

Bible Study



**Hebrews:
Confidence in God's Promises**

Why Hebrews, Why Now

Some books of the Bible comfort us. Others confront us. Hebrews does both. It speaks to believers who love God, know His Word, and yet feel the quiet tension between what they believe and what they are living through. It was written to people who were tired, pressured, and tempted to pull back rather than press forward. In other words, it was written for us.

Hebrews was originally addressed to Jewish believers who had come to faith in Jesus but were now facing hardship, persecution, and uncertainty. Following Christ was no longer safe or familiar. Old religious systems felt easier. Former patterns felt comforting. The pull to return to what was known was strong. Hebrews steps into that tension with clarity and conviction and asks an honest question: If Jesus truly is who He says He is, how can we turn back?

This book does not offer shallow reassurance or quick fixes. Instead, it anchors confidence where it belongs, in the character of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ. Hebrews reminds us that God's promises are not fragile. They are not dependent on our emotions, circumstances, or performance. They are secured by who God is and what Christ has already done.

Throughout this study, we will see Jesus revealed as greater than every system, every messenger, and every substitute we are tempted to lean on. We will be invited to move from drifting faith to anchored hope, from fear-based obedience to confident trust. Hebrews does not shame struggling believers. It strengthens them. It calls us to grow up, to hold fast, and to live with confidence even when the road feels uncertain.

As we walk through Hebrews: Confidence in God's Promises, our goal is not merely to gain information, but to develop resilience. This is a study for believers who want a faith that lasts. A faith that stands firm under pressure. A faith that trusts God not only when life is clear, but when it is confusing, delayed, or difficult.

God has made promises, and Hebrews reminds us of this unshakable truth: He always keeps them.





Lesson 1: A Better Word – Why Jesus Is Greater

Hebrews opens with a sweeping statement that stretches across all of redemptive history. God has always been a speaking God. From creation, to the prophets, to the covenants, He has consistently revealed Himself to humanity. Yet those revelations came in portions, moments, and shadows of what was still to come. They were true, but incomplete. Hebrews makes it unmistakably clear that Jesus is not one more voice in a long line of messengers. He is the culmination of everything God has been saying since the beginning.

This matters because confidence in God's promises depends on the reliability of His communication. If God's message were fragmented or evolving, faith would feel unstable. But Hebrews tells us that in Jesus, God's message reached its fullness. There is no new revelation coming that will replace or surpass Christ. Jesus is not an update. He is the final Word. When believers feel uncertain, confused, or overwhelmed, Hebrews calls us back to this grounding truth: God has already spoken clearly, and He did so through His Son.

Hebrews describes Jesus as the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of His nature. This is not poetic exaggeration. It is theological precision. Jesus does not resemble God. He reveals God fully. Everything God is in character, authority, holiness, mercy, and power is embodied in Christ. To know Jesus is to know the Father. There is no version of God behind Jesus that we have not yet seen.

John's Gospel reinforces this truth by declaring that the Word existed from the beginning, was with God, and was God. When the Word became flesh, God stepped into human experience without diminishing His divine nature. This truth is foundational to confidence. If Jesus truly reveals God, then God's promises are not abstract ideas. They are personal, relational, and trustworthy. Confidence grows when faith is anchored in who God actually is, not who we imagine Him to be.

Hebrews moves quickly from who Jesus is to what Jesus has done. He is not only the Creator and heir of all things. He is the sustainer of all things. Every breath, every moment, and every unfolding detail of history is upheld by His word. This removes the illusion that life is held together by human effort or spiritual performance. Christ is actively sustaining creation, even when circumstances feel unstable.

Most importantly, Hebrews declares that Jesus made purification for sins and then sat down at the right hand of God. This seated position matters. In the Old Testament system, priests never sat down because their work was never finished. Sacrifice followed sacrifice. Jesus sat because His work was complete. Confidence in God's promises is impossible if we believe forgiveness is partial or conditional. Hebrews establishes early that salvation is finished, secure, and sufficient.

Confidence in God's promises does not come from stronger emotions, better circumstances, or deeper self-discipline. It comes from clarity about who Jesus is and trust in what He has already accomplished. Hebrews begins by anchoring believers firmly in Christ so that when challenges come, and they will, faith has somewhere solid to stand.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 1:1-4
- Hebrews 2:1-4
- John 1:1-14

Reflection Questions

Where might you be tempted to rely on familiarity, routine, or past faith experiences instead of actively anchoring yourself in who Jesus is today?

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In what ways might you be unintentionally treating Jesus as part of your faith rather than the central source of your confidence?

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How might your daily decisions, priorities, or reactions change if you truly lived as though Jesus is not only sufficient for salvation, but sufficient for every aspect of life right now?

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Lesson 2: Don't Drift – Holding Fast to God's Promises

Spiritual drifting rarely begins with rebellion. Hebrews makes this clear by warning believers about hardened hearts that develop quietly over time. The writer points back to Israel's wilderness experience, not as ancient history, but as a living example of what happens when God's people hear His voice yet slowly stop trusting Him. Their failure was not ignorance. It was unbelief that showed itself through hesitation, resistance, and ultimately disobedience. Hebrews presses the uncomfortable truth that exposure to God's Word does not automatically produce confidence. Trust must be continually chosen.

The heart, according to Hebrews, is the battleground of belief. A hardened heart does not form overnight. It develops when fear outweighs trust and familiarity replaces reverence. The Israelites saw God's miracles, yet still doubted His intentions. Hebrews warns believers that the same pattern can occur when faith becomes routine rather than relational. Confidence in God's promises erodes when the heart quietly decides that God may not come through this time.

Hebrews introduces the concept of rest as a promise still available to God's people. This rest is not inactivity or escape from responsibility. It is a settled confidence that God is faithful and sufficient. Israel failed to enter that rest because they trusted their perceptions more than God's promises. Hebrews challenges believers to examine whether their striving comes from obedience or from unbelief disguised as effort. Rest is entered through faith, not performance.

The urgency in Hebrews is striking. The word "today" is repeated to emphasize that trust is always a present-tense decision. Confidence cannot be postponed until circumstances improve. Delayed trust often becomes hardened unbelief. Hebrews urges believers to encourage one another daily because isolation strengthens doubt while community reinforces faith. Confidence grows best in shared truth, not silent struggle.

This lesson confronts a sobering reality. Drifting does not mean abandoning faith outright. It means slowly loosening our grip on God's promises while still maintaining religious appearance. Hebrews calls believers to vigilance, not panic. God's promise of rest still stands, but it must be responded to with trust. Holding fast is not about gripping harder in fear, but about choosing belief when uncertainty whispers louder than truth.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 3:7-14
- Hebrews 4:1-11
- Psalm 95:7-11

Reflection Questions

In what ways might unbelief show up subtly in your life without you labeling it as doubt?

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What does God's promised "rest" look like in your current season, and what might be preventing you from entering it fully?

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Who has God placed in your life to help you remain encouraged and anchored in faith rather than drifting quietly?

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Lesson 3: Jesus Our Great High Priest – Confidence to Draw Near

Hebrews now shifts from declaring who Jesus is to explaining how His role as High Priest transforms the believer's relationship with God. In the Old Testament system, the high priest represented the people before God, entering the Most Holy Place once a year with sacrifice and fear. Access was limited, guarded, and fragile. Hebrews announces a radical change. Believers now have a Great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, not temporarily, but permanently. This truth reframes confidence. Access to God is no longer rare or restricted. It is continual and secure because Jesus Himself stands as our representative.

The writer emphasizes that Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. This is not a shallow empathy or distant compassion. Jesus experienced the full weight of human limitation, temptation, grief, and suffering, yet without sin. Hebrews is careful here. Jesus does not excuse sin, but He understands weakness. That distinction matters. Many believers hesitate to approach God honestly because they fear disappointment or judgment. Hebrews dismantles that fear by reminding us that Jesus knows exactly what it means to be human and intercedes from a place of understanding rather than condemnation.

Because of who Jesus is and what He has endured, Hebrews invites believers to draw near with boldness. This boldness is not arrogance or entitlement. It is confidence rooted in grace. The throne believers approach is no longer defined by judgment, but by mercy and help. Hebrews assures us that grace is not abstract. It is timely. God provides help precisely when it is needed. Confidence grows when believers stop approaching God defensively and begin approaching Him relationally.

Hebrews then pulls back the curtain on Jesus' own suffering during His earthly life. Jesus offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears. This is not weakness. It is obedience shaped through suffering. Hebrews teaches that Jesus learned obedience not because He lacked it, but because obedience is proven through endurance. This challenges a shallow view of faith that equates obedience with ease. Confidence in God's promises does not eliminate hardship. It anchors us within it.

Isaiah's prophecy reinforces this truth by revealing a Messiah who bore sorrow, pain, and affliction for the sake of healing and restoration. Jesus' role as High Priest is not theoretical. It is costly and personal. Because He bore suffering, believers can trust Him with theirs. Confidence is not built on avoidance of pain, but on knowing that suffering does not disqualify us from God's presence. Through Jesus, it becomes a place where grace meets us most clearly.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Hebrews 5:7-10
- Isaiah 53:3-5

Reflection Questions

What emotions or assumptions tend to hold you back from approaching God honestly when you are struggling?

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How does knowing that Jesus understands human weakness change the way you view prayer and confession?

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In what current area of your life do you need to trust that God's grace will meet you at the right moment rather than waiting until you feel more "worthy"?

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Lesson 4: Growing Up in Faith – Moving from Milk to Maturity

Hebrews delivers one of its most direct and sobering assessments in this section. The writer pauses the theological argument not because it is unclear, but because the readers are not ready to receive it. They have become dull of hearing, not intellectually, but spiritually. This dullness is not caused by lack of information. It comes from prolonged inattention and complacency. Hebrews exposes a difficult truth. Time alone does not produce maturity. Growth requires engagement, practice, and willingness to be shaped.

The distinction between milk and solid food is not meant to shame believers, but to awaken them. Milk represents foundational truths that are essential but introductory. Solid food requires discernment, application, and spiritual effort. Hebrews explains that maturity comes from training the senses to distinguish good from evil. This discernment is not instinctive. It is developed through consistent obedience and lived faith. Confidence in God's promises deepens when believers move beyond knowing truth to applying it under pressure.

Hebrews then urges believers to move forward, not backward. The call to leave elementary teachings does not mean abandoning core doctrines. It means building upon them. Repentance, faith, instruction, and resurrection hope are foundations, not destinations. Hebrews presses believers toward perseverance, reminding them that spiritual stagnation often disguises itself as caution. Growth always involves risk, trust, and forward movement.

This passage also reassures believers of God's justice and faithfulness. Hebrews affirms that God does not forget the work and love shown in service to others. Maturity is not measured by perfection, but by persistence. The call is not to flawless faith, but to enduring faith. Confidence grows when believers understand that God honors steady faithfulness even when progress feels slow.

Paul echoes this message in his letter to the Corinthians, confronting believers who remained spiritually immature despite their length of time in the faith. Spiritual infancy limits capacity. It creates division, insecurity, and dependency. Hebrews and Paul together emphasize that maturity is not optional for believers who want to live confidently. Growing up in faith allows believers to stand firm, discern wisely, and trust deeply when challenges arise.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 5:11-14
- Hebrews 6:1-12
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Reflection Questions

In what areas of your faith might familiarity be preventing further growth or deeper trust?

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How do you typically respond when God invites you beyond comfort into greater obedience?

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What practical steps could help you move from spiritual knowledge to lived discernment in this season?

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Lesson 5: Anchored Hope – God’s Promise Cannot Fail

Hebrews now turns our attention directly to the nature of God’s promises, not as abstract encouragement, but as unshakable reality. The writer points back to God’s promise to Abraham, reminding readers that when God made that promise, He swore by Himself because there was no one greater to swear by. This detail is crucial. God’s promises are not guaranteed by circumstances, human faithfulness, or outcomes we can measure. They are guaranteed by God’s own character. Confidence begins when believers understand that God’s promises rest on who He is, not on what we do.

Waiting exposes what we truly believe about God. Abraham did not receive the promise quickly, yet he obtained it through patience. Hebrews is careful not to romanticize waiting. Delay does not mean denial, but it does test trust. God’s promise to Abraham was never in question. The timing was. Hebrews teaches that confidence is formed not when promises are fulfilled, but while they are still unfolding. Waiting becomes the classroom where faith is strengthened and hope is refined.

The writer then introduces a powerful image. Hope is described as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. An anchor does not prevent storms. It prevents drifting. This distinction matters. Biblical hope is not optimism that circumstances will improve. It is stability when they do not. The anchor holds because it is secured beyond what we can see, in the presence of God Himself. Confidence grows when believers stop anchoring their hope to outcomes and instead anchor it to God’s faithfulness.

Hebrews reinforces this truth by calling believers to hold fast to their confession without wavering. This is not a call to stubborn positivity or denial of hardship. It is a call to consistency. Faith that wavers with every circumstance is exhausting. Confidence develops when believers repeatedly choose to trust God’s promises even when emotions fluctuate. God’s faithfulness does not rise and fall with our confidence. It remains constant.

The cross-reference from Numbers brings clarity and finality to this lesson. God does not lie. He does not speak carelessly or promise impulsively. When God declares something, it carries the full weight of His nature. Hebrews invites believers to rest their hope here, not because life is predictable, but because God is dependable. Anchored hope does not eliminate uncertainty. It eliminates fear’s control over it.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 6:13-20
- Hebrews 10:23
- Numbers 23:19

Reflection Questions

What promises of God do you find hardest to trust when waiting feels long or unclear?

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Where might you be anchoring your hope to outcomes instead of God's character?

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How would your daily responses change if you truly believed God's promises cannot fail, even when fulfillment is delayed?

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Lesson 6: Faith That Endures – Trusting God When the Promise Is Unseen

Hebrews begins this section by calling believers to action based on what Christ has already secured. Because Jesus has opened the way into God's presence, believers are urged to draw near, hold fast, and encourage one another. Faith is not presented as passive belief, but as an active posture of trust lived out in community. Confidence in God's promises is sustained not only through personal conviction, but through shared encouragement. Hebrews makes it clear that isolation weakens faith, while consistent encouragement strengthens endurance.

The writer then offers one of Scripture's most well-known descriptions of faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. This definition does not romanticize faith. It grounds it. Faith is not pretending certainty where none exists. It is choosing trust when visibility is limited. Hebrews reframes faith as forward movement based on God's character rather than present evidence. Confidence grows when believers accept that faith often operates before understanding arrives.

Hebrews 11 walks through the lives of men and women who trusted God without receiving the fullness of what was promised during their lifetime. This is critical. Faith is not validated by immediate fulfillment. Many lived faithfully, obeyed courageously, and died still believing. Their confidence was not misplaced. It was forward-looking. Hebrews teaches that faith sees beyond the present moment and trusts God's purposes across generations and eternity.

Abraham becomes a central example of this enduring faith. He believed God's promise even when circumstances contradicted it. According to Romans, Abraham did not weaken in faith when faced with physical impossibility. Instead, he grew strong by giving glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He promised. This kind of faith is not denial. It is surrender of outcome to God's power rather than human logic.

Hebrews presses an uncomfortable but necessary truth. Faith that endures may not always receive what it expects in the way it expects. Yet it is never wasted. Confidence in God's promises is measured by trust, not timelines. Enduring faith holds steady when results are delayed, unseen, or deferred. Hebrews invites believers to live with eternal perspective, trusting that God's promises extend beyond what is visible, measurable, or immediately resolved.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 10:19–25
- Hebrews 11:1–16
- Romans 4:18–21

Reflection Questions

How do you typically respond when faith requires trusting God without clear outcomes or timelines?

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In what ways might your understanding of faith be too closely tied to immediate results or visible success?

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What would it look like for you to live with confidence that God is faithful even when fulfillment remains unseen?

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Lesson 7: Run the Race – Persevering with Confidence

Hebrews closes its message not with theory, but with movement. Believers are pictured as runners in a race, surrounded by witnesses who have gone before them. This image reminds us that faith is lived in motion, not in comfort. The race is not about speed or comparison. It is about perseverance. Confidence in God's promises is demonstrated through continued faithfulness, especially when the journey becomes demanding or uncomfortable.

The writer urges believers to lay aside every weight and sin that hinders progress. Not every weight is sinful, yet anything that slows obedience or dulls trust must be examined honestly. Hebrews invites believers to run intentionally, not casually. Confidence grows when believers are willing to release distractions, habits, or mindsets that quietly drain spiritual strength. Endurance requires discernment about what helps and what hinders faithful living.

At the center of this race stands Jesus, described as the pioneer and perfecter of faith. He is not only the example, but the source of endurance. Jesus endured suffering, shame, and opposition by fixing His focus beyond the cross to the joy set before Him. Hebrews reminds believers that hardship does not mean failure. Discipline, though painful, produces growth and righteousness. Confidence is strengthened when believers understand that God's training is purposeful, not punitive.

Hebrews ends with reassurance rather than pressure. God promises His presence. He will not leave or forsake His people. This promise anchors courage and dispels fear. Confidence is not rooted in self-reliance, but in God's nearness. When circumstances feel overwhelming, Hebrews calls believers back to this truth. The Lord is our helper. Fear loses its authority when God's presence is trusted as constant and sufficient.

Paul echoes this perseverance mindset by acknowledging that spiritual growth is ongoing. Faith is not about having arrived, but about pressing forward with purpose. Hebrews leaves believers not with guilt for unfinished growth, but with encouragement to continue. Confidence in God's promises fuels perseverance. The race continues, but believers do not run alone, uncertain, or unsupported. They run with eyes fixed on Jesus and hearts anchored in hope.

Scripture References

- Hebrews 12:1-13
- Hebrews 13:5-6
- Philippians 3:12-14

Reflection Questions

What spiritual weights might be slowing your ability to run faithfully in this season?

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How does fixing your focus on Jesus rather than your circumstances change your view of endurance?

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What does persevering with confidence look like for you right now, practically and personally?

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Living with Confidence in God's Promises

The book of Hebrews reminds us that confidence in God's promises is not rooted in optimism or certainty about outcomes. It is rooted in clarity about who God is and what Jesus has already accomplished. From beginning to end, Hebrews consistently points believers back to Christ as the center, the anchor, and the assurance of faith. When life feels uncertain, confusing, or heavy, Hebrews does not tell us to try harder. It calls us to look deeper and fix our eyes on Jesus, the One who does not change.

Throughout this study, we have seen that drifting is subtle, maturity is intentional, and endurance is essential. Faith is not static. It either grows through trust or weakens through neglect. Hebrews speaks honestly about this tension, not to condemn believers, but to strengthen them. God's promises are not fragile. They do not collapse under pressure, delay, or hardship. When faith feels tested, Hebrews reminds us that the testing is not evidence of abandonment. It is often evidence of growth.

One of the most powerful truths Hebrews offers is that confidence is not built on emotional certainty, but on relational trust. We are invited to draw near, not because we are strong, but because Jesus is faithful. Our access to God is secure. Our forgiveness is complete. Our hope is anchored. This allows believers to live honestly before God, admitting weakness without fear and obedience without striving. Confidence grows when we stop performing and start trusting.

Hebrews also reshapes how we measure faithfulness. Success is not defined by immediate results or visible fulfillment. Many in Hebrews trusted God without seeing the full promise realized in their lifetime. Their faith was not wasted. It was honored. Hebrews teaches us to view life through an eternal lens, trusting that God's promises extend beyond what we can see, measure, or control. This perspective steadies us when obedience feels costly and waiting feels long.

As this study comes to a close, Hebrews leaves us with movement rather than resolution. We are called to run, to persevere, and to press forward with confidence. Not because the path is easy, but because God is faithful. His promises are secure. His presence is constant. And His purposes will not fail. Confidence in God's promises is not passive assurance. It is active trust lived out daily, anchored in Christ, and strengthened by hope that endures.

