

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Warning Against Falling Away Hebrews 5:11—6:12

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 5:11—6:12.

1. Read the entire passage for this week and then focus on the first paragraph. What is the author's main point in verses 5:11–14?

2. What particular incident or idea provokes the rebuke in verse 11; i.e., what does the word “this” refer to? (see 5:1–10)

3. By using the metaphor of milk and solid food, what does the author imply about the Hebrews?

4. What is one way that young Christians become mature? (v.14) What other ways does God use to bring us to maturity? Share an example from scripture or your own experience—OR—write a description of a mature Christian.

Day 2: Read Hebrews 6:1–3.

5. After upbraiding the Hebrews for their spiritual laziness, the author delivers an exhortation to action. What is it?

6. Look at the list of “elementary teachings.” What things are included and why would these be considered elementary? (vss. 1,2)

7. Consider a time when you were convicted of sin. How did you respond? What effect would a call to action (like vs. 1) so soon after a failure (5:11–14) have had on you? What does this show us about how God views our sin?
8. Verse 3 begins with a common expression of the time (“God permitting” or “Lord willing”) which is still used today. What does this expression mean? Why is it appropriate here?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 6:4–6; Matthew 13:18–23.

9. Read Hebrews 6:4–6 in light of the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. Which “seed” is the person described in Hebrews most like?
10. Have you known people who have responded to the gospel and then fallen away? What reasons does Jesus give for this? How are “true believers” recognized? (Matt. 13:23)
11. What does the author of Hebrews say about the future repentance of people who fell away? What does this have to do with the author’s concern for the Hebrews?
12. Read other passages which use the word “impossible”:
Matthew 17:20
Matthew 19:26
What light do these shed on this passage?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 6:7,8.

13. Here is another agricultural example. List some things that “rain” symbolizes in this passage. What are “thorns and thistles” the opposite of? Who do the two types of land stand for?

14. What are the rewards that the two types of land receive?

15. To whom is this warning directed? (look ahead to vs. 9)

Day 5: Read Hebrews 6:9–12

16. Although the author has called the Hebrews to account for laziness, what encouragement is expressed here?

17. List the examples of faithfulness that the Hebrew Christians have shown.

18. Why do Christians need to be exhorted to persevere? (vss. 11,12 and Galatians 6:9) What is their source of strength? (Matt. 11:28)

19. Meditate on this call to persevere and apply it to your own life. Do you sometimes tire of prayer or Bible study, or find it hard to forgive someone? Whatever it is, confess it to Jesus and receive His forgiveness; read Philippians 1:6 and savor this promise.