

Series "Jesus Is Better"
"Call To Spiritual Maturity"
Hebrews 6:1-12
Study-12

Immaturity And Indecision Go Together. A Lack Of Confidence In God Breed's Instability And Spiritual Hesitation.

"The Great Battle Ground Of The NT", Hebrews 6:6

"5 Problem Passages In Hebrews"

Hebrews 5:11-6:20 – Dullness Toward The Word— (Sluggishness)

Hebrews 5:11-14 – Spiritual Immaturity

Hebrews 6:1-12 – Call To Spiritual Maturity

Hebrews 6:13-20 – Secure Hope In God

The Thought Of Our Passage: "God Calls Every Christian To Maturity, But Each Believer Must Be Willing To Cooperate And Yield To God."

1. Verses 1-3 – Need Of Progress

2. Verses 4-8 – Solemn Warning

3. Verses 9-12 – Strong Confidence

1. Verses 1-3 – Need Of Progress:

Hebrews 6:1

"Therefore" – Spiritual Immaturity Hebrews 5:11-14

Hebrews 5:14

"leaving" – "advancement"; passing from one phase of examination/level to another.

"the elementary teaching about the Christ," – Literally reads, "the word of the beginning of Christ,"; same as Hebrews 5:12, "elementary principles,"

"let us press on" – "let us be carried forward"; the verb speaks of "a willingness to be lifted up by God and to be carried toward spiritual victory."

A believer cannot be carried on to maturity if they have no desire to be mature!

"to maturity," – Matthew 5:48

The Writer lists 6 Foundational Truths of the Christian Faith:

- 1. Repentance From Dead Works:** (Godward) "of repentance from dead works" – The word repentance – "change of mind, change of direction, U-turn"; By the works of the Mosaic Law, no person could be justified, Galatians 2:16. NT – Repentance Towards God, Acts 20:21.

In order to mature, a believer must settle decisively that "Self-Salvation" has no merit before a holy God, either before or after salvation.

- 2. Faith Toward God:** (Godward) "of faith toward God," – Mark 1:15 NT – Faith Towards Jesus Christ, Acts 20:21 – "faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 6:2

- 3. Baptisms:** (Relationship To Believers) "of instruction about washings" – Note washings is plural, various types of baptisms with their functions and meanings. Baptism – is "a symbol of spiritual cleansing", Mark 7:4.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor. 12:13 NT – Washing Of Regeneration, Titus 3:5.

- 4. Laying On Of Hands:** (Relationship To Believers) "laying on of hands," – The Mosaic Law, Lev. 1:4; blessing (Acts 19:6); ministry (1 Tim. 4:14); The action of laying on of hands thus symbolized recognition, identification, and approval. NT – Lay Hold Of Jesus Christ, Philippians 3:12.

- 5. Resurrection Of The Dead:** (Believer's Future) "the resurrection of the dead" – The Old Testament taught this doctrine, Job 19:25; Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2, John 5:28-29; John 11:25. NT – Deliverance from the physical penalty of death through resurrection is the Gospel Message: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

- 6. Eternal Judgment:** (Believers Future) "eternal judgment." – Psalm 1:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:11-15. NT – Jesus Has Been Given All Judgment: John 5:22.

Hebrews 6:3

2. Verses 4-8 – Solemn Warning:

Hebrews 6:4

“For” – A warning for deliberate disobedience is given.

“The Great Battle Ground Of The NT” Hebrews 6:6

I want to give a few positions of this passage:

1. The writer is warning us against the sin of apostasy, willfully turning one's back on Jesus Christ and returning to the old life. Such a person would be lost forever.

Heb. 6:13-20

2. The writer is addressing Hebrew Christians about some sin in the first century, while the temple services were still going on.
3. The writer is addressing people who were not true believers. They had cooperated with the Holy Spirit up to a point, but were not believers.

4-Point Evidence That These Are True Believers:

1. **Were Enlightened:** Heb 6:4 – “been enlightened” – literally “the having been enlightened ones, once and for all”, 2 Corinthians 4:6.

Hebrews 10:32

2. **Have Tasted:** Heb 6:4 – “and have tasted of the heavenly gift,”; John 6:51-58 – Salvation is a “gift”; Hebrews 2:9, Psalm 34:8.

1 Peter 2:2-3

3. **Sharers Of The Holy Spirit:** “and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,” – the word partakers “to become sharers”, Hebrews 3:1

In Christ – Hebrews 3:14

Hebrews 6:5

4. **Tasted The Good Word:** Heb 6:5

John 6:63

1 Peter 1:23

“and the powers of the age to come,” – refers to that divine power of the Word in action.

Hebrews 6:6

Fallen Away: “and then have fallen away,” – “to fall alongside”

John 15:6; 1 Cor. 11:30; James 5:19-20; 1 John 5:16

There is a repentance which is essential to salvation: 2 Peter 3:9

There is a repentance for a sinning Christian: 2 Cor. 7:9-10

A believer can lose the possibility of repentance through deliberate disobedience. Saul, 1 Samuel 13:13-14; Esau, Heb 12:16-17.

Israel could not go into Canaan once they refused to do so at Kadesh-barnea.

An illustration from nature is given to show the contrast between obedience and disobedience in the life of a believer.

Verse 7 – Illustration Of Fruitfulness: Hebrews 6:7

“ground” – (Soil) represents the child of God, and the “rain” symbolizes the provision of God necessary for a life of productivity.

John 15:1-6 – The production of fruit may vary from one saint to another, but it will be there Matthew 13:23

Verse 8 – Illustration Of Fruitlessness: Hebrews 6:8

“but if it yields thorns and thistles,” – The fallen, disobedient Christian, carnal, walking in the flesh; “it is worthless” – “unapproved” castaway.

John 15:6; 1 Corinthians 3:13

3. Verses 9-12 – Strong Confidence:

Hebrews 6:9

“But, beloved,” – indicates the reader’s possession of salvation, 1 John 4:1.

Strong Confidence: "we are convinced" – "we are persuaded".

Matt. 13:23 – "some hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Hebrews 6:10

Divine Remembrance: "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work."

Galatians 6:10

Verses 11-12 – Diligence Is Needed For Maturity: Hebrews 6:11.

"show the same diligence" – "speed, eagerness, forwardness, haste."

"so as to realize the full assurance of hope" – Romans 4:21

"until the end," – is "perfection or maturity."

Hebrews 6:12

"sluggish," – "slothful"; This term was translated earlier as "dull", Heb 5:11.

"but imitators" – stresses imitation and is the basis of the English word "mimic".

Application:

1. "Let Us Press On To Maturity" – Speaks Of A Willingness To Be Lifted Up By God And To Be Carried Toward Spiritual Victory.
2. In Order To Mature, A Believer Must Settle Decisively That Self-Salvation Has No Merit Before A Holy God, Either Before Or After Salvation.
3. The Great Warning – A Believer Can Forfeit Future Earthly Blessings Through A Critical Decision Of Falling Away. He Can Fail To Achieve The Intended Purpose For His Life.