:8b**

Work, raise, tough times...I believe, but I also doubt a little bit...things can change, they like me but they don't love me like God...

**Holding on through faith and patience...it's a lot easier, a lot more restful, a lot less stressful, a lot more hopeful...**

**Why? Because God is love. And if God LOVES me...God being GOD to me...why do I worry? Why would I not hang on for the VERY best thing he has for me?**

**And the thing is just the beginning.**

Because every time I receive something amazing from God. I just want more of God. Yeah, the thing is good, but I don't want more of the thing, I want more of God.

I want to see what even bigger thing God is going to do that I might see him and know him more in it.

And on top of that, i get to wait and have patience and faith while I'm sitting around resting in the place God gave me by inheritance the last time he brought me through something.

(cattle on a thousand hills)

### **It is impossible for God to lie**

Everything in his word is truth. There is no way he can lie to you and me.

And I think our doubt is either that we don't believe what he said (somehow we think he's lying)

Or that we're lying to ourselves (God wouldn't say that to us or didn't)

Or that someone else lied to us

**Heb 6:19-20 NKJV - This [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the [Presence] behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, [even] Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

That this hope we have is in Jesus...it IS JESUS. He IS our hope.

And this hope enters the veil and is in heaven.

Like an anchor, tossed overboard goes beneath the surface, beneath what we can see and anchors to a solid ground at the bottom.

The same for Jesus. He's gone ahead like a grappling hook. We can't see beyond this life, behind the curtain, but we know he is there and he is strongly connected to us. By his blood. By his word. And by his love.

**Jhn 10:27-30 NKJV - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of My Father's hand. "I and [My] Father are one."**

That the promises God has for you are true. You have to seek him for yourself. I can't always say that what you want will come to pass or if it does it will even be in this life.

But that what he says to you is true. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

And that all you have to do to inherit heaven, his promises now and then...is to get them

**THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE.**