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**“Precious Promises &  
The Power of God”  
(Heb 4:1-16)  
- Sermon Summary -**



The author of Hebrews reminds us of some important principles of the Promises of God:

**1. Promise of God & Rest (vs 1-11)**

**“Let us therefore fear,** lest, a promise being left us of **entering into his rest,** any of you should seem to come short of it.” (v1)

- Why fear? Because somebody may come short of it.
- Because it was “not mixed with faith” (v2), that is, not complemented & not supplemented with true faith In God.
- “Rest” has the idea of being still or silent. It can also mean to settle down. It can sometimes refer to Sabbath Rest, rest from secular work. **“Six days you shall work, and on the 7th day you shall rest.” (Ex 20) The concept came from God and not man, and almost universally applied in all cultures.**
- **It covers both rest for the soul and rest for the body. It is the Manufacturer’s guide that we should follow for our own good.**

**“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” (v11)**

- Why are some unable to enter into the rest of God? Unbelief is a hindrance to true rest.
- Rest in Christ refers to Gospel or Salvation rest mentioned in Mt 11:28-30.
- There are many who think they are believers & are saved but may not be so. Our Lord says in Matt 7:21– 22, **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and**

*in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

- Some think that by attending church on Sunday, speaking in tongues or giving to God will accrue to salvation - that is not true at all.
- It is to be noted that it is not that a person will lose his salvation; rather it is because the person was never saved in the first place (ie. not mixed with true faith).
- Exo 32:9 "*And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people.*" The word stiff-necked means obstinate, recalcitrant, stubborn.
- **A hardened heart (because of covetousness, love of money, or profound sin, etc.) will render us unprofitable for God. If we are ever saved, we need to have gospel rest through Christ alone and that is Salvation Rest which is ordained of God.**

## **2. Power of the Word of God & It's Effects (vs 12,13)**

- Here we note "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*"
- The Word is the source that will help you enter into the rest.
- It is described as quick, powerful, sharp (effectiveness) and shows the power of the Word preached.
- DL Moody aptly said, "***Dirty Bible, Clean Heart; Clean Bible, Dirty Heart.***"
- The Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and it is illuminating with the power to transform us.
- The Bible is like an X-ray that examines our hearts.
- We are not to trust our feelings but instead trust the very Word of God.
- **The Word of God is diagnostic; it exposes our sinful condition.**
- **The Word of God is written from 1450 BC to 100 AD by about 40 authors in 3 languages in 3 continents but yet with one consistent message - the plan of salvation as there is only One Author.**
- Charles Spurgeon once said, "***Be assured, there is nothing new in theology except that which is false.***"
- Consider the very potency of the Word of God to our hearts.

## **3. Priest of God & our Response (vs 14-16)**

*"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."* (v14)

- A priest represents man to God while a prophet represents God to man.
- and not to your temporal wealth, your fleeting shares, etc
- The Lord, having taken on human form, experienced all that we go through except He was without sin for He is the perfect Son of God.
- **Note that we are saved by the active & passive obedience of Christ.**
- **We are called to Hold Fast - clinch on to our faith.**

***“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (v16)***

- If you have access, use it and come before the Lord.
- **The throne of judgement became the throne of grace and mercy because of Christ who died for us at the cross, therefore we can find grace to help in times of need.**

### **Conclusion**

We thank God for Christ and his precious promises and his power to save us as our Great High Priest and let us seek Him before it is too late.

Ng Kim Meng

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**Prof Samuel Gan of Creation Ministries International (CMI) speaking to the combined Sun Sch classes on *“The Case for 6-Day Creationism”*.**



## Memory Verse

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

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Appeal to Spiritual Maturity (Heb 6:1-12)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***The Majesty & Supremacy of the Son of God (Book of Hebrews)***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach "***Understanding Christ & the Sanctuary of God (Heb 9:11-28)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service continue as follows:
  - Westminster Confession of Faith (Pastor)
  - Studies in 2 Chronicles (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Kingdoms, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551].
6. Outreach to **All Saints Home (Tampines)** is confirmed on **Sun 3 Mar 2024, 2.00-2.45pm**. Kindly register with Dn Yue Kay (hp:97450311) **by 18 Feb 2024**.
7. Our **Annual Church Camp** will be held on **June 11-14, 2024**, at **Lotus Desaru Beach Resort** on the theme "***Biblical Pathway for Church Growth & Health***". Rev David Khobal, Principal of Myanmar Theological Seminary, will be our Camp Speaker. Contact Dn Yue Kay (hp:97450311) or Dn Paul (hp:97314733) for more details and registration by 30 April 2024.
8. Pray for our brethren in their:
  - Health: Janet's full recovery from hand and leg op, Kin Hoong's continuing medical investigations, Anthony's daily radiotherapy treatment starting on 20 Feb for a month.
  - Travels: Marilyn (9-18/2).
9. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178].
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.