

## Hebrews 6:1-20 **Growth to Maturity – Danger of Falling Away**

### Growth to Maturity beyond basic foundational doctrine (elementary principles)

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.

### Danger of Falling Away

<sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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; <sup>8</sup> but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

### Confident of Better Things for You – Diligence in Faith and Patience

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

### God's Oath to Abraham and its fulfillment, builds Confidence for us today

<sup>13</sup> For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." <sup>15</sup> And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

<sup>16</sup> For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

<sup>17</sup> Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, <sup>20</sup> where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Growth to Maturity beyond basic foundational doctrine (elementary principles) [Hebrews 6:1-3]

- ✚ The call is for believers to grow beyond the basic "Elementary Principles of Christ," also known as "Foundations of Faith."
- ✧ The Elementary Principles are listed as:
  - Repentance from dead works.
  - Faith toward God.

- Doctrine of Baptisms (Water and Spirit).
  - Laying on of hands.
  - Resurrection of the Dead.
  - Eternal Judgment.
- ✧ Leaving the repetitive discussion of the Elementary Principles of Christ, believers are encouraged to move on to Perfection (completion), if God so permits by granting time for growth to maturity.

#### Danger of Falling Away [\[Hebrews 6:4-8\]](#)

- ✧ The danger of falling away is very real for those in the Church today, because of the pressure of the world around us, from governmental and educational authorities and the boldness and aggressiveness of unbelievers in modern day society.
- ✧ 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, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance.
  - ✧ They crucify again for themselves the Son of God and put Him to an open shame.
- ✧ Those who associate themselves with the Church are compared to the earth and its fruitfulness.
- ✧ Some drink in the rain that often comes upon it and bear herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receiving the blessing from God, (Eternal Life with all its rewards). [\[Matthew 19:29, 10:29-30, John 3:15-16, 4:36, 10:27-28, 12:25, 17:1-3\]](#)
- ✧ Others bear thorns and briars, and are rejected near to being cursed, their end is to be burned, (a reference to Hell and the Lake of Fire and all its rewards). [\[Matthew 3:11-12, 7:13-23, 13:36-43, 47-50, 24:48-51, 25:31-46, Mark 9:43-48, Luke 3:9, 17\]](#)

#### Confident of Better Things for You – Diligence in Faith and Patience [\[Hebrews 6:9-12\]](#)

- ✧ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, **things that accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner.
  - ✧ The things expected to accompany Salvation are the works and labor of love that demonstrate the love in the heart of the believer. [\[Hebrews 6:10, John 14:23, 1 John 5:2-3\]](#)
  - ✧ The labor of love spoken of regarding the reputation of the Hebrews is that they have ministered to the Saints which they continue to do.
  - ✧ Each believer is encouraged to demonstrate diligence in following their example.
  - ✧ We are able to diligently keep this advice because of the assurance we have through the hope of the reward God has in store for the Saints who remain faithful to the very end.
  - ✧ We need to guard ourselves against the tendency to become sluggish, and imitate those faithful who through faith and patience are pressing on to inherit the promises of God.

#### God's Oath to Abraham and its fulfillment, builds Confidence for us today [\[Hebrews 6:13-20\]](#)

- ✧ God's Promise to Abraham was given as an oath, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." [\[Genesis 22:15-18\]](#)
  - ✧ When people swear an oath to confirm their testimony, they always swear by one of greater authority, in the same manner, because there is no greater authority, God swore by Himself. [\[Hebrews 6:13-14, Genesis 22:15-18\]](#)
  - ✧ The promise was fulfilled many years after Abraham died, meanwhile in faith, Abraham endured without wavering because he believed that God would accomplish what He had promised.
  - ✧ In the same way, God confirmed the promise of the Gospel message with an oath, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. God made the promise and used His own

reputation as confirmation through the Prophets of old and through Jesus the Messiah in the New Testament.

- ✧ God, being the ultimate of moral perfection can not lie, therefore believers as heirs of the promise may rest their assurance of His promise on His Word being confident that what He has said, He will also fulfill. This is the same assurance Abraham had regarding the promise of God and believing what God had promised, He would accomplish. [[Hebrews 11:17-19](#)]
- ✧ We today, realizing by the Word of God that we are sinners condemned to the fire, seeking refuge have fled for to lay hold of Eternal Life based on the promise of God through faith in Messiah Jesus which gives us the hope that strengthens us to persevere faithfully to the end.
- ✧ Hope in the reliability of God's Word which is reserved in Heaven for us, serves as an anchor of the soul, holding us securely sure and steadfast until the Day of Salvation. [[Hebrews 6:19](#), [1 Peter 1:3-5](#)]
- ✧ Our assurance is based on the living resurrected Lord Jesus Who has carried the promise into Heaven and enters the presence of God behind the veil on our behalf.
- ✧ This is a reference to the act of Jesus as the Eternal High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, when He presented His Own blood on the Mercy Seat in Heaven for the atonement of sins for those who believe. [[Hebrews 6:19-20](#), [9:12](#)]