

# God Cannot Lie

## Hebrews 6:10-20



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### **FOCAL** Hebrews 6:10-20

Our God is *unchangeable, immutable*, unlike man who changes and moves with time. We have the ability and the limitation of *evolving* in our thought patterns. Do you remember when Peter told Jesus:

**Matthew 26:33 (KJV) "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."**

A wonderful preacher<sup>1</sup> once said:

**"Why", cries one, "this is no promise of God". Just so, but it was a promise of man, and therefore it came to nothing. Peter thought that he was saying what he should assuredly carry out, but a promise which has no better foundation than a human resolve will fall to the ground. No sooner did temptations arise than Peter denied his Master, and used oaths to confirm his denial. ... What is your own resolve? A blossom which, with God's care, may come to fruit, but which left to itself will fall to the ground with the first wind that moves the bough ... On thine own resolve depend none at all. On the promise of thy God hang time and eternity, this world and the next, thine all and the all of thy beloved ones ..."**

That which we must trust in is the *faithfulness* of God - not in the faithfulness of others or even of ourselves. When we look at the performance of others, or even of our own failures, we are often tempted to believe that *all*

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Spurgeon, *Faith's Checkbook*

*is lost*, that we will never secure the blessing, that so many times our human efforts have fallen short, so we must surely be doomed. God the Holy Spirit tells us "Away with that thought! God is faithful! You will secure the promise, if you will do that minimum that He commands.

## 1. How Did Abraham Receive Blessing?

**FOCAL** Hebrews 6:10-14 (KJV) "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. {11} And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: {12} That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. {13} For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, {14} Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee."

What does God expect of His saints? Are we expected *never* to fall, never to fail, never to err? Absolutely not! God made us, and realizes that we are mortal with mortal limitations. King David said:

**Psalms 103:13-14 (KJV)** "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. {14} For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."

God knows that we do not, as He does, see *the end from*

*the beginning*<sup>2</sup>. We are not infinite and unchangable, nor can we change the things that go on around us. God understands our limitations and, understanding them, *still wants to work with us*. What does God want of us?

He wants us to *do* what we're designed to do. He wants us to *love Him* and *love one another*.

**FOCAL** Hebrews 6:10 (KJV) "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered<sup>3a</sup> to the saints, and do minister<sup>3b</sup>."

When you were saved - if you were saved - God the Holy Spirit came into your life. The Bible tells us that God, Who is love<sup>4</sup> comes and inhabits every person in the Family of God<sup>5</sup>. **If God is in you and you are in God, and God is love, then every believer has the capacity to - in some manner - labor in love for both God and man.** This

1. If God is in you and you are in God, and God is \_\_\_\_\_, then every believer has the capacity to - in some manner - \_\_\_\_\_ for both God and man.



is so true that God:

**1 John 4:12-13 (KJV)** "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in

2 Isaiah 46:10

3 diakoneo {pronounced dee-ak-on-eh'-o}, Aorist Active Participle + diakoneo, Present Active Participle = (you) have served and continue to serve

4 1 John 4:8, 16

5 Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Jude 1:18-19

**us, and his love is perfected in us. {13} Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."**

used the outward manifestation of love one toward another as a visible sign that God is in us. It's logical, but it also Biblical: If God is love, and God is in you, then you will love. Love is the *prover* of your inward salvation. What God expects of the Christian is that he or she *love*, not *lust* but *love*. **Love as God loves, love not just in word but in *ministry* or outward service toward those you say that you love.** Look at what our Savior said:

2. Love as \_\_\_\_\_ loves, love not just in word but in *ministry* or \_\_\_\_\_ toward those you say that you love.

**Matthew 5:43-44, 46 (KJV) "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. {44} But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ... if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" (Luke 6:27, 32, 35; 10:27)**

**Matthew 22:37, 39 (KJV) "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ... And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Mark 12:30-31, 33)**

So we know that we are commanded to love, to *show evidence of God in us* by our love one toward another - how do we define love? There are so many people in the world today that define love a certain way. Selfish people define love by saying, "You do what I want you to do". Sensual people define love by saying, "If you love me, you'll satisfy some selfish desire I have". So how can we define love?

Again, we turn to the truth that **God is love**. Here is the *Definer* of Love, and His name is Jesus Christ. He said:

**John 15:12-13, 17 (KJV) "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. {13} Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ... These things I command you, that ye love one another." (John 14:15; 13:34-35)**

We are to love one another. How? **As Jesus loved us**. How did Jesus love us? **He put us before Him, and laid down His life for us**. How do I imitate Christ? **Insofar as I am able, I turn away from selfishness and live my life for God**. In fact, my goal as a Christian is to *realize* that any blessing, any ability I might have to reach this point of love can *only come as I release my life to Christ Who is in me*.

3. God expects each one of to do our very best *within our \_\_\_\_\_ with Him* to love. Love defined, as Jesus defined love, is a laying down of \_\_\_\_\_ for others. It is the antithesis of selfishness and hatred.

God expects each one of to do our very best *within our relationship with Him* to love. Love defined, as Jesus defined love, is a laying down of self for others. It is the antithesis of selfishness and hatred. A Christian is a person who is indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, and who *can* grow into a state whereby he loves as Christ loved. That's our goal - that's the target. As the singing group *4 Him* states,

**Love God,  
Love People,  
That's The Center of the Mark!**

The Hebrew Christians were showing love as Christ demanded, but they were beginning to *weary* in their efforts. They began to look at those around them, look at the persecutions that they were undergoing, look at the other *unconverted Jews* who persecuted them, and they began to despair of love. They began to think "What's the use? We try, and try, and yet we seem to make no headway! Why not quit, why not stop?" Here is the struggle of every Christian, particularly of every Christian in America today. Let's review: When you're saved God the Holy Spirit (Who is the Source of True Love) comes and lives inside of you. Though you still inhabit a body of corruption<sup>6</sup>, prone to sin. Yet, praise Jesus, salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by works<sup>7</sup>. The day we **confessed with our mouths the Lord Jesus Christ, and believed in our hearts that**

6 Romans 7:24 (KJV) "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

7 Titus 3:5-7 (KJV) "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; {6} Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; {7} That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

**God hath raised Him from the dead, we were then saved (Romans 10:9-10).** At the point of salvation the blessed Spirit of Christ (Who is Love) came and indwelt our bodies. The more we turn ourselves over to Him Who loves us and died for us, the *less selfish* we become, the *greater* we love like Him.

But do we walk perfect? No! The Lord reminds us to *remember Abraham*.

**FOCAL Hebrews 6:12-14 (KJV) "That ye be not slothful<sup>8</sup>, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. {13} For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, {14} Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee."**

When we remember Abraham, do we remember someone who was *sinless*? Absolutely not! The Bible tells us several interesting things about Abraham. First, he - like us - was saved by faith in God:

**Galatians 3:8-11 (KJV) "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. {9} So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. {10} For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.**

8 nothros {pronounced no-thros'}, to be sluggish, to do nothing, or do something slowly or half heartedly

**{11} But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."**

Abraham was not saved by the Law - for the Mosaic Law was not given to Israel until around four hundred and thirty years later<sup>9</sup>. Abraham was saved by faith in God *prior* to the ritual of circumcision, and *prior* to the Mosaic Law (which, by the way, *cannot* save if the Scripture be true). What does the Scripture say of Abraham? **Abraham believed God**, and God counted that faith for righteousness:

**Romans 4:3 (KJV) "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."**

**Galatians 3:6 (KJV) "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."**

**James 2:23 (KJV) "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."**

Yet, was Abraham *sinless* or *flawless*? Absolutely not! God told Abraham:

**Genesis 12:1 (KJV) "... Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee ... "**

<sup>9</sup> see Galatians 3:17

Abraham, saved by faith, promptly picked up and moved. Did he do this flawlessly? No, because just a few verses later we see that Abraham took his nephew Lot with him<sup>10</sup>. This decision would cause Abraham some trouble in the future, though God would continue to bless Abraham. Abraham would have other failures in his life. He would:

**Claim Sarah was his sister, lying to protect himself from Pharaoh**

**Genesis 12:17-20**

**Claim Sarah was his sister, lying to protect himself from Abimelech king of Gerar**

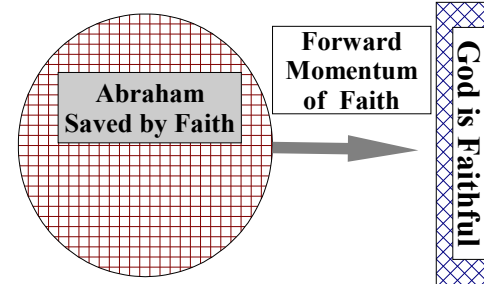
**Genesis 20:2-4**

**Allow Sarah to talk him into having relations with Hagar his slave, producing Ishmael**

**Genesis 16:1-4**

**Allow Sarah to talk him into abandoning Hagar and Ishmael to death**

**Genesis 21:9-11**



Was Abraham flawless? Absolutely not! This man made mistake after mistake - and I certainly don't want to minimize the errors he made - and yet he still inherited the

promises of God. Why? Because when he fell down - and he fell down a lot - he got back on his feet and started down the road the Lord told him to take.

<sup>10</sup> see Genesis 12:4

He built on his relationship *with God*, and was reckoned as a *friend of God*<sup>11</sup>. Abraham inherited the promises of God because *he believed God and relied on God's faithfulness* as he served God. Abraham moved when God said move, though he did so imperfectly. And as

4. Abraham inherited the promises of God because he \_\_\_\_\_ God and *relied on God's faithfulness* as he served God. Abraham moved when God said move, though he did so \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham moved trusting God, God guarded Abraham, protecting him from many of the errors he committed. Listen Beloved: God promised to make Abraham a mighty nation, and told him that this blessing would come through Sarah. Yet twice Abraham *gave away Sarah* to other men. Even so, God corrected this mistake, and saved Sarah for Abraham. Abraham brought forth a child through Hagar, yet God made this right.

God blesses the believer who moves forward, however imperfectly, trusting in the faithfulness of God. But God

**FOCAL** Hebrews 6:12 (KJV) "That ye be not slothful<sup>12</sup>, but followers ...

cannot and will not bless *slothfulness*<sup>12</sup>. A failure to do *anything* cannot be blessed - though when we try and move forward *because we love God* He will correct our

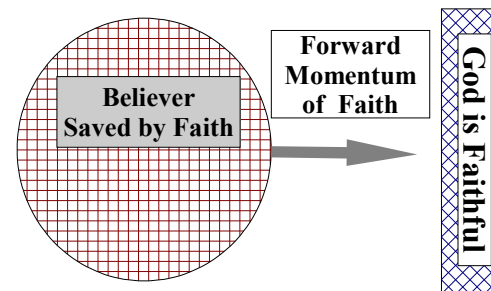
11 James 2:23 (KJV) "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

12 nothros {pronounced no-thros'}, to be sluggish, to do nothing, or do something slowly or half heartedly

deficiencies and bless us. Why? Because we may be faithless, but God is Faithful! As long as we do the best we know how *in loving obedience toward Him*, He will  *bless us!* Move forward as Abraham moved forward, trusting God. Move forward, trusting His faithfulness and not our own abilities. *Put your faith in motion* and step out, acknowledging your own imperfections, but knowing that He knew these imperfections were there *before He called you to salvation*. When you fail, confess your failure to Him Who saved you - but keep on moving.

**2a. You Can Only Move Forward By Focusing On God's Faithfulness**

God can give Abraham the land if he keeps moving forward, trusting God.



But if Abraham stays at Haran<sup>13</sup>, he will *never* receive the fulfillment of God's Promise. Faith *must* have an object in view - you must move

forward *loving God* if you expect to receive His blessing.

**FOCAL** Hebrews 6:15-18 "And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. {16} For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. {17} Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel,

13 see Genesis 12:4

**confirmed it by an oath: {18} That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us"**

The believer *obtains the promise* from God by keeping his or her focus *on God our Savior* and not on our own inabilities or our own past failures. Certainly we should learn from past failures. A child burned learns caution around stoves, and a Christian hurt by sinful activity should avoid that glowing thing. Abraham *kept his eyes focused* on **two immutable** or unchangeable **things** that was really added up to one *unshakable truth*: God is faithful! What were the *two immutable things* that Abraham could cling to?

First, God made Abraham a *promise*:

**Genesis 12:1-2 (KJV) "... Get thee out of thy country ... and I will make of thee a great nation ... "**

Those who have been saved by faith must *go* if they expect to inherit the blessings of the Promise. We need not worry that the Promise will not be kept, for the Promiser is God our Savior, and He cannot lie. God also made Abraham a *covenant*:

**Genesis 15:17-18 (KJV) "And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. {18} In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram ... "**

In ancient times a covenant was always *cut* when two people made an animal sacrifice, then both people walked between the pieces of the dead animal. Yet Abraham *never walked between the pieces* of the covenant - God did all the walking. And this is a key point or truth of Scripture.

**You go in obedience to receive God's Promise, but you never go beyond that which God has enabled.**

Abraham was to move when God said move to secure the Promise, but he *could not move* in matters related to the Covenant of Grace. The Christian *moves for God because* he is saved, not *in order to be* saved. We can no more participate in our salvation than Abraham could participate in cutting the covenant with God. Abraham looked at it this way: God promised, God cut the covenant, God cannot lie, therefore step forth on faith. The believer's focus is God our Savior. The believer's focus is the *immutability and faithfulness of God*.

## **2b. Doctrine of The Immutable Faithfulness of God**

**FOCAL** Hebrews 6:18 (KJV) "**That by two immutable<sup>14</sup> things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us ..."**

God's immutability<sup>14</sup> is His attribute (characteristic) of

<sup>14</sup> ametathetos {pronounced am-et-ath'-et-os}, unalterable, something that cannot be changed

changelessness. Change or growth is a sign of incompleteness, and God is *complete in every way*. Humans grow older and change physically as well as mentally. Christians themselves should be changing daily, growing in the knowledge and the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ<sup>15</sup>. But God is complete in Himself. God can not nor does not change. He is all in all complete, and His mind is set from eternity past.

**1** God is faithful in giving gifts to His Children:

**James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect<sup>16</sup> gift is from above, and cometh down<sup>17</sup> from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness<sup>18</sup>, neither shadow<sup>19</sup> of turning."**

Our Father does what He has promised, always, and without fail. God is good, righteous, holy, and just. He never gives anything harmful or detrimental to His children's well-being. God is not a man who gives deceitfully in order to later "call in His markers". What He gives is clean and pure, without hidden strings or subversive agendas. As He is not able to change we know that anything we receive at His hand will be as pure and clean as He is.

**2** God is Faithful In Forgiving Us

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15 see 2 Peter 3:18

16 teleios = complete

17 Present Active Participle katabaino {pronounced kat-ab-ah'-ee-no}, keeps on coming down

18 parallage {pronounced par-al-lag-ay'}, variation or change

19 aposkiasma {pronounced ap-os-kee'-as-mah}, anything that casts a shadow

**1 John 1:8-9 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess<sup>20</sup> our sins, he is faithful<sup>21</sup> and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

Even a Christian has an Old Sin Nature that leads us to wrong headed decisions. There are times when any believer, no matter who, falls into sin. Yet God is faithful to forgive us our sins when we confess them to Him. The *physical consequences* of your sin may mark you for life (such is the case with AIDs or HIV), but the Father - just as He did in the parable of the Prodigal Son<sup>22</sup> - will forgive you immediately when you ask.

**3** God is Faithful in Temptation

**1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation<sup>23</sup> taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."**

The key to our testing is that God always manages it so that it increases our strength and faith, but does not break our spirits. We should always turn our eyes Heavenward while waiting for God's tests to run their course. The greatest Christians have always been those who went

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20 homologeo {pronounced hom-ol-og-eh'-o}, Present Active Subjunctive, say the same thing about, agree with, confess that sin is sin, admit error

21 Present Indicative Active eimi + pistos = He keeps on being dependable, trustworthy, faithful

22 see Luke 5:22-24

23 peirasmos {pronounced pi-ras-mos' }, trial, proving

through the strongest and longest tests. One ancient said:

"My witness is, that those who are honored of their Lord in public have usually to endure a secret chastening, or carry a peculiar Cross, lest by any means they exalt themselves, and fall into the snare of the devil. Glory to God for the furnace, the hammer, and the file. Heaven shall be all the fuller of bliss because we have been filled with anguish here below, and earth shall be better tilled because of our training in the school of adversity .."<sup>24</sup>

#### **4** God is Faithful in Maintaining Our Salvation

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved<sup>25</sup> blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."**

**2 Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish<sup>26</sup> you, and keep you from evil."**

**Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"**

**1 Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."**

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24 C.H. Spurgeon, Lectures to my Students, pg 164

25 tereo {pronounced tay-reh'-o}, Aorist Passive Optative, guarded from loss or theft

26 sterizo {pronounced stay-rid'-zo}, Future Active Indicative, to render constant

Those who teach the doctrine that "You can lose your salvation by sinning" are often the greatest sinners I've ever met. One young man who, with a straight face, told me that "you must accept Jesus as Saviour and clean up your act" is the same young man I saw lose his temper at work, throw equipment around that didn't belong to him, and curse. If he really believed his doctrinal position then he lost his salvation that very moment.

Jesus did all the work for us at the Cross. Jesus sits on the right hand of God the Father making intercession for us (**Hebrews 10.12-13; 12.2**) - even when we sin.

**2 Timothy 2:13 "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."**

He cannot turn on His promise to us, nor can He take back His word. He cannot deny Himself, and we are eternally His.

### **3. The Believer's Anchor Is God's Faithfulness**

**FOCAL** Hebrews 6:18-20 (KJV) "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: {19} Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; {20} Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

There is a beautiful illustration of salvation in this

passage that you cannot understand unless you understand ancient Mosaic Law. Adonijah the son of Haggith decided that he would make himself King over Israel, even though God had established that Solomon was to reign when King David passed away<sup>27</sup>. After God had Solomon crowned King of Israel, Adonijah ran to the Temple and **"caught hold of the horns of the altar"**

**1 Kings 1:50 (KJV) "And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar."**

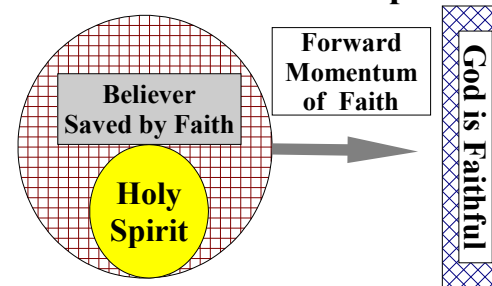
The *horns of the altar* were the four posts on each corner of the altar to which the animal was tied prior to its sacrifice. After the animal was killed some of the blood was taken and put on the horns - just a drop on each. These horns emphasized the *mercy of God*, and when Adonijah threw himself on the altar and grabbed these horns he was asking Solomon, as the new King, to grant him mercy. Matthew Henry states:

5. The *horns of the altar* were the four \_\_\_\_\_ on each corner of the altar to which the animal was tied prior to its sacrifice. After the animal was killed some of the blood was taken and put on the horns - just a drop on each. These horns emphasized the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

**"He took hold on the horns of the altar, which was always looked upon as a sanctuary, or place of refuge (Exodus 21:14), intimating hereby that he durst not**

<sup>27</sup> see 1 Kings 1:5-50

**stand a trial, but threw himself upon the mercy of his prince, in suing for which he relied upon no other plea than the mercy of God, which was manifested in the institution and acceptance of the sacrifices that**



**were offered on that altar and the remission of sin thereupon."**

The Bible alludes to the altar *within the veil*, the Old Testament altar. Unlike Adonijah we who are saved do not throw ourselves on the altar of God and hold on to its *horns* to secure mercy. We hold on to the *faithfulness* of God. We hold on to that *Old Rugged Cross*. We hold on to Jesus Christ our Savior. If I put my eyes on **myself** and try and make that my anchor, will I not be shamed and set apart as too weak, too unworthy, too human? If I look at another person and, as many do and have done in the past, allow their *poor performance* to cause me to stumble in my faith, how can I hope to have a decent anchor for my soul? All humans, just like Peter, are often well meaning - but we are all flawed.

But to look on Jesus, the Rock of My Salvation! What better anchor could my soul have but Jesus - glory to His name!