



Hebrews || Sermon Points and Notes

Title: The Hope of Perseverance: Serious Admonitions & Loving Exhortations

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Main Point: *In hope, we persevere through faith in Jesus, and His promise to preserve us until the end.*

Hebrews 5:11-14

*About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, **since you have become dull of hearing**. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

PROBLEM: They have become **dull** of hearing

"Dull"

1. *Sluggish - slow-moving or inactive (lacking energy or alertness; slow to respond or make progress)*
2. *Indolent - wanting to avoid activity or exertion; lazy*
3. *Languid - displaying or having a disinclination for physical exertion or effort; slow and relaxed*
4. *Of one who apprehends with difficulty*

Hebrews 2:1

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Hebrews 5:12a

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.

PROBLEM: They have become dull of hearing

ADMONITION: You ought to be teachers, yet you need to be taught the basics again.

Hebrews 5:12b-14

You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Contrast:

Dull of hearing	Trained by constant practice
Needing to be taught	Ought to be teachers
Milk	Solid Food
Child	Mature (Grown Adult)
Unskilled in the word of righteousness	Having powers of discernment... to distinguish good from evil



Questions for Reflection:

1. Am I resistant to an active pursuit of studying God's Word?
2. Am I unskilled in handling the Bible?
3. Am I training my powers of discernment by constant practice?

Hebrews 6:1-3

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, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

PROBLEM: They have become dull of hearing

ADMONITION: You ought to be teachers, yet you need to be taught the basics again.

EXHORTATION: Leave the elementary & go on to maturity!

Hebrews 6:4-6

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, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 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.

PROBLEM: They have become dull of hearing

ADMONITION: You ought to be teachers, yet you need to be taught the basics again.

EXHORTATION: Leave the elementary & go on to maturity!

WARNING: The danger of falling away (apostasy)

Hebrews 3:12-13

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 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.

Potential Concerning Questions:

Is this speaking about true Christians? Can a true follower of Christ lose their salvation? Would it be possible to experience the life-changing transformation of regeneration and then grow hardened and fall away?

NO!!!

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

John 6:37-39

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

John 10:28-30

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

“Those here portrayed are said to have had five advantages...Yet [they were not] true Christians. This is evident from what is *not* said. Observe: they were not spoken of as God's elect, as those for whom Christ died, as those who were born of the Spirit. They are not said to be justified, forgiven, accepted in the Beloved. Nor is anything said of their faith, love, or obedience. Yet these are the very things that distinguish a real child of God.” - A.W. Pink

So then what is this passage saying?

- You can exhibit many outward and external fruits and be lost
- You can have the knowledge of salvation and be lost
- You can taste the reality of a heavenly gift of Christ in some measure and be lost
- You can experience the conviction of sin through the Holy Spirit and be lost
- You can be in close proximity to God and His people and be lost

Apostasy - “a deliberate, complete, and final repudiation of Christ—a sin for which there is no forgiveness” - A.W. Pink

Why is it impossible for them to repent?

To reject the work of Christ for your sin is to cut yourself off from the only hope you have

Hebrews 6:7-8

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. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:9-10

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. 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.

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Is your faith evident by active fruit in your life?

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. - Philippians 2:12-13

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. - Romans 6:12-13

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. - Romans 8:12-14

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you. - 1 Timothy 6:20-21

MAIN POINT: In hope, we persevere through faith in Jesus and His promise to preserve us until the end.

2 Peter 1:5, 10-11

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith...Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is the Lord speaking to you right now?

4 Exhortations & Encouragements:

1. Pray for the Lord's help
2. Pursue discipleship
3. Patiently trust the process of sanctification

4. Persevere in hope