

# Hebrews

## Six

### Hebrews 6:1-3

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

### Leaving The Elementary Principles

- The Hebrew writer is telling these believers to leave the constant discussion of the A,B,C 's of the faith
- He encourages them to go onto maturity as he did in chapter 5:12-14
- These verses are a continuation of the thought in chapter five of moving forward in our walk with Jesus
- It is possible to become stagnant in our walk with the Lord and remain in that condition for a long time

### The Basics

The "basics" are given in three distinct groupings:

- 1. Repentance and faith**
- 2. Baptisms and laying on of hands**
- 3. Resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment**

"Many people regard this as a Biblical list of important "foundations" for the Christian life. Bible study series have been taught developing each one of these topics, with the thought that this is a good list of basic doctrines. But that isn't the writer's point here at all."- Guzik

### **Questions About This List**

- What is distinctively *Christian* about this list?
- Where is the specific mention of Jesus or salvation by grace alone?
- Can you believe or practice these things and still not be a follower of Jesus Christ, and not believe Him to be the Messiah?

-Guzik

### **The Three Distinct Groups**

- The Bible is written to **the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church of God**
- Keep in mind when reading the New Testament which group of persons the context is addressing
- **The Bible is written to a particular people at a particular time in a particular context, but its application is for all people for all time**

### **Some Basics To Move Beyond**

- The first thing that we must remember then is to whom is the Hebrew letter is written
- It is written to Jewish believers who were attempting to slide back into the Jewish sacrificial system
- Therefore these basics that Hebrew believers are asked to move beyond have a distinct Jewish tone to them

- When we consider the 'rudiments' one by one, it is remarkable how little in the list is distinctive of Christianity, for practically every item could have its place in a fairly orthodox Jewish community. . . . Each of them, indeed, acquires a new significance in a Christian context; but the impression we get is that existing Jewish beliefs and practices were used as a foundation on which to build Christian truth." (Bruce)

### Repentance From Dead Works

- Every year Jews have to celebrate Yom Kippur the Day of Atonement
- During Yom Kippur God inscribes each person's fate for the coming year into a book, the Book of Life and waits until Yom Kippur to "seal" the verdict. During the Holy Days a Jewish **person tries to amend his or her behavior** and seek forgiveness for wrongs done against God and his fellow man. The evening and day of Yom Kippur are set aside for public and private petitions and confessions of guilt. At the end of Yom Kippur, **one hopes that they have been forgiven by God.**

### Hebrews 9:13-14

- For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?** And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

### Faith Toward God

- The foundation for faith was laid in the Old Testament
- Abraham "believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."
- Faith is the means by which a person enters into the promises of God
- These Hebrew believers have already been told that it was because of unbelief that the Israelites could not enter the Promise Land
- The writer of Hebrews dedicates a whole chapter for his discussion of faith

### Doctrines Of Baptism

- This is not talking in this passage about the Christian being baptized
- Notice that it is in the plural, "doctrine of baptisms"
- The word used in the New Testament that refers to Christian Baptism is *Baptizo* the word that is used here is *baptismos* and is used on three other specific instances to refer to Jewish ceremonial washings (Hebrews 9:10, Mark 7:4, and Mark 7:8).
- Bruce quotes Nairne: " 'Doctrines of washings'—how unnatural are the attempts to explain this plural as referring to Christian Baptism."
- See Numbers 19

### The Laying On Of Hands

- Again this is a Jewish doctrine performed in the Old Testament
- Lev. 1:4; Lev. 3:2; Lev. 4:4; Lev. 8:14; Lev. 16:21
- “*The laying on of hands* was widely practiced in the early church, sometimes for the imparting of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17), sometimes for healing (Acts 28:8), sometimes for ordaining or commissioning (Acts 13:3). Though borrowed from Judaism, its Christian usage would need to be explained to the new convert. It is an act of identification, tying the individual to either the activity of God or that of the body of Christ. This, too, represents a beginning and not an end.”--Stedman

### Resurrection From the Dead

- The Jewish community was at a constant discussion in regards to the resurrection from the dead
- The Pharisees believed in the resurrection but the Sadducees did not
- <sup>23</sup>The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, <sup>24</sup>saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>25</sup>Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup>Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. <sup>27</sup>Last of all the woman died also. <sup>28</sup>Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”

Jesus answered and said to them, “**You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures** nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup>For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. <sup>31</sup>But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, <sup>32</sup>‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”<sup>33</sup> And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching. —Matt. 22:23-33

### Eternal Judgment

- The Jewish belief in the resurrection was closely related to their belief in eternal judgment
- “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. —Daniel 12: 1-3

### **Jewish Roots Of Christianity**

- The elementary principles to move beyond are all items that are similar between Christianity and Judaism. These Jewish believers were attempting to return to their roots instead of moving forward into the Christian faith.
- Because Christianity did grow out of Judaism it was a bigger temptation for a Jewish Christian to slip back into Judaism than it was for a formerly pagan Christian to go back to his pagan ways.

- These Jewish Christians did not want to abandon religion but they did want to make it less distinctively Christian. Therefore, they went back to their Jewish roots to avoid persecution.
- The Jewish belief system was a safe place to live. A Jew and a Christian together could say, "Let's repent, let's have faith, let's perform ceremonial washings," and so forth. But this was a subtle denial of a relationship to Jesus.
- This is entirely characteristic of those who feel discouraged and wish to give up. There is always the temptation to still be religious but not in relationship to Jesus

### **Grace**

- "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."-Eph. 2:4-10

### **Hebrews 6:4-6**

"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."

### A Difficult Passage

- These three verses are debated strongly by some
- There needs to be caution when coming to a difficult passage because there is a temptation to read into the passage with our preconceived ideas instead of trying to understand what the passage is trying to say to us.
- "We come to this passage ourselves with the intention to read it with the simplicity of a child, and whatever we find therein to state it; and if it may not seem to agree with something we have hitherto held, we are prepared to cast away every doctrine of our own, rather than one passage of Scripture." (Spurgeon)

### The Different Views

- A believer has the possibility after being enlightened to fall away from grace
- A believer has no possibility of falling away from grace and those believers in this passage did not really have an understanding of the Lord fully but only a partial experience with Him
- The holiness movement states that these believers were not yet sanctified
- This Verse has been used when taken out of context to condemn a believer or make them feel condemned thus living in a state of insecurity

### Hebrews Purpose Statement

- "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better....**"-Hebrews 1:1-4

### A Main Point In The Book Of Hebrews

- "The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing." Lee Iacocca
- "Now **this is the main point** of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens..."- Heb 8:1-2



### Jesus Sacrifice Is Once And For All

- "By that will [His Father's will] we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."-Hebrews 10:10-14

### How Complete Is Complete?

- "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."-Colossians 2:9-14



### We As Believers Are Complete In Him

- "'Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."'- John 6:28-29
- "'And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.'" - John 6:40

- "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."-John 6:39
- "...that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."-John 18:9
- "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."-Jude 24-25

### What Is The Main Concern Of This Hebrew Writer?

- “Therefore we ought to pay greater attention to the things that were heard, lest perhaps we drift away.” Hebrews 2:1
- “...how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation—which at the first having been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard;”- Hebrews 2:3
- “Let us fear therefore, lest perhaps anyone of you should seem to have come short of a promise of entering into his rest.”-Hebrews 4:1

- “About him we have many words to say, and hard to interpret, seeing you have become dull of hearing.”-Hebrews 5:11
- “For although by this time you should be teachers, you again need to have someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God. You have come to need milk, and not solid food.”-Hebrews 5:12
- “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.”-Hebrews 5:13

### Five Things About These Believers

1. They have been “enlightened” the Greek word used here means “made to see” it is used also in Eph. 1:18, in Hebrews 10:32 it is translated “illuminate”.
2. They have “tasted the heavenly gift”. The word in the original means to have a “full real experience”. It is used in Hebrews 2:9 for Jesus Who, “...by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”
3. They “have become partakers of the Holy Spirit”. This means to “share or have fellowship with”. It is used in Hebrews 3:1;3:14 and 12:10.

4. They have “tasted the good word of God”. These believers had experienced the transforming power of God’s word in their lives.
  5. They have tasted “the powers of the age to come”. These believers have experienced the power that comes when Jesus will reign here on earth from Jerusalem. (Hebrews 1:1; Luke 4:16-19)
- Only the born-again man has experienced the power of God. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes.” A person who is born-again has experienced the power of God.



### **Commentary Thoughts**

- Christians can backslide, tear down the foundation of repentance that is already laid. Should they ever again be admitted into the church, they will have to build again the foundation of repentance and do their first works again....Christians can fully apostatize from Christ, completely reject Him and His atoning work, so that it is impossible to renew them again to repentance.”-Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible

- “Christians who have fallen away cannot be renewed this is the simple import....This is not a stumbling in the Christian way, but a departure from it. The word as here used can refer only to a deliberate rejection of Jesus Christ.” –Richard S. Taylor, Beacon Bible Commentary
- “It is clear that he meant what he wrote; and that the impossibility of repentance applied to apostasy, the deliberate and willful denial of Christianity, rather than the sins of weakness and ignorance seems certain from the context.”-Harry Cotton, The Interpreters Bible

- “Because they believe the warning is addressed to Christians, many interpreters hold that the passage teaches that salvation can be lost. If this interpretation were true, however, the passage would also teach that, once lost, salvation could never be regained. If, after being saved, a person lost his salvation, he would be damned forever. There would be no going back and forth, in and out of grace. But Christians are not being addressed, and it is the opportunity for *receiving* salvation, not salvation itself, that can be lost.”-John Macarthur

### **Can Believers Forfeit Their Salvation?**

- This question is one of the most talked about thoughts, I believe, in Christianity.
- “Am I saved?”
- “Am I sure that I am saved?”
- “If I am saved can I at any moment lose my salvation?”
- “If I can lose my salvation what sin will I commit that will be the final sin that makes me lose my salvation?”
- “How far do I have to fall before I gone?”
- “If I can’t lose my salvation am I using the grace of God as freedom to live the way I want?”

### The Proper Questions

- How is a person saved?
- Is salvation relying upon me or upon Jesus?
- By virtue of the fact that you could lose it, would mean that keeping salvation would depend upon your efforts or actions. In other words, a person who says that he can lose his salvation for whatever reason, is in reality saying that he is trusting in human works to save himself.
- "for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one should boast."-**Ephesians 2:8-9**
- Salvation is not of works; therefore a person who is trusting in his works is not and will not be saved.
- "Most certainly, I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life."-**John 6:47**

"BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS VERY THING...." :

#### PERSUADE YOUR MIND

II Tim 1:12

" For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I **know** whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

**"Oida"**: Know, literally to understand based on facts. Always in the perfect tense which is a **past experience that is affecting the present**

### What Does It Mean To Fall Away?

- v. 6 — "Fall away" (Greek parapesontas) is not apostasy. It means to fall down, stumble. Literally it is **"having fallen away,"** a participle (there is no "if").
- This is the only time it is used in the New Testament
- The use of "falling away" here in this context means to depart from along side of someone
- The idea is not that "if you fall away, you can't ever come back to Jesus." Instead, the idea is "if you turn your back on Jesus, **don't expect to mature in your salvation apart from the fullness that is in Jesus.**"

### The Falling Away

- "Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the **falling away** comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.." -2 Thess. 2:3
- Apostasy, Literally "apostasia" Which indicates a defection from the truth in the sense of rebellion
- If the Hebrew writer wanted to convey the meaning of falling away from Jesus he would have chosen this word in the original language

### What is The Impossibility?

- The impossibility that the Hebrew writer is referring to in this passage is once a believer falls away from growing and maturing it is impossible to renew their lives by sacrificing yearly
- Repentance literally means: "to change your thinking" i.e. *Metanoia*
- These Hebrew believers had already repented but were trying to lay again the foundation of repentance from dead works
- If Jesus died "once and for all" for our sins. Jesus is put to open shame if His sacrifice is not good enough for salvation. Crucifying Him over and over again yearly

- The word used in the original text is "*anastauro*" which literally means to crucify over and over repeatedly
- Simply put: These Hebrew Christians were not maturing but were still trying to go every year and repent because that is how they believed they would be saved.
- If they shall fall away" is not referring to salvation but it is referring to the "Christian life"! Hebrews 6:1 tells us that the writer is talking about maturity in the Christian life and not about how to be saved.
- The Hebrew writer tells them "...let us go on to perfection.." or literally "maturity".

### Who Is The Standard?

- "...for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23**
- "Do you have faith? Have *it* to yourself before God. Happy *is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does* not *eat* from faith; for whatever *is* not from faith is sin."--**Romans 14:22-23**
- "For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."-**James 2:10**
- "For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."-**Romans 10:4**

### Robed In Righteousness

- Once robed in the righteousness of Jesus it is not what we do but what he has done because when God looks at you he doesn't look at your sinful behaviors but sees the work of His Son upon the cross.
- "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."-Titus 3:4-7

**1 JOHN 2:1-2**

“MY LITTLE CHILDREN, THESE THINGS I WRITE TO YOU, SO THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN. AND **IF ANYONE SINS**, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS. AND **HE HIMSELF IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS, AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY BUT ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.**”

“...AND IF ANYONE SINS....”

**WHAT THEN?****Echoing God**

- Confession, *Homologeō*: Echoing the same words
- In the context of Scripture it means saying what God says about us or to agree with God
- The written Word becomes the living Word as we declare with our lips the Word of God
- A relationship is forged with the Living Word through the written Word

**Three Parts of Confession**

- **Assent**: Agree to the truth of something
- **Consent**: Submit to the truth revealed
- **Express**: Put into action the revealed truth
- Putting these three aspects together is what it means to **“hold fast our confession”** of what God’s word says---I believe it is true, it is true for me, and I declare it to be true in my life
- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we haven’t sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”-1 John 1:7-10

### Hebrews 6:7-10

“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. But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. <sup>10</sup> 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.

### The Farm Illustration

- The point is made clear here by the Hebrew writer in that when rain falls on good ground it bears useful plants that makes the farmer happy. But when the ground is not producing no one blames the farmer for burning up the ground.
- The writer is asking these Hebrew believers, “where is the fruit of your salvation?” i.e. the “...things that accompany salvation....”
- “So the writer of this Hebrew epistle is talking about the *fruit* of salvation, not about the *root* of salvation.” McGee

### 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

- “For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or stubble; each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is. If any man’s work remains which he built on it, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but as through fire.

## FRUITFUL GROWTH IN THE FAITH

- “Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge; and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control patience; and in patience godliness; and in godliness brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Therefore, brothers, be more diligent to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.”-**2 Peter 1:5-10**

## The True Vine

- "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "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. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them.”-John 15:1-6



**“HE TAKES AWAY...” “Literally means to hoist, hoist up, lift up,”**

## Jesus is Even The Source Of Our Fruits

- “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.-Php. 1:9-11
- We speak of “our fruit” but it is His fruit “for without Me you can do nothing.”

### Jesus Became A Curse For Believers

- The Hebrew writer in his farm illustration says the ground that doesn't bear fruit "...is rejected and near to being cursed.." because it is impossible for a believer to be cursed because Jesus became a curse for us.
- "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, **having become a curse for us.** For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,"- **Galatians 3:13**

### God Sees And Remembers

- God sees and remembers the things we do for Him.
- When we are discouraged and it seems that there isn't any fruit being produced by our Christian walk we need to remember that God remembers.
- It would go against His character to forget for the Hebrew writer says that God would be unjust to forget our works that we do in His name

### Hebrews 6:11-12

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

### The Lazy Man

- "A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again."-Prov 19:24
- "I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles;"- Prov 24:30-31
- **"The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly."**- Prov 26:16

### **Diligent In Study**

- "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, **a worker** who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - 2 Tim 2:15
- The word in the original language for "diligent" is a word that means labor with a determined effort to understand
- This a big problem in our culture today when it comes to the word of God. The most important truth given to man since the beginning of time, yet more people have opinions based on their own ideas.
- Study to be approved based in truth not opinions

### **Words For Knowing**

- "*Ginosko*" means to get to know by means of learning
- "Oida" means to know based on the facts without effort because it can be observed
- "Epiginosko" means to know it so well that you know it intimately
- "Anaginosko" means to study over and over until you know whatever you are studying intimately

### **Last Day Problem**

- "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." - 2 Tim 4:3-4
- It is an act of the will to determine what you will study.
- It is also an act of the will to mold and change your theology as you are learning

### **Be Diligent In Seeking God**

- God is performing an incredible work on the inside building us into the very people we were meant to be as we diligently seek Him.
- He is making an inward holiness by His training!
- What do you want for your children? God wants so much more!
- Pray for His pruning in your life by the Holy Spirit!
- The Spirit Gets a hold of my heart and begins to work on it and heal all of the things that keep me from walking in the fullness of life.



### **Press On To The End**

- The Hebrew writer is like a coach who is encouraging believers to keep pressing on even if it is painful.
- “No Pain No Gain”
- The only failure in life is to stay down—failure is not falling down it is staying down
- "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity. ." —Proverbs 24:16
- You can let your failures define you or refine you it is our choice

### **Nothing Is Wasted in God's Economy!**

- We often look at our life as a series of events; like dots on a line.
- Failure at this point defines us; success is lived in former glory
- However it would be better to see our lives as a story or a journey to be lived.
- We also need to remember the ones who have gone before us and how they endured to the end.

### **Hope In The Midst Of Trials**

- Many of the Old Testament People who have gone before us were refined by the trials they went through as they walked with God
- Yet they had a “full assurance of hope to the end”
- They did not have a perfect faith but they were perfected by their failures.
- When a believer fails God does not cast him off but seeks to restore him.
- We have security in Him in spite of our failures
- **Salvation is a journey not a destination**

**God can take the disappointments in our life and use them to draw us into a deeper relationship with him. **Don't waste the pain** allow God to use it to draw you into a more abundant life!**

### 1 Peter 5:10-11

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."

NIV

### God Rewards Those Who Seek Him

- "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."-Hebrews 11:6
- "But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing."-Psalm 34:8
- As we are seeking the Lord and may be discouraged we need to change our thought patterns to believe that He is rewarding us in ways that sustains and strengthens us in our journey with Him.

### Careful Of A Spirit Of Stupor

- "'God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day.'--- Rom 11:8
- Stupor: "numbness, suppression of sense" [Webster's]
- "God has given them a spirit of stupor..."--Ouch
- This is speaking of Israel today
- Apathy to the things of God
- Seek God on our own terms
- Religion can get in the way of relationship
- Change God's word to fit our thinking

### Galatians 6:7-8

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life."

**Job 15:31**

**Let him not trust in futile  
things, deceiving himself,  
For futility will be his reward.**

**Don't Become Sluggish**

- The Hebrew writer knows that when we become discouraged we lose the desire to press on to maturity but get stuck in a rut.
- The word for "sluggish" is the same word that the writer used in Chapter 5:11 when told the Hebrew believers they had become "dull" in hearing
- These believers started to drift from learning the word of God . The result was a fragmented understanding of God and his plan. They had then become confused believers tempted to turn away from Christianity.
- Without Jesus as an anchor for the soul a believer wanders aimlessly through life seeking the next experience that will give them a spiritual high.
- For every upper there is a downer and the Hebrew writer does not want a believer to be sluggish but to grow in "faith and patience".

**"Oh, let me not wander..."**

- "Wander": to get off the path and into a rut
- Do you ever feel like you are living in rut?
- The path has been set before us!
- "Hebrews 12:1& 2 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...."

**Imitate Those Who Have Faith**

- This is a transforming moment in life when it seems like God has abandoned us but what has abandoned us is not God but the image of God that we have of Him that has left us!
- It moves to a new level of relationship from head to heart
- Faith is what binds us to Christ when everything is gone including our most treasured expectations of Him
- The Old Testament Saints were shattered out of their comfort zones in order to know God Better

**"...[We] must decide whether or not to leave behind the life that is gone forever. We can do that only if we believe in the ongoing creativity of God, who brings light and beauty to that dark chaos of our losses in life."**

M. Craig Barnes, When God Interrupts: Finding New Life Through Unwanted Change

- **Dan 3:16-18**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

- NIV

**"But even if he does not..."**

**IN DIFFICULT TIMES WILL WE STILL:**

- **WORSHIP**
- **GIVE THANKS**
- **TRUST**
- **LOVE**

**Job Learned through Patience**

- "My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful."-James 5:10-11
- "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You."-Job 42:5

### Believers Inherit

- **Faith** that comes from learning and growing in God's word
- **Hope** that produces a confidence in the things not yet seen
- **Full assurance** knowing that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf
- **Patience** that comes from a God who holds us up in times of discouragement
- **Promises** which are the reward of those walk with God in fellowship with Him

### Hebrews 6:13-14

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

### Abraham Believed God

- This a quote from Genesis 22:16-17, that came after Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac his son
- "For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." - Romans 4:3
- "In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."
- Abraham received his blessing because **He believed what God had said without strings attached or fleeces**

### Abraham Was Blessed By God

- Abraham was chosen by grace and not of any effort of his own.
- Abraham could not lose the blessing by lack of devotion to God because God made a promise to Abraham and sealed with an oath.
- The blessing did not change depending on how good or bad Abraham acted because **the blessing was not dependent upon him but God**
- The absolute faithfulness of God **guaranteed** the blessing for Abraham

### **The Blessing Of Abraham Is Passed To All**

#### **Who Believe**

"Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all." -Romans 4:9-16

GOD WANTS TO SUPPLY THE BELIEVER  
WITH A LIFE OF BLESSING, BUT WE  
HAVE **TO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN** THE  
BLESSING AND NOT THE CURSE!

### **Redeemed From The Curse Into Abraham's Blessing**

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" in order that in Christ Jesus **the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles**, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." -Gal 3:13-14

### Living In The Blessing

- “Blessing is from a root word that means, “to go straight, walk, go on, advance, make progress””
- Not simply Happiness—Why?
- A person who is living in the blessing is on the correct path in life eyes fully on the Lord and His plan and grasping the many wonders of a relationship with the Living God

### THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING!

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...”-Ephesians 1:3
- “...and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might which he worked in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places...”-Ephesians 1:19-20
- “...even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus;”-Ephesians 2:5-7

### PSALM 119:17-18

“Deal bountifully with Your servant, *That* I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

### A Prayer for Abundance

- David prays that God would deal abundantly with the him
- If you’ re going to ask God for something, why not ask that God would, “Deal bountifully with...” your life?
- We could pray “Lord be stingy with me” but it doesn’t make much sense does it?
- If you want God to do something great then go for it and pray with gusto
- Yet it is a prayer in humility, “Deal bountifully with your servant...”

### The Prayer of Jabez

1 Chronicles 4:10

“And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep *me* from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.”

### Hebrews 6:15-17

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath

### Abraham Waited Patiently For God

- This is probably the hardest aspect of following God to wait for Him to do something
- We have the promises. We know the promises are true but sometimes it can be a long dark night before we see the blessing of the promise, i.e. the answer.
- Abraham was 75 years old when he received God's promise. -Genesis 12:1-4
- Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was finally born. -Genesis 21:5
- At some point Abraham decided to take matters into his own hands resulting in the birth of Ishmael
- This caused turmoil in the family and that turmoil is still going on today
- The blessing of Abraham was also passed on to Ishmael and his offspring -Genesis 21:13

### Abraham Obtained The Promise

- Here it says Abraham obtained the promise but in Hebrews 11:13 it says Abraham died in faith “not having received the promise”.
- Is there a conflict in Scripture?
- The received promise in chapter six refers to Abraham having received his son Isaac.
- Not receiving the promise refers to Abraham dying before he could see the fulfillment of the fullness of the promise.
- If only Abraham could see how his **one act of faith has blessed billions of people throughout history**
- Abraham died knowing that the God who gave a portion of the promise would ultimately fulfill all of it.



### God Confirmed The Promise With An Oath

- This oath showed that God's promises like His character are unchanging.
- Abraham's trust in this was the gateway to the fulfillment of the promise.
- Do we trust God simply because of Who He Is?
- "God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"-Numbers 23:19
- God's statement on this matter was now a matter of record written down for all of Abraham's heirs to read for eternity. Anything said after this could not change this promise.

### See God Big And Trust Him

"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"—Jer. 32:27



Whatever we may call an impossibility or a struggle place it in this question and see God big!

### Refuse To Worry!



"MENTALLY UPSET OVER POSSIBLE MISFORTUNE; SOMETHING OR SOMEONE THAT CAUSES ANXIETY; A SOURCE OF UNHAPPINESS

WEBSTER-ON-LINE

" 'IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS' NEVER LET ANYTHING PUSH YOU TO YOUR WITS' END, BECAUSE YOU WILL GET WORRIED, AND WORRY MAKES YOU SELF-INTERESTED AND DISTURBS THE NOURISHMENT OF THE LIFE OF GOD [IN YOU]. GIVE THANKS TO GOD THAT HE IS THERE, NO MATTER WHAT IS HAPPENING."

OSWALD CHAMBERS, IF YE SHALL ASK...



**Worry Pushes Us To Our Wits End!**

**WORRY IS A SOURCE OF MENTAL  
THOUGHT PATTERNS THAT AFFECT THE  
MOOD OVER POSSIBLE SITUATIONS  
REAL OR PERCEIVED THAT END UP  
DISTURBING OUR PEACE OF MIND.**

Isa 26:3

"You will keep him in perfect peace,  
**Whose mind is stayed on You, because he  
trusts in You.**"

**Hebrews 6:18-20**

that by two immutable 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.

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

### **Two Unchanging Truths**

- God's word is sure and cannot change. What has promised He will do.
- God cannot lie
- "Now, brethren, who among us dare doubt this? Where is the hardy sinner who dares come forward and say, 'I impugn the oath of God'? Oh! But let us blush the deepest scarlet, and scarlet is but white compared with the blush which ought to mantle the cheek of every child of God to think that even God's own children should, in effect, accuse their heavenly Father of perjury. Oh, shame upon us!" (Spurgeon)

### **Strong Consolation**

- The word in the original for "consolation" is "*paraklesis*" which literally means "to come along side, to comfort".
- Notice that it is not simply a consolation which would be satisfactory by itself but it is a "strong" consolation
- The word for "strong" is "*isxyrós*" which is a description of physical strength but here it means "God's power is standing by ready to *unleash* itself to bring about His preferred-will through faith."
- The Holy Spirit comes along side of the believer to give "strong consolation" when we have moments of weakness. He is the Great Comforter.

"It is a strong consolation that can deal with outward trials when a man has poverty staring him in the face, and hears his little children crying for bread; when bankruptcy is likely to come upon him through unavoidable losses; when the poor man has just lost his wife, and his dear children have been put into the same grave; when one after another all earthly props and comforts have given way, it needs a strong consolation then; not in your pictured trials, but your real trials, not in your imaginary whimsied afflictions, but in the real afflictions, and the blustering storms of life. To rejoice then, and say, 'Though these things be not with me as I would have them, yet hath he made with me an everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure;' this is strong consolation." (Spurgeon)

### **Hope As An Anchor**

- The writer to the Hebrews is using here a reference to the cities of refuge. —Numbers 35
- He tells the Hebrew believers that those who have strong consolation "...have fled for refuge..."
- However this refuge is not city but is hope and that hope is an anchor for the soul.
- Jesus is the only refuge that can strengthen the soul at the same time give hope in a turbulent unpredictable world.
- He is the believers anchor.

### **We Have Security In Jesus**

- An anchor is only as secure as to that which it is fastened. Our hope which is our confident expectation based on the solid certainty of who Christ is and on what He has done for us is the anchor which keeps our mind, will, and emotions stable. That anchor is directly attached to our Rock so that we may not waver in the storms of life.
- “For this cause I also suffer these things. Yet I am not ashamed, for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed to him against that day.”-**2 Timothy 1:12**

### **Behind The Veil**

- This is a recurring thought in the Book of Hebrews that because Jesus shed His blood once and for all time for our sins we now can with confidence enter into the presence of God.
- “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who made both one, and **broke down the middle wall of partition**”- **Ephesians 2:13-14**
- Our hope is based on the finished work of Christ and his continuing work as our high priest.