



Daily Bible Habit

The Letter To The Hebrews

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Focus Points...*For Hebrews 6*

Stop And Consider...

- * If a faith is now growing, it is dying.

Look...

- * At the seriousness of decline in the Church which Hebrews addressed.

Listen...

- * To the appeal to all Christians to never forsake the hope we have in Christ.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, the great High Priest, each day Your sacrifice for sin is made available to us by grace. Enable this grace in which we now live, to move us beyond the simple, elementary basics of faith to greater insight, growth, understanding and service to You, our risen Lord. Amen.

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Commentary:

6:1 begins with a word used nearly 500 times in the Bible: “therefore.” Therefore is an important word in that it calls the reader to consider what was just presented. Then, having considered what was said, “therefore” calls the reader to act based on that information.

The word “therefore,” then requires the reader to consider again the message of Hebrews 5, especially the final words in 5:12-14 referring to their spiritual immaturity. In this sense, Hebrews 6:1 flows naturally—if not seamlessly—from the previous content in chapter 5.

The word “therefore” is especially effective in *spoken* messages. Because the Letter to the Hebrews is a transcript of a spoken sermon, one can visualize a man of God persuasively appealing to believers with several “therefore” messages.

The word “therefore” occurs very frequently in the Gospels and in Paul’s letters. In Hebrews it occurs sixteen times. In 6:1, the preacher urges them, “Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings and go on to maturity.” (6:1)

The exhortation to “leave the elementary teachings” is not a call to abandon the list of Christian fundamentals listed in verses 1-3. Instead, it is a call to move beyond a complacent, immature faith which resists moving beyond (i.e. “leaving”) elementary teachings. “And God permitting, we will do so!” the preacher concludes (6:1).

One person wrote, “Whatever is not growing is dying.” Perhaps nowhere is that more evident than in Christianity. Hebrews 6:4-8 is a warning that it is “impossible” for those who once believed—and turned away—to return to the conviction of faith. Having abandoned faith, they are like worthless land which bears only “thorns and thistles [and] is in danger of being cursed.” (6:8).

In almost the same breath, however, the Hebrews preacher expresses his confidence that God will work in those who have shown “diligence to the very end” (6:11).

As if to add the seal of certainty, note how the Hebrews preacher references God’s faithfulness to Abraham (6:13). Abraham is often used by Paul and others when speaking of the certainty of God’s gracious promises. A common theme, the preacher refers to Abraham, to make certain one of his main points:

“God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heir of what was promised.” (6:17).

God “does not lie” (6:18). Indeed, it is “impossible” for God to do so. Those who remain in faith, remain in God’s absolute promises. Because of His promise, the Christian hope offers two main benefits for believers.

First, it is the “anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (6:19).

Second, it gives us access to the inner sanctuary of grace, in which Jesus, our Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek, intercedes for us (6:20).

How could anyone flee such a salvation? Why would anyone abandon God’s great covenant? That is the point of Hebrews, especially chapter 6.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, often we become lazy in our faith. In apathy, we get “stuck” in a pattern of non-growth. Knowing that a stagnant faith is the first step to spiritual ruin, restore us by Your grace. Move us to grow beyond the elementary basics to the fullness of faith in Your promises. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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