

Hebrews 6 Pt 1

Jesus

Hebrews 5:11b... you have become dull of hearing. 12 ... you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and **you have come to need milk** and not solid food.

Spiritual Immaturity

Stagnation may be a sign of something more than laziness

Those who endure will be saved...We are not saved by enduring

Enduring/Growing are byproducts of Salvation/Born again

I. Are You Born-Again?

1 [Time to get off the milk] Therefore, **leaving** the discussion of the **elementary principles** of Christ, let us **go on to perfection** [maturity], not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of **faith toward God**. 2 of the doctrine of **baptisms**, of **laying on of hands**, of **resurrection** of the dead, and of **eternal judgment**.

Study/Understand/Move on from Elementary Principles

Principles: gr. *archē*. Lit. Beginning. Origin. First of a series. Building blocks necessary to build upon.

- Repentance
- Faith
- Baptism/Washings
- Anointing
- Resurrection
- Judgment

The Hebrews understood these basic principles from Judaism

But not how they apply to Jesus...

2 Peter 3:18... but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:11 [Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all **come to the unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should **no longer be children, tossed to and fro** and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...**

Some Hebrews were stuck in a pseudo-Christianity w/out Christ

Move on to Perfection/Maturity in Christ

3 And **this** [moving on] **we will do** [and let us do] if God permits.

If we are born-again God will finish His work in us

Philippians 1:6 [I am] confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ...

God will finish His work in those that are truly Born-again

Big Question: Are you Born-Again? Be sure...

4 For **it is impossible** for those who were once **enlightened**, and have **tasted the heavenly gift**, and have become **partakers of the Holy Spirit**, 5 and have **tasted the good word of God** and the **powers of the age** to come, 6 if they fall away, **to renew them again to repentance**, since **they crucify again for themselves the Son of God**, and **put Him to an open shame.**

Satan knows Scripture and this passage has rightly been called "one of the Devil's favorite passages" for the way it can when taught out of context condemn the struggling believer. Many Christians feel like giving up after hearing Satan "preach a sermon" on this text. [Guzik]

Wrong Question: Can a Christian lose their Salvation?

Right Question: Are you truly Born-Again?

- The Hebrews coming to Christ were...

1. Enlightened
2. Tasted Heavenly Gift
3. Partook of the Spirit
4. Tasted Good Word of God
5. Tasted Powers of the Age to come

Is this list proof they were Born-Again?

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have **we** not **prophesied in Your name, cast out demons** in Your name, and **done many wonders** in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

They checked off the entire list, yet...

Ultimately some went back to trusting in their own works in place of Jesus

Putting Jesus to Open Shame again/How?

Attempting to add to His suffering/death; Jesus finished work

God told Moses to strike the Rock for water. He did. Later God told Moses to speak to the Rock for water. The Rock was Christ who was only to be struck *once for our sin*. **For this;** i.e. misrepresenting God/Making the picture God was painting, Moses did not enter the Promised Land. [NJC]

Some Hebrews were doing the same. Jesus sacrifice plus their own good deeds

Their religiosity was telling the watching world Jesus sacrifice was not enough

Yet they were experiencing some of the things of God

Can a person experience things of God and miss Salvation?

IOWs Can one be Enlightened/Taste but never ingest/Never become one w/Christ?

1 Peter 2:2 ...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow [lit up to salvation] thereby, 3 if indeed you have **tasted that the Lord is gracious.**

John 6:53 [To His disciples] Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh** of the Son of Man and **drink His blood**, you **have no life in you.** 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him **...66** From that time **many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.**

- Speaking to His Disciples/Learners:

Enlightened/Tasting yet never fully Ingesting all of whom Jesus is unto Salvation

Never fully receiving w/meekness the Implanted Word able to save their souls

James 1:21 ...lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive** with meekness **the implanted word**, which is **able to save your souls.** 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Short Stints and Shooting Stars

Matthew 13:20...he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he **has no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches **choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.

Did they lose their Salvation or were they never really Saved?

Are you Born-Again?

You are Eternally Secure as you abide in Christ. Chuck Smith

To whom would we go? Apostle Peter

John 6:67 ...Then Jesus said to the twelve, **"Do you also want to go away?"** 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, **"Lord, to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal

life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

True Warning to the Hebrews coming to Christ...Move Forward

Going back to animal sacrifices would be denying Christ's Sacrifice

Those who trust in their own works cannot be renewed to repentance. Why? They have chosen to represent themselves rather than have Jesus represent them as their Great High priest to the Father. They attempt to enter the Holy of Holies with their own filth rather than the blood of Jesus and you can't take both. [NJC]

v6 IOWs Self-righteousness puts Jesus to open shame...

7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful **for those by whom it is cultivated**, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

The good fruit born of the Spirit blesses those around us w/God's grace/peace

The bad fruit born of the flesh curses those around us w/condemnation/guilt

Q. Are the herbs that are rejected/burned those who lost their Salvation

A. Are you born-again?

We are eternally secure as we abide in Christ

Abiding in Christ does not save us but confirms our Salvation

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

- **Right question:** Am I abiding in Christ?
- **Wrong question...**

Are the branches that are burned those who lose their Salvation?

A. Are you Born-Again?

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** —unless indeed you are disqualified. 6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

- **Test Question:** Why should a Holy God allow you into heaven?
- **Correct Answer:** I stake My eternal soul on the Person/Work of Jesus/His blood alone

Stagnation may be a sign of something more than laziness

Has the Seed of the Word taken root? Are you a New Creation?

▪ **Signs of Life:**

1. Love of God's Word/To know the One who saved you
2. Love Good/Hate Evil: Godliness
3. Love of God's People the Bride of Christ
4. Love of Israel desiring their Salvation
5. Intense desire to please Jesus
6. Bearing Good Fruit: Change of behavior. E.g. Humility
7. Forgiving our enemies
8. Dying to self/Selfishness/Self-centeredness/Self-pity
9. Seeking the Kingdom of God not the Kingdom of self
10. Waiting for Jesus while working for His Kingdom...Signs of new life

Make-Believer's sooner or later fall away or back into works-based religiosity...

Parroting Christian quotes/phrases/mannerisms but never maturing

II. God's Promise Our Faith

9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, **things that accompany salvation,** though we speak in this manner. 10 For God is not unjust to forget your **work and labor of love** which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Beloved: Sweet Encouragement to the True Born-Again believers

We see your good fruit...God's Grace producing Good Works

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**

Titus 2:13 [We are] ...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

IOWs True Believers will naturally/supernaturally

Prove out their faith by Spirit led/love motivated acts

James 2:18 ...someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**

11 And we desire that **each one of you show** the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end 12 that you **do not become sluggish** [lazy], but **imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

The writer chooses Abraham/Pre-Law Patriarch

Imitate Abraham's **faith**. Imitate Abraham's **patience**...

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself. 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

God made an **oath** and a **promise** to Abraham who could not have children

I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven

God swore by Himself/On His own Name

Abraham received the promise at 75 and believed God till he was 100

15 And so, after [Abraham] had patiently endured, he **obtained the promise.**

Abraham believed God could raise his 100 year old good-as-dead body

Romans 4:19 And **not being weak in faith**, he did not consider his own body, **already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it [his faith] was accounted to him for righteousness." 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Abraham believed God: That God could raise the dead!

Tested again on the hill...Me and the lad will be back down to worship

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that **God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him [from the dead]** in a figurative sense.

God said it Isaac will produce offspring. God said to slay Isaac

God will have to raise Isaac from the dead...Abraham believed it

16 For men indeed **swear by the greater**, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Men swear by something greater than themselves. E.g. stack of Bibles...

God could only swear by Himself...

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the **immutability of His counsel**, confirmed [guaranteed] it by **an oath**, 18 that by two immutable [unchangeable] things, in which

it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

- **God Gave Abe a promise:** I will multiply your descendants
- **God confirmed His promise w/an oath:** Swearing by His own Name/Integrity

Abraham trusted God for the impossible
He knew that it is impossible for God to lie

Titus 1:2 ... God, who cannot lie promised [the hope of eternal life] before time began...

When we understand it is impossible for God to lie
We have Strong Consolation/Comfort/Rest in His promises!

We lay hold of the hope set before us anchored in God's Word...

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Our Hope in Jesus: He is our sure/steadfast Anchor/Consolation of our Soul
Because Jesus our forerunner approached the Father *we know* we will follow

The OT high priest did not enter the veil as a forerunner, only as a representative. But Jesus has entered [as our forerunner] into the immediate presence of God the Father *so that His people can follow Him there.* [Guzik]

The author brings up the faith of pre-law Abraham
IOWs As Abraham, all are saved by believing the Promise of God not by the Law

Our hope is in the immutable unilateral Oath/Promise of God: Same as Abe
Promise of God to us through Abe: *I will send My Seed to save the world...*

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and **his Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your **Seed,**" **who is Christ ...19** What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, **till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made...29** And **if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** [God's Promise/Our Faith]

We wait w/the same faith/patience as Abraham believing God raises the dead
God will raise us from the dead because Jesus our forerunner rose from the dead

Jesus ascended and is now our Eternal Great High Priest

Summary: Abraham was saved 400 years before the Law was given

Saved by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone

Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of **faith that it might be according to grace**, so that the promise might be sure to *all the seed...* to those who are of the **faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all 17 [as it is written, "I have made you [past tense] a father of many nations"] **in the presence of Him whom he believed—i.e. God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did...**

God called Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac ...

Genesis 22:7 [3 Day walk Isaac was dead to Abe] But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then Isaac said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**"

My son, God will **provide Himself** a lamb for a burnt offering
So they went both of them together...and returned both of them together

After 3 Days God provided Himself in our place

To the Hebrews: It's all about Jesus

To us: Are you born-again or simply trying harder to be better? Find rest

Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Jesus

