

When a text feels severe, don't rush past it—slow down, zoom out, and let the context tell you what the warning is aiming at.

Leaving the Elementary Principles.

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary [principles] of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (Hebrews 6:1 NKJV)

Repentance isn't turning from bad habits to good habits—it's turning from dead works to living faith.

Basic Doctrine, Not the Finish Line.

of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:2 NKJV)

The basics are not the ceiling of Christianity; they're the floor.

Dependence on God to Grow.

And this we will do if God permits. (Hebrews 6:3 NKJV)

"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it" (Philippians 1:6).

Maturity is pursued with effort, but it is produced by grace.

The Sobering Warning.

For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 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. (Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV)

Here's the hinge phrase: "if they fall away."

This warning isn't aimed at the believer who struggles with sin—it's aimed at the person who abandons Christ's sufficiency.

The Illustration: Same Rain, Different Fruit.

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; but if it bears thorns and briers, [it is] rejected and near to being cursed, whose end [is] to be burned. (Hebrews 6:7-8 NKJV)

Same rain falls on both fields.

"Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor [can] a bad tree bear good fruit. (Matthew 7:17-18 NKJV)

The rain of God's grace reveals the soil of the heart—true faith grows fruit; hardened unbelief grows thorns.

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. (Hebrews 6:9 NKJV)

Hebrews 6:1-12 The Peril of Doctrinal Drift

Calvary Chapel Titusville 3/22/26

Pastor Paul Andris

God's warnings are not meant to paralyze the tenderhearted; they're meant to awaken the drifting.

Evidence of Grace: Love and Service.

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. (Hebrews 6:10 NKJV)

Service doesn't purchase salvation, but it often provides assurance that salvation is present.

Full Assurance Until the End.

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, (Hebrews 6:11 NKJV)

Assurance grows where diligence keeps turning the heart toward Christ.

Don't Grow Sluggish.

that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:12 NKJV)

Faith and patience—trust and endurance—are the pairing you see over and over in Scripture.

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV)

The Christian life is not proven by intensity in a moment, but by endurance over time.

This is warning against abandoning Christ's sufficiency.

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. (Galatians 5:2 NKJV)

Jesus-plus is not extra security; it is gospel sabotage.

The fact that the warning alarms the heart can be a sign that grace is still at work.

Press On to Maturity.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:8 NKJV)

Don't measure your faith by how loud it feels today—measure it by whether it keeps returning to Jesus tomorrow.