

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 6-Growing in Christ our Lord and Following the Spirit **Focus: Hebrews 6:1-20**

- **Moving on from the basic essentials to some deeper things (v.1-3)**
 - It's good for us to grow and develop! We should be able to become established in the primary and basic teachings of the word of God. We should be solid in these teachings and our understanding of them. Keeping these truths and their biblical reasons fresh in our minds will be needful and helpful as well, but we should at least be solid on what we all believe from the Bible. (These verses make a reference also back to the previous ones, ch.5, vs.12-14 which discussed the need for growing up in Christ and becoming mature and solid).
- **Spiritual Renewal vs. The unpardonable sin (v.4-8)**
 - (v.4-6) This is describing a terrible situation; a scary situation—that is the condition of the unpardonable sin (such as stated in Matthew 12:31-33). *That is not a certain specific sin, but it is rather a condition where someone has totally turned away the Holy Spirit and refused to listen. They have ignored the Holy Spirit over and over again and have come to a place where they no longer will hear the voice of God. They have forced their way so much and chosen, in spite of the strongest objections from the Holy Spirit to continue in their path of disobedience towards God. The Holy Spirit is seeking to convict of God's truth and to lead in the righteous way (John 16:8), but if we refuse to follow His voice, and if we turn away from every ounce of mercy that God has to offer us; if we have stopped appreciating His grace and His warnings, then there is nothing stronger that can possibly save us or renew us. We will be lost by our own choices!*
 - *Do not think that God does not desire to forgive us. No, He does desire to and He will if we would only recognize our sin, and turn ourselves back to Him sincerely. In Psalm 51 David prayed the prayer of renewal for his soul, after that he had committed very grievous sin in his life and against the lives of others. He prayed, "Create in me a clean heart Oh God and renew a right spirit within me..." "Take not your Holy Spirit from me..." (See Psalm 51:7-15). God can renew our hearts if they are still tender enough to seek Him and if we will humble ourselves before Him! (See also Ezekiel 36:24-28; Isaiah 1:18; 2 Chronicles 7:14). God desires to cleanse and to heal us even from our wretched sins. He does not desire any to be lost, but He desires to show us mercy (Ezek. 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9).*
 - (v.6) Verse 6 says, "If THEY fall away..." Just like Cain "went out from the presence of the Lord..." (Genesis 4:16). It was the choice of the individual to depart and to remain departed. God, who began a good work in us is always faithful to carry out His part unto completion (Phil. 1:6). We are the weak link. He is not! If we choose to destroy that work,

and to retrace our steps back into a life of sin by silencing the Holy Spirit, then we may likely never have a sincere heart for repentance again.

- *The work of sanctification, the process of making our lives holy (by God's power) is a work that takes time (Galatians 2:16-18). People choosing to go the opposite way will also take some time. No one departs from God and from holiness merely and/or entirely in one moment. It is not a single sin or act, but a process of determined neglect which destroys the work of God within us. (Although it is true that any willful sin will hurt our relationship with God, and it certainly must be confessed and repented of). Jesus says to us "Go and sin no more!" (John 8:51). That is God's plan and desire for our lives. We should "Flee fornication," Sabbath-breaking and/or any other sin that might be coming between us and God. We cannot continue to defile our body, the temple of God's Spirit, without receiving a terrible disruption of our connection to God. If we continue not to listen to Him then we are in danger of committing the unpardonable sin, by hardening our hearts against Him.*
- *(v.7-8) We need to bear the good fruit of God (Gal. 5:22,23; Matthew 7:16-21).*
- **Confidence is shown for the better, more hopeful side of things (v.9-12)** *The Apostle here expresses his confidence that these brothers and sisters in the faith would go in God's perfect way and not in the way that would lead to destruction! Expressing such confidence in others to do the right thing is very important! It inspires the better nature of the heart, rather than the corrupt. We must expect good things of others and let them know that we expect such. They will strive to fulfill such expectations and will take hope for the future. The believers to whom this epistle was first written had been faithful in doing a good ministry for God previously. God would remember their hard labor for Him and would extend His mercy to them if they would only seek Him sincerely. These believers were not to become lazy in their faith, but rather they were to be diligent! So must we be!*
- **Our sure hope and faith in God !(v.13-20)**
 - *Here the Bible speaks of the sure hope that we have in God! God does not change (#1) and His promises to do not either (#2). God's promises or oaths do not change! (Mal. 3:6 and Heb. 13:8). Christ has now entered into Heaven, into the very presence of God the Father to work for us as our High Priest! Therefore, let us put our faith and our confidence in Him!*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire to follow the leading of God's Holy Spirit in your life? _____