

In reading Hebrews chapter 6 in our Facebook Bible reading group, I stumbled upon and stopped in this phrase nestled into verse 19, *"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul..."*. The "this" being referred to is the hope that is set before us, a hope guaranteed by God through an oath. *But what specifically is the hope and why does it need to be guaranteed by an oath made by God?* Those are excellent questions. I am so glad you asked. Allow me to continue with an illustration:

Let's assume that you are in search of a candy bar because you really, really like candy bars. And then one day I approached you on main street and said, *"I am going to give you a candy bar tomorrow."* Now let's assume that the candy bar in question is your absolute favorite and I am the only one who has any. Let's also assume you are not weirded out by my offer. Now, would you need me to guarantee my statement with, let's say, an "oath signed in blood"? Probably not because we are only talking about a candy bar, your favorite or not. If I did not follow through, you might be a little disappointed, but you would probably get over it quickly, and go one looking for a different candy bar.

Okay Pastor how does this relate to those nicely nestled words in Hebrews 6? Just hang on, I am getting there.

Now, let us consider this scenario. You are dying and are desperate for a cure. You find that cure, but the price is too steep. Somebody must pay and you know that you cannot. Now, this person who has the cure says to you, *"I will give you the cure tomorrow. No strings attached, a free gift. You just need to trust me"* This is definitely no candy bar so would you need more than just this statement? Remember, you are dying, and this cure is your only hope and you do not know when you will die. I think I would need a guarantee.

Here's the real situation, YOU are the person who is dying and the cure is Jesus. The sure and steadfast anchor for your soul, an oath signed with blood, is Jesus' death on the cross and the fact that he rose from the dead – FOR YOU. This resurrection means that your sins have been forgiven and thus you will no longer die. You just need to trust him. Yes, you will die one day, but that is only the doorway to God's mansion where death has been obliterated.

You do not need to look for another cure for what ails you in this life. And, you do not need to wait until tomorrow. The cure is yours NOW. Many will offer you options, but only God guarantees His cure and signs His oath in blood, the blood

of Jesus. Forget the candy bars of this world. Stop your searching. Trust Jesus.
It is all about Jesus, Amen.