

Hebrews Chapter 6

• Progressing Toward Maturity (1-12)

- 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
- 3 And this we will do if God permits.
- 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,
- 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

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• Progressing Toward Maturity (1-12)

- [7](#) For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.
- [8](#) But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.
- [9](#) Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.
- [10](#) For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.
- [11](#) And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,
- [12](#) so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

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- (1-3) The elementary doctrine of Christ is listed here, with the admonition to move on to maturity.
 - Repentance
 - Luke 23:34 --- perhaps the sole argument that some use to disassociate repentance from forgiveness.
 - Luke 13:5 --- unless you repent ...
 - Luke 24:47 --- repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
 - Acts 2:38 --- Repent and be baptized ...
 - Acts 3:19 --- Repent ... that your sins may be blotted out
 - Acts 17:30 --- he commands all people everywhere to repent

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- (1-3) The elementary doctrine of Christ (cont)
 - Faith
 - Hebrews 11:6 --- without faith it is impossible to please God
 - Mark 16:16 --- whoever does not believe will be condemned

Hebrews Chapter 6

- (1-3) The elementary doctrine of Christ (cont)
 - Washings (Baptisms)
 - Contrast with ceremonial washings of the law
 - Ephesians 4:4-6 --- one baptism
 - O. T. Priests washed before serving
 - The idea was a cleansing or purification in preparation for worship.
 - Exodus 29:1-4 --- Aaron and his sons were washed with water prior to donning priestly garments.
 - Exodus 30:17-21 --- wash hands and feet
 - Leviticus 8:6 ---
 - Hebrews 9:9b-10 --- cannot perfect the conscience of the worshipper
 - Hebrews 9:23-28 --- not necessary for Christ to do the same things repeatedly
 - Different Baptisms in the New Testament
 - Matthew 3:5-6 --- John's baptism (repentance)
 - Matthew 3:7-12 --- baptism of fire; destruction
 - Acts 11:15-16 --- baptism of Holy Spirit
 - Acts 2:38 --- baptism in the name of Jesus
 - Acts 19:1-7 --- baptism of Jesus vs baptism of John

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- (1-3) The elementary doctrine of Christ (cont)
 - Laying on of Hands
 - Acts 8:14-17 --- miraculous gifts bestowed by apostles
 - Acts 5:12-16 --- healing by the apostles
 - Acts 6:6, 13:3 --- to set aside men for special tasks
 - Resurrection of the Dead
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-19 ---

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- (1-3) The elementary doctrine of Christ (cont)
 - Eternal Judgment
 - Hebrews 9:27-28 --- appointed for man
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 --- eternal destruction
 - Matthew 25:41-46 --- eternal punishment
 - This we will do --- go on to maturity

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

	Law	Christ
repentance from dead works	Had to offer a sacrifice to manifest repentance (lead to death of sacrifice)	Change of life manifests repentance for which Christ is the sacrifice
Faith toward God	Compliance with demands of Law	Believe the gospel
instruction about washings	Various ceremonial washings practiced	One baptism in the name of Jesus
laying on of hands	Symbolic of transferring sin to a substitute animal	Imparting gifts of the spirit (or ordaining someone)
resurrection of the dead	No teaching of life after death	Hope based on Jesus' resurrection
eternal judgment	No resurrection, no concern for eternity, but immediate punishment for sin	Exclusion from God's rest for disobedient

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- (4-6) Falling Away
 - 2 Peter 2:20-22 --- the last state has become worse than the first
 - Galatians 5:4 --- justified by the law – fallen from grace
 - Hebrews 3:12 --- an unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away
 - The sin of willfully and openly rejecting Christ – not the sin of ignorance or weakness that we should confess and for which we should ask for forgiveness.
 - 1 John 1:8-10 --- faithful and just to forgive us our sins
 - 1 John 2:1 --- an advocate with the Father
 - 2 Peter 2:1-3 --- denying the Master who bought them
 - Jude 4 --- deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ

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- (4-6) Falling Away
 - Impossible --- not a limit on God, but a limit on the capacity of an evil heart of unbelief.
 - Enlightened
 - 1 Peter 2:9 --- called you out of darkness into his marvelous light
 - John 1:9 --- The true light, which enlightens everyone,
 - 1 John 1:5-7 --- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all
 - Hebrews 10:32-34 --- after you were enlightened
 - Shared in the Holy Spirit
 - 1 Corinthians 12:3 --- no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 --- sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

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- (4-6) Falling Away
 - Tasted --- experienced
 - 1 Peter 2:3 --- if you have tasted that the Lord is good
 - Hebrews 2:9 --- he might taste death for everyone
 - Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 - Powers of the age to come
 - Ephesians 2:4-7 --- in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
 - Philippians 1:23 --- my desire is to depart and be with Christ
 - 1 John 3:1-3 --- when he appears we shall be like him

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- (4-6) Falling Away
 - Commentary on Enlightenment
 - Beginning in the 2nd century and continuing for perhaps 1500 years, enlightenment was used as a synonym for baptism.
 - To have heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel is to be enlightened.
 - **1st generation that came out of Egypt did not inherit the promised blessing**
 - **1st generation of Christians received the apostles' teaching confirmed by signs and wonders**
 - **There would be no further enlightenment for the 1st generation.**

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

Once been enlightened	Accepted the long-awaited messiah and termination of the Law
Tasted the heavenly gift	Received such a great salvation (Hebrews 2:3)
shared in the Holy Spirit	Promised to those who obey (Acts 2:38)
tasted the goodness of the word of God	the unchangeable character of God (Hebrews 6:17-18)
and the powers of the age to come	Preaching confirmed by signs and wonders (Hebrews 2:3-4)
it is impossible	Crucified the Son of God once again See Matt 12:22-32; 2 Pet 2:20-22; 1 John 5:16-17

Once in greek is one-time-for-all-time condition, used in Hebrews 7:27 & 9:26-28.

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Other Usage of “*adunation*” (Greek)**
 - Matthew 19:23-26 / Mark 10:23-27 / Luke 18:23-27
 - **23** And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.”
 - **24** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”
 - **25** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”
 - **26** But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Other Usage of “*adunation*” (Greek)**
 - Acts 14:8-10
 - 8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked.
 - 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,
 - 10 said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.
 - Romans 8:3a
 - 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Some Considerations**

- Written to Christians

- To **keep** them from falling away
 - **If** it is impossible to restore them again to repentance, the only **effective** admonition is to **keep** them from falling away.

- Why is it impossible?

- To fall away is to go back from the outward profession of Christianity, not temporarily, but finally;
 - not as the result of some sudden sin, but because the first outward stimulus is exhausted, and there is no true life beating at the heart
 - David and Peter ***fell***, but they did not ***fall away***

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Some Considerations**

- Why is it impossible? (continued)

- Nothing said here of what God can do.
 - The question is as to the limits of human power, and the ordinary methods of influencing human wills.
 - Also notice, we are not told that God could not save those who had fallen away; but that it is impossible to hope that a man who has passed through the experiences just described, and has nevertheless apostatized, can be reached or touched by any of those arguments or motives which are familiar weapons in the Gospel armory.

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Some Considerations**

- 2 Peter 2:20-21

- 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.
 - 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from **the holy commandment** delivered to them.

- 2 Peter 3:2 --- commandment of the Lord ...

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Some Considerations**

- Galatians 5:2-6

- 2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.
 - 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.
 - 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.
 - 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.
 - 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Some Considerations**

- Hebrews 3:12-14

- [12](#) Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
 - [13](#) But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
 - [14](#) For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Some Considerations**
 - Not to be feared if your heart is still soft
 - still touched by Gospel sermons
 - anxious to repent
 - in godly fear lest you should be a castaway,
 - Don't make yourself ill with a sick man's medicine.
 - But, if you are growing callous and insensible
 - hasten to turn back

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- (7-8) Analogy to 4-5
 - Land that receives rain produces a crop.
 - If, instead, the land produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless.
 - When we soak up the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit, the goodness of the word of God, and the powers of the age to come, we will be fruitful. Otherwise, danger of worthlessness.
 - **Rain – words of the prophets and apostles, preaching about Jesus**
 - **Faith is the crop that should be produced**
 - **Thorns and thistles are the crop produced by rejecting Jesus**

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- (9-10) Confident of Better Things
 - Better things, such as a useful crop (verse 7).
 - **You have not gone beyond the point of no return.**
 - Hebrews 8:12 --- remember their sins no more.
 - Revelation 14:13 --- God does not forget our faithful work.
 - Hebrews 5:11-14 --- neglectful of studying God's word, but not neglectful of work and love for God.
 - Hebrews 10:32-34 --- compassion on those in prison
 - Recall the former days --- need to return to their former ways

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- (11-12) Hold On to Your Hope
 - Third instance in this letter of holding your confidence and assurance
 - Hebrews 3:6 ---
 - Hebrews 3:14 ---
 - Hebrews 10:35-36 --- you have need of endurance
 - Revelation 3:15-16 --- neither hot nor cold – sluggish
 - Hebrews 6:15 --- Abraham patiently waited – obtained the promise
 - **A lazy, sluggish faith no longer prays, no longer attends worship, no longer communes**
 - **Instead, imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

Hebrews Chapter 6

• The Certainty of God's Promise(13-20)

- [13](#) For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,
- [14](#) saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”
- [15](#) And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.
- [16](#) For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

Hebrews Chapter 6

• The Certainty of God's Promise(13-20)

- [17](#) So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,
- [18](#) so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.
- [19](#) We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,
- [20](#) where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews Chapter 6

- **(13-16) God Promised; Abraham Received**
 - Genesis 22:15-18 --- By myself I have sworn
 - No one greater!
 - Hebrews 11:8-12 --- Abraham patiently waited
 - **An unchangeable God does not renege on His promises.**

Hebrews Chapter 6

- **(17-18) Our Unchangeable God**
 - Numbers 23:19 --- has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
 - Two unchangeable things
 - Titus 1:1-3 --- God never lies
 - He swore under oath, and an oath is final for confirmation (v 16)
 - **God swore under oath, and He does not lie, so He will keep His promises.**
 - Psalm 110:4 --- The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind ...
 - Number 35:9-34 --- fled for refuge
 - Jesus is our refuge
 - **We can depend on God's promises.**

Hebrews Chapter 6 (Additional Notes)

- **Four Impossibilities in Hebrews**
 - Hebrews 6:4 – *impossible* to restore
 - Hebrews 6:18 – *impossible* for God to lie
 - Hebrews 10:4 – *impossible* for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin
 - Hebrews 11:6 – without faith it is *impossible* to please Him

Hebrews Chapter 6

- **(19-20) Our Steadfast Anchor**
 - Soul with no anchor is adrift.
 - Our anchor is our hope, and our hope is in Jesus.
 - “We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll”.
 - The inner place behind the veil is a place of forgiveness by sacrifice for sin
 - Also the location of the mercy seat
 - Hebrews 8:1-2 --- the true tent, the holy places
 - Hebrews 9:24 --- into heaven itself
 - Jesus has entered into heaven as our forerunner – into a place where our hope lies.
 - **by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, (Heb 10:20)**
 - No more Levitical priests. Jesus is our great High Priest – forever.