

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 22ND–23RD, 2025 // HEBREWS

## MOVING THROUGH (HEBREWS 6:1–3) CHRISTIANITY IS RELATIONSHIP-BASED

After one accepts Christ and is saved by grace through faith, they are to grow in intimacy with and understanding of Jesus and His ways.

- In growing close to God (sanctification), there are behaviors and actions we leave behind, and many we pick up and develop.

## MOVING ON FROM "ELEMENTARY" TEACHING

All biblical knowledge is valuable, but v. 1 says we're to learn more than just the basics. The author lists several things we should learn and hold on to as we grow in Christ.

- Laying a foundation on top of an already established foundation shows that **a lack of progression leads to "dead works."**

## SIX STATEMENTS ABOUT ELEMENTARY TEACHING

We must have **faith** and **repentance**

- We need both to ask for forgiveness of sins and take steps to change our course. This follows our belief in Christ and His ability to forgive and restore.

- **A true Believer does not remain in a life of sin and disobedience to God.**

Professing Christ through **baptism**

- "Ritual washings" were Jewish cleansing ceremonies, but Christians are instructed to publicly profess faith through **baptism**.

The "**laying on of hands**"

- Seeking, receiving, and properly using the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8–10; Romans 12:6–8) are for the edification of the church.

Knowledge of the "**resurrection of the dead**" and "**eternal judgment**"

- We will be resurrected (Rev. 20) and eternally judged for our response to the gospel, but we are not to stop at that knowledge.

- If we know this, why don't we live in a way that reflects the fact that our (and others') eternity is at stake?

## THESE ARE THE BASICS

We are called to not only experience these things, but to grow in our understanding and obedience. If we believe these things but don't grow in them, we cannot expect Christ's help because we have willingly abandoned Him.

- **Our lips are close, but our hearts are often very far away** (Matthew 15:8).

## GOD HELPS US HONOR GOD

We cannot honor God on our own; we need help and guidance from His Spirit.

- Spiritual maturity begins with our willingness to be committed, but **we must invoke and rely on the Spirit to help us learn and follow God's standards**. Remember, **maturity is a choice**.

## DRINKING THE RAIN (HEBREWS 6:4–8) CAN WE "LOSE" SALVATION?

Vs. 4–5 are used as arguing tools for two camps (Arminians and Calvinists) and in these debates, the main point often gets lost.

- If our "**marriage**" is healthy, **divorce shouldn't come up**. A better question is "How can we continually strive to grow closer to Jesus?"

## COULD IT JUST BE A LOSS OF REWARDS?

Many who do not believe Christians can forfeit salvation believe vs. 4–5 are about losing rewards in heaven. A problem with this interpretation in regard to this passage is the warnings of judgment in 6:7–8 and 10:27.

- There will be different levels of rewards for people in eternity.

## ANOTHER INTERPRETATION

Possibly the readers of this letter weren't truly converted yet, but had "tasted the heavenly gift and became companions with the Holy Spirit" yet had not fully committed to Christ.

- This would be considered "common grace." **The truth always blesses people whether they truly believe or not.**

## MAYBE THE BEST INTERPRETATION

The author did not know who was genuine. So, he urged everyone to **show their faith by refusing to act contradictory to Scripture**.

- Was the one who strays from Christ ever saved? We don't know for sure, but we know **real faith is visible through actions and obedience to God**.

## SOME PUT ON A GOOD FAÇADE

There seems to be a difference between people who are temporarily infatuated with Christ, and those who truly love Him.

- The recipients claimed enlightened, supernatural gifts, and the power of God, but **the author urged them to demonstrate their faith by their works, not just words**.

## HONESTLY EVALUATING OUR RELATIONSHIP

The Bible encourages weak Believers, but it also declares warnings to those who carelessly presume they are on God's side.

- **We are called to be "doers of the Word" not just "hearers"** (James 1:22). We can look and sound like Christians, but we must have a relationship with Christ to be saved.

## HOW DO WE RE-CRUCIFY JESUS? (V. 6)

This Scripture is referring to those who have heard the truth and even experienced the power of Christ but have willingly turned away.

- Denying a relationship with Christ after acknowledging what Jesus has done is a hostile act against God.

## AND THERE IS NO COMING BACK?

**God will pardon any sin if one truly repents**, but it is possible to reject the grace of God so long that one arrives at a place where repentance is impossible (Romans 1:28).

- It's not impossible for God, but some allow their hearts to drift so far that they would never humble themselves in repentance.

## A SIMPLE ANALOGY PROVES THE POINT (VS. 7–8)

God "rains on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:45), and **it is up to the soil to respond**. Some respond with healthy vegetation. Others respond with useless thorns and weeds.

- We sometimes need reminding that **useless weeds and thorns are uprooted and thrown into a fire by the Gardener**.

## ENDURANCE (HEBREWS 6:9–12) FROM WARNING TO ENCOURAGEMENT

The author calls the recipients dear "friends" and says he is "confident" that many were committed to Jesus and those who were not would respond positively to his warnings.

- "Things that are better" refers to **the content and productive life that accompanies a true Believer**.

## WHAT DID THEY DO TO MAKE HIM CONFIDENT?

He mentions their "work and the love...for His name by serving the saints." They had **love for others, lived righteously, and ministered to other Christians**. They also had a **heart for justice and spreading the gospel**.

- **These are the things we should see in all Believers and believing circles**.

## WE ARE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD

After encouraging them, the author pushes them to continue moving closer to Christ.

- **We are to remain "diligent" so there is no question about our salvation and "hope."** At the time, the readers may have lacked confidence, but the author wants them to have assurance in their faith.

## LEARNING FROM GODLY LEADERS

The author calls us to look at examples of godly people in the OT and current godly leaders so we can imitate them and "inherit the promises through faith and perseverance."

- We need to **read the testimonies in the Bible and surround ourselves with mature Christians who will sharpen us**.

## IF WE ARE NOT DILIGENT, WE WILL STRAY

If we neglect the Word of God and do not choose our influences wisely, we are destined to "become lazy" and initiate the process of our hearts becoming hardened.

- **Christianity is not simply religion, but relationship, and relationships should always be growing**.

## IF WE ARE GOING TO PERSEVERE...

- Life is too precious, short, and difficult to do accidentally or haphazardly. If we are to endure in our faith, thrive in our personal lives, and positively affect others, **we must intentionally take steps that will help our faith and relationships mature. Productivity does not happen accidentally**.

## SIMPLE STEPS TO PERSEVERANCE

- We must decide in our minds and hearts that we want to grow closer to Jesus.
- We must **seek and accept truth** and truly **repent** (ask forgiveness and turn away) for our disobedience to God and sin.
- We must be **diligent with church involvement and accountability**.
- We must seek and properly use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- **Wisdom, knowledge, faith, miracles, healing, prophecy, tongues, interpreting tongues, and discernment** are given to us at Jesus' discretion to aid us in growth and advancing the gospel.
- We may not have much time, so we must steward it wisely.
- Block out and prioritize time for **rest, prayer, study, relationships, teaching others, serving, etc.**
- **Surround ourselves with good people** who challenge, encourage, and sharpen us.

## FILLING UP IN ORDER TO POUR OUT

- Few things mature, bless, and bring us closer to Jesus than serving. **God desires to bless and serve us, but He also desires that we bless and serve others**.
- We're not to be like non-believers who only serve like-minded people. **We are to love and serve ALL people as best as we can**.

## LEAN ON HIM AND DO WHAT HE SAYS

- We cannot truly flourish without the wisdom of God's Word, **leaning on the Spirit, and following Jesus' example**.
- **If we are not intentional in how we live, we will not only stray away from Jesus, we will do tremendous damage to ourselves and others as we drift**.