

HEBREWS 6

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Do you still struggle with questions about repentance, baptism, the resurrection of our bodies, and hell? The more you grow in your knowledge of Jesus, the more these questions will be answered. It's time to press forward to maturity!

Do you still question your own salvation at times? The remedy is the same. You need to grow in your knowledge of Jesus.

The more we learn about Jesus, the more we grow in love (Colossians 2:2), fruitfulness (Colossians 1:10), discernment (Philippians 1:9), faith (Ephesians 3:17), and also grace and peace are multiplied to us (2 Peter 1:2). Is it any wonder that the author of Hebrews wanted to urge these believers toward greater spiritual maturity? However, before proceeding into the wisdom and power of our great faith, the author needed to ensure that his readers were ready for it. He challenged them to: move past their questions about basic fundamentals, safeguard their salvation, examine the fruit of their lives, and move forward into the great security of faith—*the anchor of the soul*.

God wants to reveal to us the wonder and power of our great faith! However, we will need to leave off our basic questions for a time and press forward to greater spiritual maturity through learning more about Jesus.

Ask the Lord to give you a greater spiritual appetite and passion to know Jesus.

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 6:1–8

1. The author had profound spiritual principles to discuss with these Hebrew believers, but they were spiritually dull (Hebrews 5:11–12). Therefore, he needed to exhort them in their great faith before moving on to deeper things. Read Hebrews 6:1–3 (NLT) to fill in the chart below: *¹So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. ²You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.* From this passage, fill in what these believers:

| DID NOT NEED | NEEDED |
|--------------|----------|
| Verse 1a | Verse 1b |
| Verse 1c | |
| Verse 2 | Verse 3 |

- a. Some of the Hebrew believers were using these *elementary principles* as an excuse to remain spiritually immature. How can a preoccupation with *elementary principles* become a hindrance to spiritual maturity?
- b. The author exhorted these believers to go on and to move forward. Pastor Warren Wiersbe notes, *The phrase “Let us go on” should be translated, “Let us be carried forward.” It is God who enables us to progress as we yield to Him, receive His Word, and act on it.*⁶ How does this encourage you?

(1) Use Philippians 2:13, 3:13–14 to comment further on the importance of this principle in the Christian life.

(2) Share a reason why you desire to *move forward*.

2. The author then spoke of those who not only regressed in their relationship with Jesus, but who might ultimately *fall away*. Some commentators believe this was a hypothetical scenario, while others believe the author was warning those who desired to go back to Judaism. Use Hebrews 6:4–5 to describe the initial experience of such people.

3. According to Hebrews 6:6a, what would be *impossible* for those who *fall away*?

- a. Why would this be *impossible* for them?
Hebrews 6:6b

(1) The Greek word used for *fall away* is *parapipto*, which means *to fall beside, to deviate or wander from the right path*. How does this explain their situation? See also Ephesians 4:18.

4. To further illustrate his point, the author referred to *the earth which drinks in the rain* (Hebrews 6:7a). Compare and contrast what he said about:

a. The *earth* that *bears herbs* (verse 7)

b. The *earth* that *bears thorns* (verse 8)

(1) Link this with Jesus' parable in Matthew 13:18–23, and share your insights.

5. Why is it essential to press forward into spiritual maturity?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 6:9–12

1. In spite of his sober warning, the author wanted to reassure these believers in their great faith. Remark on how he addressed them in Hebrews 6:9a.

a. What was he *confident* of even though he spoke to them in such a firm *manner*? Hebrews 6:9b

b. What *things* should *accompany* salvation? See also Matthew 7:16–20 and Luke 3:8a.

(1) How do these *things* add to your spiritual assurance?

2. The author then encouraged them in these *better things*. Use Hebrews 6:10 to fill in the blanks:

*For God is not unjust to forget your
 _____ and _____ of
 _____ which you have shown toward
 _____, in that you
 have _____ to the _____, and do
 _____.*

- a. Why do you think this Scripture would be a comfort to these believers?

(1) How does this comfort you?

3. Hebrews 6:11 (NLT) says, *Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true.* Why do you think this was the author's *great desire* for these believers?

a. How does this exhortation to *keep on loving others* speak to you?

b. Link this with 1 John 4:7–8 and explain how love is an evidence of salvation.

4. According to Hebrews 6:12, the author desired for these believers to not become sluggish. He then exhorted them to imitate those who inherit the promises. Fill in the chart below to better understand how we inherit the promises:

| THE WAYS (Hebrews 6:12b) | HOW YOU RECEIVE IT | YOUR TAKEAWAY |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Faith | Acts 3:16 Romans 10:17 | |
| Patience | Romans 15:5 Colossians 1:11 James 1:3–4 | |

5. Share a brief testimony about someone whose *faith* and *patience* you desire to imitate.

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 6:13–18

1. Having spoken of *those who through faith and patience inherit the promises*, the author used the example of Abraham to encourage the Hebrew believers. What do you find interesting about God's *promise* to Abraham?
Hebrews 6:13
2. Referencing the *promise* God made to Abraham, the author quoted Genesis 22:16–17. From Hebrews 6:14 record this *promise*.
3. According to Hebrews 6:15, when did Abraham obtain the *promise*?
 - a. Link this with Romans 4:17–21 and share why Abraham believed God.

4. Hebrews 6:16–18 (NLT) says, *Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. God also bound Himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that He would never change His mind. So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.* Underline phrases from the passage above that stand out to you.

a. Choose three of the phrases you underlined and share the reason it speaks to you:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(a) How do these truths give you *great confidence*?

e. Titus 2:13

f. 1 Peter 1:3, 13

2. According to Hebrews 6:19a, this *hope* is *an anchor of the soul*. What does this word picture suggest to you?

a. What words are used to describe this *hope*? Hebrews 6:19b

(1) How does this minister to you?

3. Hebrews 6:19c states that the *anchor of the soul enters the Presence behind the veil*. The *veil* was in the Temple and symbolized the separation of man from the *Presence* of God by barring the entrance to the Holy of Holies. Only the High Priest was allowed to go *behind the veil* and only once a year. With this in mind, why is the *hope* we have in Christ so wondrous?

4. According to Hebrews 6:20, what has Jesus done for us?
 - a. Review Hebrews 4:14–15 and 5:9–10 to write a brief description of Jesus as our High Priest.

5. Share a hope you have received from Jesus:
 - a. In the past

b. In the present

c. For the future

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. In Hebrews 6, the author paused to encourage and exhort the believers in their great faith. From your study this week, share an insight you received concerning:

a. Maturity by faith

b. Security by faith

c. Fruit of faith

d. Patience in faith

e. Hope through faith

2. Share a verse or phrase from your study this week that gives you strong consolation in Christ.

3. What has ministered to you the most this week about *Our Great Faith*?

