

6/7/24

Heb 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

John Owen Exposition of Hebrews v5 p65

“Respect may be had merely and solely unto the unknown sovereign will and pleasure of God, and so no more is intended but that general limitation and expression of our absolute dependence on him, which we ought to bound all our resolutions withal. This our nature, and the nature of all our affairs, as they are in the hand of God, and at his disposal, do require of us. And therefore also it is expressly enjoined us, as a duty to be continually minded in all we undertake or do, James 4:13–15. If this be intended (as it is also, if not only), then it is as if he had said, **‘If He in whose hand are my life, and breath, and all my ways, whose I am, whom I serve, and to whose disposal I willingly submit myself in all things, see good, and be pleased to continue my life, opportunity, his assistance, and all other things necessary to this work, I will proceed with my design and purpose to acquaint you with and instruct you in the great mysteries of the priesthood and sacrifice of Christ.’** See 1 Cor. 16:7.”

We all become dull of hearing sometimes. Even a little weary of the walk Jesus has us on. Where we need to revisit our solid foundation to be refreshed in those elementary things of our faith. That may sometimes mean a work is frustrated while sitting at the feet of Jesus choosing that better part for awhile until His Spirit prompts us to move ahead. I like John Owen’s “It’s as if he (Paul) said” commentary on Heb 6:3. It was a surprising thing to read that Owen’s sometimes used his sanctified imagination to make what Paul was saying real to us. Especially knowing the logic that Owen had a gifting in. For me, this was the encouragement I needed to keep on reading through these very thorough volumes.

6/12/24

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

There are times that I just have to say “I don’t know.” There are so many commentaries on this passage from theologians, teachers, and ministers that are much more anointed and skilled in the Word of God than I am who differ from one another.

Here is what I do know.

God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is sovereign. He holds the world in His hands. There is nothing that is out of His ultimate control. He called me by name before I was even born. He

fashioned me in my mothers womb and brought me out of the miry clay for His glory and names sake. He has never nor will He ever let me go. If I make my bed in hell, He is there. His hand is not short to save me nor keep me. No matter how far my heart may drift from Him, He is able to turn me back toward Him. It is all by His Spirit through the blood of Jesus that secures me to His very heart. It is my place to walk through this life with His life flowing out of me toward others. It is not my place to examine the evidence of another's spiritual life and peer on the outward actions to determine their state of salvation. God may show me something about someone's walk in order for me to pray with them or quietly for them, but the business of actually knowing another's heart...that is far beyond what He has called me to do. How many times have Christians fell and the Lord has restored them? Peter. And all the rest of the disciples at the moment of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

Is there a point that we go to far and God will not gather us back into His fold? Is there a point where He will say "But I never knew you"? Is there a day where He will not be found by those 5 empty lamp virgins? To believe what the whole written Word of God says, then the answer is "yes". But, that is not what He has called me to focus on. Here is what the next few verses say— Which I believe is the better Word of God. The Word that Jesus speaks over those who He loves and died for.

Heb 6:9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things— things that belong to salvation. 10 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. 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Humility is the attitude and Word for this hour of history. God alone holds the key to the book of life...I do not.

- David grieved and repented over cutting a small square out of Saul's cloak. Coining a phrase from Christianese "That, dear brothers, will preach".

6/17/24

Heb 6:7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers *is* rejected, and *is* nigh unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned.

Deuteronomy 32:2 "May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb".

Is 44:3 "For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."

Deu 11:10 For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, *is* not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst *it* with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: 11 But the land, whither ye go to possess it, *is* a land of hills and valleys, *and* drinketh water of the rain of heaven: 12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God *are* always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. 13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 That I will give *you* the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. 15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. 16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

Hos 6:1 *“Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; He has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.*

Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers [geshem], as the spring rains [malkosh] that water the earth.”

Jam 5:7-8 *“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”*

God brought Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees into a new land that would be called Israel. His former home was by the Euphrates. The river was the source of life and that is what people depended on and worshipped. God called Abraham to a dry and barren land (Think of where Lot went to settle and where Abraham went...Abraham left the decision to Lot, which by the providence of God, he chose the more lush region leaving Abraham the drier desert). The significance of this is Abraham out of necessity had to place his faith in the One who controlled the rain. When the Lord brings us into a wilderness or dry ground—there is something deeper than a well that we have to trust in. His love that says He will not allow us to die there. He will bring the later rain (all the provision we need) just as He brought the former that watered the seed that was planted in our heart at the moment of salvation. That He will bring to fruition that good work He started in us. He is the One that brings the harvest and is who we trust in to do so. There are no man made programs or strategies that will bring the later rain. This rain, this outpouring from God is one of humility and grace in the midst of the harder rains of adversity. I see in this generation a hunger for a real encounter with the Living God. The way He is responding to that heart cry is not in the whirlwind or the shaking of mountains or the heat of fire, but the gentle whisper of a Father pouring down His promise: I am with you even until the end of the age. I will never forsake you. I love you with an everlasting love. I am your later rain and the only provision you need. Some trust in horses some in chariots but you will trust in Me—in My Spirit to work all things in and through you for My glory. I am the Lord of the harvest.

1Kings 19:11b Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12** After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. **13** When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

6/20/24

Heb 6:7 “Thorns and briars”

John Owen Commentary of Hebrews v5 p139

“It is therefore an eminent act of faith, to give glory unto God in the exercise of his patience towards apostate, barren professors; and that which alone can, in these latter days of the world, give rest and peace unto our own souls.”

It grieves us when sin is exposed. When thorns and briars are found in others who have risen to prominent positions in Christendom. Especially those who held what we believe to be sincere fellowship with Jesus. We wonder why God would allow them to continue on in ministry, or bless an ordinary Christian who has all the evidence of “thorns and briars”. For those who strive to examine their heart just wanting to be pleasing to God, it doesn’t make much sense that He would tarry so long in judgement upon such evil in His own house...Until we look at the alabaster box and hear Jesus say: She loves much because she has been forgiven much. Who is to say which ones that are producing thorns right now will be bearing the fruit of the Spirit later? Only God knows who is meant for being thrown into the fire for eternity or meant for eternity with Him. We call sin, sin and call sinners to repentance but only God holds the storms of judgement. Are we plucking out thorns with a spiritual superior air about us or are we humbly on our knees at the throne of grace trusting in the blood of Jesus for our own righteousness? We are not the ones that should be calling down fire from heaven to destroy those who God very well may be working to restore and make into a greater testimony of His unending patience and grace. Our prayer for the fallen leaders today should be that of “Lord, expose their sin so they may be healed and forgiven. For You are a generous God and Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail against His church. Show Your glory in Your judgement.

Father, I ask that You give us the same Spirit that spoke through Paul here in these next verses of Hebrews

Heb 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

Heb 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Heb 6:11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

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

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=61Wm_qlVD4Q&pp=ygUeYnJvdGhlciBsZXQgbWUgYmUgeW91ciBzaGVsdGVy

6/26/24

John Owen commentary of Hebrews V5 p140

“This was that wherewith he satisfied and quieted the mind of Elijah, when, in a transport of zeal, he complains of the horrible apostasy of the church of Israel, making, as the apostle speaks, “intercession against them;” and he applieth it unto all other seasons of the church, Rom. 11:2–5. And we are taught in that example, that when the patience of God towards a highly provoking people seems to interfere with his threatening and the ordinary course of his providence, we should believe that there are yet among them many whose hearts are sincere for God, though for many reasons they are unknown to us. And this should stir us up unto continual prayers for the whole world. When the long-suffering of God is abused by the most, and turned into an increase of their security, yet he hath a blessed end in it towards his own among them, 2 Pet. 3:3, 4, 9.”

6/28/24

Heb 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

John Owen commentary of Hebrews v5 p147

“Unless a man have some good satisfaction concerning the spiritual condition of those that are committed unto his charge, he can never approve himself among them “a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” to give unto all their proportion. And the work of the ministry is not by any means more evacuated and rendered ineffectual, than when men have not a certain design to deal with their hearers according unto what they are persuaded that their spiritual state doth require. How shall they instruct, how shall they warn, how shall they comfort any, but on a supposition of an acquaintance with the state and condition wherein they are?”

In our humanity, outward evidences are the only things we have to make judgement calls on where another is at spiritually. The question that I have to ask myself is “how am I holding what I believe to be true about another based on outward fruit?” Our perceptions can be far off what is true. We can come to some wild conclusions about another simply because of knowing only part of the story. What is the standard, or list, used in deciding where another lands on the spectrum of spiritual health? Sometimes I can take what I think I know and sit in harsh unrighteous judgment against another instead of praying for them and as Heb 13:7 says “consider the end of their conversation”.

Paul's warning in the previous chapter of Hebrews was not a judgement on all those he was speaking to. I believe in order not to discourage those who were possibly struggling but loving God, he uses the encouraging word "persuaded" in v9.

Just like when our children take an academic test and there are areas that come in with a low score—we encourage them to work on those areas telling them we are persuaded they can increase their score.

If the tests of life are not given, then we would not know those areas the Lord wants to do a changing work. We would not see where we need to surrender or trust in Him to do only what He can do. He may use others to show us those places where the fruit is not quite up to His quality. Sometimes others can come with condemnation or a harsh judgement toward us. It is up to us to take that to Jesus and ask if there is any truth in it...allowing Him to be the Judge. Examining our own heart in every accusation. Then, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring us to repentance..change us..or comfort our hearts in the presence of an evil report.

7/8/24

Heb 6:11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

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

1Co 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

There is one thing that strengthens faith, hope, and destroys dull hearing (sloth)—knowing that God truly loves us and that love is reciprocated back to Him from us.

If human love between a man and wife can strengthen their faith and hope of a future together, then how much more the love of God who is love will do the same thing, and even more? We can trust in the mailman to deliver our mail because they have been faithful to do that every day. But our faith and hope to get the mail is not based upon knowing the mailman loves and cares for us. It is merely their job. Sometimes we can hold faith and hope that God will do all He said He will do because He is sovereign, righteous, Justice, holy, omniscient, merciful and gracious...which is all true, but truly knowing the love He has for me, that He truly cares, is the firm foundation of the faith and hope I have that He will cause every promise He has made to those who love Him to come to pass. Faith in Him working all things together for my good and hope of a future secure in Him in this life and on the other side of eternity. That He will keep me faithful through every trial.

This love of God is also what casts away dullness of hearing, or sloth. When we know God loves us with a neverending love, we want to hear what He says and do what He asks. We desire to just be with Him, dwelling daily in His presence. The whole world and all of it's stuff and stress can go passing by without a care if the focus is on Jesus loving me and me Him. That no matter what position He has placed me in, or what circumstances I find myself, He knows what He is

doing...and it ultimately is for my good because He loves me. Sloth happens for different reasons including being weary of the trials, temptations, hope being deferred, and having our focus on desires (even if those desires are good). The breakthrough we want to see happen in our personal life, family, friends, town, nation, world can become our focus. Where that is the only thing on our mind and heart when we talk with God...our mission is so encompassing that we do not leave room to listen and know He is God...to commune with Him in the secret place and know He loves us. The love who is God changes everything. Striving ceases as faith and hope arises out of that security and overflows into a desire to please Him more and more. Where our ears are quicker to listen, our eyes focus sharper on what He wants us to see, our mouth more often sings His praise than being focused on trading punches with the enemy. There is a safety and security in the love of God where the heart cries out "You, oh Lord, are my victory. You alone have the power to push back and protect me from every fiery dart of the enemy. Keep my eyes on You, my praise toward You, my ears bent toward You, and my heart stayed on You. Keep me in the crevasse of the rock, and under Your wings of protection. In the name and by the blood of Jesus thank you for caring for me, and loving me even while walking through this training ground on this earth, on this side of eternity. Amen"

7/12/24

Heb 6:13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

Heb 6:14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

Heb 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Heb 6:16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife.

Heb 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

John Owens commentary of Hebrews v5 p240 Owen talks about how he disagrees with those who interpret the promise that Abraham received as the birth of Isaac. I think that Isaac's birth could be a part of that promise but not the total of it. Abraham in his lifetime did not live to see the completion of the promise of his seed becoming a multitude, nor did he see with his own eyes the Messiah being born of his genealogy. But Abraham took these promises by faith, and God did prosper him in his lifetime...like a small deposit of what He was going to do later. The patriarchs

took God's promises by faith, and that is how they received the promise in their day. That is how they were justified and made holy, righteous, and sanctified...because they believed God's promise of a Messiah. God credited that as them actually obtaining or receiving the Promise as if they had lived to see the promise fulfilled.

God did not need to make an oath. That was for Abraham's sake, and ours. He made that oath to show us the immutability of His councils. Which means, God made the New Covenant—the promise of redemption—before the foundation of the world. Before there was such a thing as time and space, He made a promise, and took an oath within Himself. Within the inner council of His being where The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit made a sacred oath that the Promise would be fulfilled in the fullness of time. It is to this same oath that we cling to for Him to continue to fulfill all the promises He has made that have not yet come to pass about Jesus our High Priest, Prophet, Provider, Protector and King, and all of the promises made by God about all those who are and will be joint heirs with Him. Some of those promises we can review as Abraham did and see a small deposit of things to come as we are believing and waiting in patience for the actual fulfillment of those things not yet seen.

7/16/24

There are times I doubt my sanity in keeping on reading all of John Owen's Exposition of Hebrews, but then I run into things like this that make my heart sing and praise God for every single confirmation He gives me of who I have known Him to be through these 30 years walking with Him. I wonder what Mr. Owen will say when I get the chance to tell him that I read his work as a devotional that brought me closer to the heart of God? Can theology really do that? I think it can.

John Owen Exposition of Hebrews v5 p267.

“Man is now fallen into a condition of sin and misery. And herein is he filled with so many fears, discouragements, and despondencies, that it is the difficultest thing in the world to raise him unto any hopes of mercy or favour from God. In this lost, forlorn estate, divine goodness, by an infinite condescension, accommodates itself unto our weakness and our distress. He doth not, therefore, only propose his mind and will unto us as unto grace and glory, but useth all ways possible to ingenerate in us a confidence of his willingness to bring us unto a participation of them. He doth every thing that may direct and encourage us to take a steadfast view of the excellency and immutability of his counsel in this matter. Hence a great part of the Scripture, the revelation of God's will, is taken up in promises, exhortations, invitations, discourses and expressions of love, kindness, and compassion. And in particular, although the promise itself was an abundant security for faith to rest upon, as to the immutability of God's counsel, yet, to obviate all pretences and cast out all excuses, he confirms it with his oath. And although he did this in particular and expressly unto Abraham, yet he takes all believers, who are his seed, into a participation of the same privilege with him, and manifests how that in swearing unto him he sware also unto them all.”

7/22/24

[Heb 6:17](#) 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,

[Heb 6:18](#) so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

[Heb 6:19](#) We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

[Heb 6:20](#) where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

God made this promise and took the oath of the New Covenant not to prove Himself to Himself, but to reveal who He is—what He is like—to those who have fled to Him for refuge by placing their hope in His great love for them. That while they were yet sinners, Jesus died for them. That God loved them (the world) in this way: He sent His only begotten Son to die for them.

Jesus, ascended into heaven (into the inner place beyond the curtain...which I see as the place where Spirit meets physical...God meets Man and Man meets God) as has become our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. The hope we hold steadfast is even though we do not see Jesus physically with our own eyes sitting (or standing as Stephen saw Him in the Spirit), we cannot put our hands in His scarred side, or see the nail marks in His hands and feet—We have been given the ability to believe for His names sake because it is God's will to become known in this way. His immutable council says it is so. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow...never changing through or in all eternity. That is our hope: We can know this Great Love personally and have apart in His life.

Jesus prayed it would be so to His Father, and that is the hope we cling to..

John 17:20“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. **26And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**”

1 Co 13:13 There now remains faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Could the next great revival in these end times be the fulfillment of this prayer that Jesus prayed?

7/23/24

[Heb 6:19](#) We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

[Heb 6:20](#) where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have of God? And you are not your own,

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

Rom 8:10 And if Christ is in you, indeed the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of the One who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised up Christ from the dead shall also make your mortal bodies alive by His Spirit who dwells in you.

When Jesus died the curtain between the holy place and most holy place was torn from top to bottom. This meant that what was accomplished was what I once heard as an “Open Heaven”. Jesus ascended into heaven and is now fulfilling His mission of being our High Priest. What does all of that mean though?

Because Jesus went to be with His (our) Father, He sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who have given their lives to Him. I see this as another type of entering beyond the veil or curtain. An unseen with the human eye supernatural reality of “God with us”. The Holy Spirit enters beyond the veil of our outward body, our outward pretences, posturing, of who we think we are or want to be...and goes straight to our heart. The place where Jeremiah (17:9) says “is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” This means we do not know our own heart. It accuses us, or flatters us. It agrees with the enemy’s accusations or flatteries. It sets up idols to hide or mask the wounds it carries. Our heart is the thing that Jesus is after. The reason Jesus died was so that the Holy Spirit could come dwell in these jars of clay and make a new heart within us. That process is long. Our whole lifetime.

(Which I was thinking about how long our lifetime is. Maybe what...an average of around 80-90 years? Then if a Christian has only been walking with Jesus, say, 30-40 years of that—Well, time seems shorter that way. Then the miracle of God changing, or creating newness, in the areas that He has taken on a perspective of being truly miraculous. Especially given that not one of us can actually know our own heart and what ails it...but the Holy Spirit does. He leads us into all truth. Especially the truth about ourselves). But He does not only dwell in us to change us. I believe the main thing He is after is to show us, prove to us, how vast and high and deep is His love for us.

Ro 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because *God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*, who has been given to us.

It is this love, this care, that creates that new creation in us. When our hearts are changed, healed, made new in any area...when we surrender those places to Him and ask Him to change, heal, restore, make new, then He does and will. Sometimes as quick as lightening, sometimes as slow as molasses in January. But hindsight is the actual proof...has He changed me over the last 5-10-20-30 years of walking with Him? Do those changes seem supernatural—like “There’s no way I did that...It has to be the Holy Spirit!” If we can say that, then we are walking in the Spirit of God.

Another thing I was thinking today. How many (and I know this has been quite a process for me as well) pray to Jesus or The Father as someone who is *outside the veil*? Meaning do we pray as if He is only up in heaven looking down on us (which He is because He is omnipresent-everywhere at all times) but do we ever pray with the perspective that He *dwells* in our heart...truly. I am not talking about some strange new age practice, but just talking with Him as if He were right there living inside because He is. The most important thing Jesus secured for us is the ability to have communion with God. We cannot do that without the Holy Spirit. Whether we recognize or feel His presence or not, He is there waiting for us to commune with God through Jesus.