

## Hebrews 6:9 – 20

New American Standard Bible 1995

[**For Context:** <sup>6:4</sup> For in the case of those who have once been enlightened ...<sup>6</sup> and have fallen away, ...]

<sup>9</sup> But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. <sup>10</sup> For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. <sup>11</sup> And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

<sup>13</sup> For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, “I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.” <sup>15</sup> And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup> For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. <sup>17</sup> In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, <sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.**

**Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- What words or ideas are repeated?
- What unusual or symbolic language is used?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- What is it to “realize the full assurance of hope”?
- How does their observed behavior indicate their spiritual condition to the writer?
- How does the section about God’s promise to Abraham fit into the writer’s reasoning?
- Now that the writer comes back to Melchizedek, how has he addressed the readers’ “dull hearing” (Hebrews 5:11)?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How would you evaluate “the full assurance of hope” in your life?
- What “diligence” (v. 11) would help you to “realize” that full assurance?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**For additional thought and discussion:**

- John Owen – on “persuasion”:
  - “disobedience” (ἀπειθεία, apeitheia; 3:18; 4:6,11): “unpersuadableness of mind,” John Owen, *Exposition on Hebrews; Chapter 3*, (Rio, Wisconsin: AGES Software, 2004), 328.
  - “full assurance” (πληροφορία, plērophoria; 6:11, 10:22; cf. 1Thess1:5): “a sure, stable, firm, certain faith or persuasion” and “a full, satisfactory persuasion of mind.” John Owen, *Exposition on Hebrews; Chapter 6*, (Rio, Wisconsin: AGES Software, 2004), 224,225.

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.