

Hebrews

Study of Chapter 6

Day 1

Read Hebrews 6 at least twice before starting the study.

PRAYER

*Father, we ask you
to teach us and guide
us to truth so that we
can live pleasing to you.
Amen.*

1. The original letter of Hebrews had no chapter or verse divisions—these were added much later to help us navigate the Scriptures. Look back to Hebrews 5:11-14 NIV. What problem is mentioned here? Fill in the spaces below to help identify the problem, and then write a sentence describing the problem.

Hebrews 5:11 "because you _____"

Hebrews 5:12 "you ought to be _____"

"you need _____"

"you need _____"

The Problem _____

2. As we begin Hebrews 6, we see the reader is encouraged to go on to maturity. Instead of arguing and debating the merits of Judaism and Christianity, what should mature believers be teaching those who have recently come to Christ?

3. We call this discipleship today. It is simply walking alongside another believer and encouraging them in their walk of faith. What are some ways you disciple others around you—your children, your neighbors, co-workers and friends.

4. Hebrews 6:1-3 encourages the recipients of this letter to move beyond the Old Testament teachings that prepared the way for Messiah. The author is admonishing his readers to "grow up," to mature in their faith. Not by self-effort but

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 TPT

Brothers and sisters, when I was with you I found it impossible to speak to you as those who are spiritually mature people, for you are still dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. And because you are immature infants in Christ,² I had to nurse you and feed you with "milk," [a] not with the solid food of more advanced teachings, because you weren't ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready to be fed solid food...

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 TPT

So abandon [a] every form of evil, deceit, hypocrisy, [b] feelings of jealousy and slander.² In the same way that nursing infants cry for milk, you must intensely crave the pure [c] spiritual milk of God's Word. [d] For this "milk" will cause you to grow into maturity, fully nourished and strong for life [e]—³ especially now that you have had a taste of the goodness of the Lord Jehovah and have experienced his kindness.

Matthew 13:19-23 TPT

The seed that fell on the beaten path represents the heart of the one who hears the message of the kingdom realm but doesn't understand it. The Adversary then comes and snatches away what was sown into his heart.²⁰ "The seed sown on gravel represents the person who gladly hears the kingdom message, but his experience remains shallow."²¹ Shortly after he hears it, troubles and persecutions come because of the kingdom message he received. Then he quickly falls away, for the truth didn't sink deeply into his heart.²² "The seed sown among weeds represents the person who receives the message, but all of life's busy distractions, his divided heart, and his ambition for wealth result in suffocating the kingdom message and prevent him from bearing spiritual fruit."²³ "As for the seed that fell upon good, rich soil, it represents the hearts of people who hear and fully embrace the message of heaven's kingdom realm. Their lives bear good fruit—some yield a harvest of thirty, sixty, even one hundred times as much as was sown."

allowing the Spirit to continue his work. How might we know if we are maturing in faith? What fruit should be sprouting? Read Galatians 5:22-23. Choose a fruit of the Spirit, and write an example of this fruit displayed in your life this week.

5. The writer of Hebrews is not the only teacher calling God's people to maturity. Paul and Peter also confronted the problem of immaturity of faith. Their readers were, "still dominated by the mind-set of the flesh." (1 Corinthians 3:1-2 TPT; 1 Peter 2:1-3 TPT) Many of these believers were allowing their flesh to continue to rule. This was not the same issue the author of Hebrews is warning against. The people were drifting away, back to Judaism. Does the reason for our immaturity matter as much as the fact that we are not growing in our walk of faith?

6. Does this sound a bit familiar? With all we have experienced as a nation lately, do you feel God is calling believers to a new level of maturity? We understand this concept when it comes to our children. When they are newborn babies, we feed them only milk, but very soon, it is time for something more satisfying. They need solid food to grow and develop. What would happen if we never gave them anything but milk? Is God speaking to you about some things you need to settle in your heart in order to step up to a new level of maturity?

Day 2

7. We are going to spend a bit more time and attention on verses 4-6 to glean fully what the author of Hebrews is saying. All too often, people read these verses too quickly and misinterpret them. Let's take great care to understand exactly what the Scripture is saying, nothing more and nothing less. Please remember, this letter has been written to three groups of people:
 - true believers
 - immature believers
 - unbelievers who were intellectually convinced of the gospel. They had a head knowledge and were attracted by the gospel and the person of Christ, but had reached no final conviction about Him. They had not placed their faith in Him for salvation.

Do you recall the parable Jesus told of the sower? Jesus explained this parable in Matthew 13:19-23. There were four types of soil—all received the same seed, but each responded differently. Keep these in mind as we continue our study. Which of these soils represents the recipients of the letter of Hebrews?

Hebrews 12:16

See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

1 John 2:19 TPT

For even though they were once a part of us, they withdrew from us because they were never really of our number. For if they had truly belonged to us they would have continued with us. By leaving our community of believers they made it obvious that they never really belonged to us.

8. Esau, the son of the patriarch Isaac, and Judas Iscariot are both examples of Hebrews 6:4-6. Read Hebrews 12:16. How did Esau view the things of God?

How did Judas view the things he had personally seen, such as the miraculous healings of Jesus as he moved among the people? He had seen demons cast out, lives changed, multitudes fed; he even saw the dead raised to life again. What affect did all these amazing displays of God’s power have on Judas Iscariot? _____

9. It might be good to look up Hebrews 6:4-6 in several other trusted translations, along with 1 John 2:19 TPT. Why do you believe some people fall away? How might this represent the hearts of men and women?

10. The author of Hebrews gives us an example of two soils—both have the same rain. Hebrews 6:7-8 Fill in the chart below.

Example #1	Example #2
Outcome	Outcome

Day 3

11. In Hebrews 6:9, the author changes the tone of his writing. How does he refer to them? _____

12. What does he say he is convinced of for them? _____

13. According to Hebrews 6:10-11, what have these believers been actively doing? _____

What instruction does he give them about future activity? _____

14. What is the author’s warning in Hebrews 6:12? _____

15. Why do you suppose he felt the need to warn them about this? _____

Have you ever felt like you were the only one serving God? _____



Have you felt like your efforts were in vain—that they were not accomplishing anything of eternal value? _____

When we do not see results for our diligence, what do we tend to think?

We can then get discouraged and want to throw in the towel. Therefore, the author of Hebrews is encouraging the reader to remain focused. We have a promise. Hope is energizing to our service. The apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:14, *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*



Day 4

16. Hebrews 6:13-15 takes us back to the promises that God gave to Abraham. What are the facts mentioned?

God established his promise by _____ vs. 13

God made Abraham a promise _____ vs. 14

Abraham received these promises after _____ vs. 15

17. These Hebrew believers were suffering intense difficulties and trials every day. It was not easy for them to follow in belief in a world that had so recently crucified Christ. The Levitical priesthood and sacrificial system were still in operation at the time this letter was written. The Temple was destroyed in AD 70. This letter must have been written sometime prior to that, possibly AD 67-69. Why do you believe the author reminded them of Abraham's patience in seeing God's blessing?

Why is it so important to see examples of others who have walked patiently through difficult times? _____

18. Hebrews 6:13 tells us God made a promise to Abraham. Abraham waited patiently for the fulfillment of that promise. What does it mean to trust God's promises?

Can you think of other examples from the Bible of someone who patiently waited on God? _____

Are you holding on to a promise and waiting patiently? _____

Persevering can be difficult; there are times when we may want to give up. How does knowing the character of God help you carry on?

Which of His character qualities brings you the most comfort? _____

19. What is the worst thing we can do while waiting? _____

Why is waiting so hard? _____

20. The time between when God says something will happen and the time God does it has been referred to as the "meantime." Have you been seeking God to move in some way, and you honestly believe he has said yes? But, you have been waiting day after day, month after month, year after year, and still no change. What are some things you do that help you while you are waiting? _____

21. How does the reminder of Abraham and his waiting affect you? _____

Do you remember how long he and Sarah waited for the son they were promised? Read Genesis 12:1-7 and Genesis 21:1-5. _____

Day 5



22. Hebrews 6:16-18 mentions two unchanging things which make it impossible for God to lie. When God says he will do something, it is as good as done—we are only waiting on His perfect timing. What are the two unchangeable things mentioned?

• _____

• _____

23. Hebrews 6:19 is my favorite verse in this chapter, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul firm and secure."

What does this verse declare is ours as believers? _____

What purpose does this gift of God serve for us as His children? _____

How reliable is it for fulfilling the purpose he intended for us? _____

24. The author used a nautical term, anchor, in verse 19. Do a bit of research and see what you can learn about this important part of sailing. When might a sailor need to have a good working knowledge of this aspect of sailing?

What could be the result if they are a novice and this task of setting the anchor is done improperly? _____

Romans 3:22-24

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:5-10

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

25. Read verse 19 again. Do you see it in a different or more powerful way?

26. The second half of Hebrews 6:19 says, "It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf." The "It" mentioned in this verse is our hope, which serves as our anchor. The reference to "the inner sanctuary behind the curtain" is a reference to entering the Holy of Holies, entering God's presence. Read Romans 3:22-24 and Romans 6:5-10. Underline the facts seen in these verses that give us confidence in the anchor for our soul.

27. The last half of verse 20 can be a bit confusing. It will help us if we remember that the Levitical priesthood was still in existence at the time of this writing. What do you believe the author is saying about Jesus?

It might be helpful to go back and read Genesis 14. We will go over this in much greater detail next week. Jot down any facts you learn in Genesis 14 concerning Melchizedek.

