

Soul Anchor **Hebrews 6:13-20**

The writer realizes that his friends need a role model to imitate, in the trouble they face. The example he picks is Abraham. Why?

Faith under Fire

The writer quotes from Genesis – but not the first time God makes a promise to Abraham. He picks the episode when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac in Genesis 22. He picks this moment for a reason: it is the time when Abraham's faith itself was most under fire, when all he thought and knew about God was being challenged, when God seemed to make no sense.

For the writer's friends, and for us, there are times when God and what he is allowing to happen to us, does not seem to make sense, and it looks as if all the plans and promises of God are turning to dust.

But in such a moment, Abraham did trust God – and found him to be absolutely trustworthy. And God used this moment to restate –with an oath – his promise to Abraham.

Yet, even knowing God is trustworthy, we still struggle with waiting for God to intervene and sort things on our behalf.

The Problem of Patience

The writer wants his friends to imitate 'those who through faith *and patience* inherit the promises.' Abraham certainly knew what it was to have to wait. But often, when we have to wait, we are anything but patient. We are great in activity, but terrible at waiting. Why is that? In part it comes down to what you are looking for.

The Search for Security

We want things sorted and nailed down because we want inner security. We can look for that either by us wanting to be in control, or looking to things outside ourselves to give us security, like relationships, money, or community. When those things we get our security from are threatened we feel unstable and at risk and want them sorted.

There is nothing wrong with that need for inner security. The problem is, where we look for it. The writer says, that ultimate security, *the* place of refuge, comes from the Lord.

Soul Anchor

The picture the writer uses is of a ship's anchor. We need an anchor for our souls because storms come. If we seek our security other than in God, when storms come our anchor can slip. We can trust God because, unlike Abraham, he did sacrifice his son for us, because he loves us. And if he loves us that much, we can trust him that he is working everything (even our times of trial and storm) for our good.