

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OR GENUINE SALVATION?

Hebrews 6:1-12

SALVATION IS ONLY OBTAINED THROUGH REPENTANCE BY PUTTING OUR FAITH IN JESUS, AND CANNOT BE OBTAINED THROUGH OUR OWN ACTIONS

- *“Therefore, let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, 2 teaching about ritual washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And we will do this if God permits.”* (Hebrews 6:1-3)
- **The foundational principles of our faith are necessary, but God is calling us to consume more than “milk” as His followers.**
- **Building on the foundation of the gospel that we have believed in is the key to maturing in Christ.**

WE MUST AVOID RELYING ON SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES THAT ULTIMATELY LEAD TO APOSTASY (FALLING AWAY), AND CLING TO THE FULL GOSPEL OF REPENTANCE AND REDEMPTION IN JESUS

- *“For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who tasted God’s good word and the powers of the coming age, 6 and who have fallen away. This is because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding him up to contempt. 7 For the ground that drinks the rain that often falls on it and that produces vegetation useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and about to be cursed, and at the end will be burned.”* (Hebrews 6:4-8)
- *“Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.”* (John 5:24)
- *“My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”* (John 10:27-29)

- *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:38-39)
- *“God’s gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable.”* (Romans 11:29)
- *“In this way, the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, ...8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 1:6-8)
- *“And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”* (2 Corinthians 2:21-22 ESV)
- *“In Him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. 14 The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.”* (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- *“And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit. You were sealed by Him for the day of redemption.”* (Ephesians 4:30)
- *“I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 1:6)
- **A person who has truly repented and trusted Jesus as their Savior can be assured that they are secure in Christ and will be with Him in heaven.**
- *“They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.”* (1 John 2:19-)
- **Spiritual experiences, biblical knowledge, and even Christian behavior are not redemptive and are often displayed by people masquerading as Christians.**

TRUE BELIEVERS LOVE ONE ANOTHER, SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AND ENDURE UNTIL THE END

- *“Even though we are speaking this way, dearly loved friends, in your case we are confident of things that are better and that pertain to salvation. 10 For God is not unjust; he will not*

forget your work and the love you demonstrated for his name by serving the saints—and by continuing to serve them. 11 Now we desire each of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the full assurance of your hope until the end, 12 so that you won't become lazy but will be imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and perseverance.” (Hebrews 6:9-12)

- **True believers, in contrast to apostates, will persevere in the faith because they understand the “better” salvation that comes from the Lord.**
- **Signs that you are maturing in Christ are evidenced in how you love others, serve others, and endure faithfully as others have done before you.**
- ***What is God leading me to do differently as a result of this message today?***

****CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK****

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation

- What is the **primary** theme of Hebrews 6:1-12?
- What does it mean to repent from “dead works,” and why is this essential to genuine salvation?
- Who is the author of Hebrews speaking about in verses 4-8?

Understanding

- Have you ever struggled with trying to earn God's favor through good behavior? What helped (or would help) you break that mindset?
- We learned that true believers cannot lose their salvation. What Scriptures support this doctrine, and how do they provide assurance?
- What are the dangers of basing your relationship with Christ on feelings, experiences, or moments rather than ongoing faith and repentance?
- How does Christian service and love for others demonstrate genuine salvation according to this passage?
- Who in your life exemplifies faith and perseverance? What can you learn from their example?
- The author urges believers to move beyond the “elementary teachings.” What spiritual disciplines or biblical truths do you feel God is calling you to deepen your understanding in right now?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?