

## Assurance of Hope

Hebrews 6:9-12

### Context & Introduction:

Better Things - Hebrews 6:9-12

**Orthodoxy & Orthopraxy** - Knowing the right things is a great start but living out our faith according to the direction of the Holy Spirit is also an important element of the Christian life. The author is not trying to shake the faith of a firm believer; rather, verses 9-12 are written to instill confidence in true faith.

Our author characterizes "*things that belong to salvation*". Consider three things.

The Inner Life - The inner life is directed by and can be dominated by certain voices. (John 10:25-28)

The Outer Life - First, personal purity, Second, truthful relationships, Third, a spirit to forgive and reconcile, finally, generosity.

**Summary:** How I view the outer life will reveal a great deal about my inner life. Perhaps the most revealing thing will be the nature of my 'grace and graciousness' as it is applied to others.

Personal Lifestyle - Matthew 25:37-40 - Others should matter in terms of our lifestyle.

Personal Discipline - The enemy of perseverance is sloth, sluggishness, being lazy. (1 Corinthians 9:27; Philippians 3:12-14)

**Precept:** Those who work at their faith, who are fully engaged in their spiritual journey, help themselves and make their hope sure. (1 Corinthians 15:10)

"Imitators" - I imitate Abraham's faith by holding on to hope in the promises of God and patiently waiting for his divine fulfillment of those promises.

**Summary:** The challenge here is two sided; resist sluggishness and remain self-disciplined; imitate the patience of faith, wait upon God and resist trying to make things happen.

**Conclusion:** The author has his expectations in check, he has not given up on them, he simply challenges them that they can do better; and he 'increases his commitment' to the way of Jesus and to walking with them.

A healthy inner life naturally leads to an outer life that points to God and a lifestyle that aligns us with honoring God. Everything begins with our inner life and that reflects who and what we listen to. (Hebrews 3:14-15; 1 Peter 1:5-11)

Faith is at the core of fellowship with God and gives us an eternal perspective. That perspective, that point of view, provides the impulse to be patient, to endure suffering and anticipate the victory of God which the author explores later in Hebrews 11.