

BETTER THAN

Andy Deane · 2/19/2023 · Hebrews 5-6

This portion of Hebrews calls believers to push towards maturity, while warning against the dangers of immaturity.

Hebrews 5:11-6:3, ¹¹ *We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand.* ¹² *In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!* ¹³ *Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.* ¹⁴ *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.* ¹ *Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.* ³ *And God permitting, we will do so.*

Jesus is BETTER THAN: Our Failures

#1 Spiritual immaturity is a leading cause of spiritual failure.

1. Immaturity due to a lack of effort. (5:11)
2. Immaturity due to not consuming right the right spiritual food. (5:13-14)
3. Immaturity due to a lack of a strong gospel foundation. (6:1-2)

To sign up for the Gospel Explained class on Wednesday, 2/22/23, at 6:30pm: text "GOSPEL" to (951)425-4425.

Hebrews 6:4-8, ⁴ *It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.* ⁷ *Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.* ⁸ *But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.*

#2 Personal failure, on the right team, will still win.

- Are these people described in verses 4-5 real Christians? From a human perspective, we'd all probably say, yes.
- But God's perspective always sees truth more clearly than we do:
 - Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name & in your name drive out demons & in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"
 - Mark 4:16-19, "...like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.
- The writer of Hebrews means that if they retreat back to Judaism, religious repentance will do them no good.
- It's especially true for those from a Jewish background, since they would take up animal sacrifice for atonement, denying the saving work of Jesus for them on the cross.
- The idea is "if you turn your back on Jesus, don't expect to find salvation anywhere else."
- If we really bear fruit, we can say we abide in Jesus (John 15) and have assurance.
- John 13:35, *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*
- Jesus is better than our failures, because He is the one who guarantees our team's victory!

Hebrews 6:9; 11-15; 19, ⁹ *Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation...* ¹¹ *We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.* ¹² *We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.* ¹³ *When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."* ¹⁵ *And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised...* ¹⁹ *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...*

#3 There is hope in spite of our past failures.

- The writer admits that sounds harsh and encourages them he has hope for them (6:9).
- There is pain we can avoid & blessing we gain (6:11).
- A true believer will still fail in particular moments, but also endures until the end.
- Abraham is example of a man who believed God, but failed, leading to more pain than he needed to experience.
- But he still *received what was promised* (6:15) Why? Because God, *swore by himself...I will surely bless* (6:14)
- Jesus is better than our failures, because He is a strong anchor to secure our salvation, no matter the storm!

This week, think through these two questions as you attempt to live our Hebrews 5-6:

- How are you moving towards maturity in 2023?
- Do your failures drive you away from God or toward Him?