

GREATER THAN

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

HEBREWS

6:1-8

THE DANGER OF FALLING AWAY

1Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

2of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

3And this we will do, if God permits.

4For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

7For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;

8but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.



Central**GROUPS**

DIGGING IN

The spiritual warning of this passage is a difficult and fearful warning to consider. There are some people who experience the goodness of God only to then turn away from him.

Read Hebrews 6:1-8

DISCUSS

- **Why is the author of Hebrews not worried about his readers falling away from their faith?**
- If God has saved us, is securing us, is just, and remembers our good works as Christians, then there is little chance that we could wriggle out of his grasp. Ultimately, this passage should comfort those who are afraid of losing their faith and help us turn spiritual apathy into eagerness.
- If you are afraid that you might lose your faith or that you already have, it shows that you care for Christ and are wanting to be near to him. It is a sign, however uncomfortable, that you have not lost your faith. **If you are anxious or afraid, read John 10:28–29 and Romans 8:31–39.**
- **What specific comfort do these verses give you?**
- Sometimes, we can be apathetic in our faith. Hebrews 6 helps us see the danger of disregarding our relationship with God.
- **In what ways, if any, have seasons of spiritual apathy marked your life?**
- **How would you describe your seasons of spiritual eagerness? What practices helped you know Jesus more and grow in your faith?**
- **What habits of eagerness could help you grow in your faith today, even if you feel spiritually unenthused?**
- The main concern many of us have with this passage is not the state of our own faith, but what this means for friends or loved ones who have turned their backs on Jesus.
- Some believe that anyone who has rejected Jesus was never a true believer to begin with, since God will cause all true believers to persevere in their faith (1 John 2:19). Others believe that apostasy is possible, but the person who has fallen away cannot choose to return by their own free will alone. Like the prodigal son of Luke 15:11–32, those who return can only be welcomed home by the gracious decision of the Father. Until that time, sin has hardened them against God.
- **What do you believe about apostasy?**
- This is a difficult passage, but one that should encourage us to pray more fervently for those who don't know or who have rejected Jesus. One of the main themes in the Bible is God's people falling away into sin and God calling them to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). He is our good Shepherd who chases the lost sheep (Luke 15:3–7). Even more, he calls us to faithfully go after those who have walked away from him. **Read James 5:19–20.**
- **What practical and spiritual things can you do chase after those who have fallen away?**
- **In what ways can you regularly pray for their repentance and restoration?**