

# Hebrews 5:11 – 6:12

Brown Community Group June 17, 2018

**5**<sup>11</sup> About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

**6** Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.

According to Malcolm Gladwell in his book, "Outliers," 10,000 hours is the magic number to greatness. It takes 10,000 hours of concentrated practice to achieve proficiency.

It is important to remember that Hebrews was written to the Jews. They have already changed religions and, apparently, are having a tough time moving further into Christianity which means further away from Judaism. Moving further into study creates two dilemmas:

1. It requires moving past beliefs and practices that are simple and comfortable into areas that may not be as solid and require even more work.
2. It may require giving up your current beliefs and practices and moving on to ones that are not comfortable or familiar but are supported by truth.

*If you are on the wrong road progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. C. S. Lewis*

There are two primary schools of thought about sin for the Christian and how it impacts salvation. It should be noted that opinions on this subject in no way impact salvation itself but only add to a further understanding of scripture. Here is a summary of the two schools of thought, not as believed by either side but **AS SEEN BY THE OPPOSING BELIEVERS**:

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Once Saved, Always Saved		Falling from Grace
Get your ticket punched		Walking a fine line
You can sin all you want because you can't sin enough to fall		If you sin you start over
They were not really Christians to begin with		If you sin too much Grace will not help you
		Legalism

**6**<sup>4</sup> For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. <sup>7</sup> For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from

God. <sup>8</sup> But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Fallen here is talking about more than just losing enthusiasm. They are “crucifying Jesus,” “holding him up to contempt” and the phrase “in the end is to be burned” cannot be lost.

What we think is easy, is often very complicated. That’s why you need Christian maturity before you tackle it. Relating to this subject, there are three things all Christians can agree: The **Holy Spirit, grace** and **free will**. Two are of God and one is of man. All Christians have the Holy Spirit and God’s grace is offered to all. The problem is when we, with our free will, interfere. People do not always do what is in their best interest, even when counseled by others or the Holy Spirit. Consider the alcoholic, the abused wife or unfaithful spouse. In other words, you can’t lose your salvation but you can give it away.

**2 Peter 2:20-22** <sup>20</sup>For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. <sup>21</sup>For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. <sup>22</sup>What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

Or, as C.S. Lewis said, “The gates of hell are locked from the inside.”

The selection ends on a reassuring note:

**6**<sup>9</sup> Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. <sup>10</sup>For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. <sup>11</sup>And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup>so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Not only do we not need to be concerned about us falling away we should not be. Our salvation has given us “full assurance of our salvation until the end.”

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1. What keeps you from maturing? How has study in one area changed you for the better? When did study cause you to become uncomfortable.
  2. If we have free will, how can we have “full assurance of hope until the end?”