

## Spiritual Growth Questions for July 19, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

**Opener:** What is a topic in the Bible that you would like to learn more about?

1. **Read Hebrews 6:1-8 two times.** What stands out to you? What is the nature of “maturity” that the writer has in mind?
2. **Read Romans 9:32-36, Romans 10:1-3.** Why is the temptation to earn our salvation through works so strong? Why do we still find ourselves returning to fruitless attempts to win God’s favor through works even though we know better?
3. **Read Hebrews 6:1-2.** The author of Hebrews was encouraging his readers not to divide their trust in Christ’s righteousness with things that could not save them. In what elementary doctrines of faith do you sometimes trust rather than resting in the righteousness secured for you in Christ?
4. **Read Hebrews 6:4-6.** Three views of this passage: Hypothetical, Actual or Apparent. Why can’t this warning be referring to true believers losing their salvation? Why can’t the warning be merely hypothetical? What is the warning that is given to some in this church? What were they doing to Jesus?  
  
Other apparent references: Judas John 17:12, Simon Magus Acts 8:8-9-24, Those spoken of in Matthew 7:21-23, Mt. 13:18-23, Alexander and Hymenaeus I Tim.1:19-20, Demas 2 Tim.4:10.
5. How can believers be confident that their salvation is secure? What are some of the marks of true conversion and genuine salvation? Can we actually ever be sure, this side of heaven, if someone is a genuine believer? Why or why not? (Further study: John 10:27-28, Romans 8:35,38,39; Phil.1:6, I Pet1:4,5)
6. **Read Hebrews 6:7-8.** Jesus used four soils in Matthew 13:18-23 but here there are just two types of soil. Do I have present trust in Christ for my salvation? Is there evidence of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my soul? Do I see a pattern of growth in my life?
7. The question the writer poses for all of us is: What might entice us or some within our Christian fellowship to turn our backs on faith and join in the general tendency to sneer at the gospel and the church?

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews  
Jesus: Our Path to Spiritual Maturity and Growth Part Two  
Hebrews 6:1-8. July 19, 2020  
Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today, we look at the great need we all have to grow in faith and our relationship with God. Spiritual growth is not automatic. It comes through diligent reception, study and application of God’s Word. The Hebrew church was stunted in its growth. The writer desires for them to grow stronger spiritually because without this strength they will not be able to navigate the trials ahead.

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, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits. 4 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, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 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. 7 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. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

**Key Idea:** Commit to growing closer to Jesus and helping others grow closer too.

**Key questions:** Do I have a present trust in Christ for my salvation? Is there evidence of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my soul? Do I see a pattern of growth in my Christian life?

**A new section:** Hebrews 5:11-14 lack of maturity, 6:1-3 list of the basics, 6:4-8 dangers of falling away from faith, 6:9-10 instilling confidence, 6:11-12 encouraging perseverance.

I. Spiritual growth begins by learning the \_\_\_\_\_ well.

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

Each item endorsed by orthodox Judaism. Yet each one of these three couplets had a new light based on the Christian teaching about the Messiah.

**Elementary doctrine**- refers to the First Testament sacrifices and the person and work of Christ as presented in the Old Testament.

**Foundation of repentance**- Conversion meant a conscious turning away from the old way of life. Merely turning from dead works would accomplish nothing. Repentance must be joined with faith—a personal relationship of trust in God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. Kent Hughes

**Faith toward God** Acts 20:21. Abandon attempts at self-righteousness and trust the righteousness of Christ given to those who put their trust in Him. **(This couplet: Salvation)**

**Instructions about washings**- washings (plural of Gk. baptismos) where the plural may refer to teaching about the differences between Jewish purification rites and Christian baptism, and laying on of hands, which could refer to an initiatory rite at the time of baptism. ESV study Bible Ceremonial washings -Lev. 16:4, 24, 26, 28. Washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 baptized with the Holy Spirit (Mt.3:11, Acts 1:5, I Corinthians 12:13)

**Laying on of hands**- associated with prayer (Lev. 4:29, Acts 8:17, healing 9:17-18, commissioning Acts 13:3 **(This couplet: Holy Spirit)**)

**Resurrection of the dead**- Old testament resurrection of the dead (Job 19:23-27) more fully developed from the resurrection from the dead, John 11:25, Philippians 3:11

**Eternal judgment**-Gen.18:25, Isaiah 33:22/OT. Jesus as our judge, 2 Corinthians 5:10. **(This couplet: eschatology-last things)**.

Unless Jesus stands in our place as our advocate and substitute, we cannot stand before God in the judgment that is coming. Moehler

### **Do I have a present trust in Christ for my salvation?**

II. Beware of the many \_\_\_\_\_ that pull us away from the Gospel!

Hebrews 6:4 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, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 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.

Three views of this passage: **Hypothetical**- warning against a sin that is impossible to commit. **Actual**- Any Christian is capable of apostasy and condemnation described. **Apparent**- holds that those who fall away are not true believers, but rather men and women who appear so. (See question 4 for a list of those with apparent faith).

Three groups of people being addressed in this letter: 1. Believers, 2.unbelievers who were intellectually convinced of the gospel (Hebrews 2:1-3, 6:4-6, 10:26-29, 12:15-17). 3. Unbelievers who were attracted to the gospel and had some exposure to it but had reached no final conviction about him,(H.9:11,14,15,27,28)

And now the writer presents a most solemn warning to those among his readers who would persist in their leanings toward the First Testament and their abandonment of the New. It would be impossible to renew them again to repentance. Kenneth Wuest. (Jeremiah 3:22, 2 Pet.3:9, Luke 15, Jm.5:19)

*Enlightened*- Tasted-Shared-Fallen away- Crucifying again  
Restore them again to repentance- Holding him in contempt.

Profession of faith is not enough, there must be a genuine commitment to Christ.

Here a word is in order to those who fear they have committed the unpardonable sin. Concern about it indicates you have not committed the unpardonable sin and that you are still capable of repentance. Kent Hughes

### **Is there evidence of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my soul?**

**I Commit to growing closer to Jesus no matter what my situation may be.**

III. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is the evidence of genuine faith.

Hebrews 6:7 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. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Depending on temporary blessings and experiences is not enough. Rain falls on both lands but only one bears fruit. Fruit gives the evidence.

Matthew 7:20 by their fruit you shall know them.

Two soils in this passage versus four soils in Matthew 13:18-23.

Hebrews 6:9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

**Do I see a pattern of growth in my Christian life?  
Lord, I commit to growing and helping others grow!**