

HEBREWS

“NO TURNING BACK”

Hebrews Lesson 10

Ice Breaker: Have you ever been afraid of losing your salvation? What caused you to be afraid?

INTRO: Hebrews 6 seems to describe those that lose their salvation as the biggest losers of all. While falling away and losing salvation is definitely possible, it is totally preventable. God never changes His mind and won't quit on you, but you have to be determined not to change your mind and quit on God!

READ: Hebrews 6:4-12

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 if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because 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.

9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Q: The difficulty with verses 4-6 is the author's use of the "impossible". The writer of Hebrews says it is "**impossible**" for someone who falls away to be "brought back to repentance." What does this mean?

There are two possible ways to understand this verse:

1. The word "*impossible*" is hyperbole.
 - a. ***Matt. 19:24-26 "Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" 26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."***
 - b. All four gospels record Peter falling away when he denied Jesus. (Matt. 26:69-75; Mark 14:67-72; Luke 22:56-62; John 18:25-27)
 - c. In Matt. 10:33, Jesus said He would disown anyone that disowned Him, so Peter must have fallen away.

- d. How was Peter able to be restored if the person in verses 4-6 can't be restored?
2. Hebrews 6:4-6 doesn't say this person can't choose to repent; it says no one else can bring them back to repentance.
- a. The person described in Heb. 6:4-6 has decided that Jesus is not Lord. That is why it says they are crucifying Jesus all over again.
 - i. It's not that God won't save this person. Instead, this person has determined God is not right and won't turn to Him for forgiveness.
 - b. It would take a very hard heart to experience Jesus and His Kingdom and then being willing to say Jesus is a liar and not Lord.

Q: Compare verses 7-8 to Luke 13:6-9. What is the warning to us in these verses?

- Luke 13:6-9 *"Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 8 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"*
 - God owns us and we have a purpose... to produce a harvest of spiritual fruit (Gal. 5:22, Eph. 5:9).
 - Gal. 5:22 *"But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control."*
 - Eph. 5:8-9 *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the **fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth**)"*
 - If we don't grow up, mature in Christ and produce a harvest, we are in danger of being destroyed.

Q: The warnings about falling away come in the context of our being challenged to grow into maturity (Heb. 5:11-6:8). How do you think failing to mature spiritually contributes to a person falling away?

- Failing to be fruitful could cause our faith to wither and we may begin to doubt Jesus.
 - When we see fruit our faith grows stronger and allows us even more fruit... like a cycle.
 - The opposite can be true also; weak faith can cause crop failure and eventually cause you, as a branch, to drop off the vine. (John 15:5)

Q: Verse 9 mentions "things that accompany salvation". What are those "things"?

- Ephesians 2:10 says we were saved in order to do good works.
- Salvation is about more than going to Heaven; salvation is about how we live on earth!

Q: What reassurance do you get from verse 10?

- God is not unjust! You won't lose your salvation on a technicality.
- He won't forget the love you have shown Him by loving His people.

Q: According to verse 11 and 12, what can you do to make your hope sure?

- Be diligent and imitate faithful and patient disciples.
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APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.

1. Vs. 7-8 compare your life in the Kingdom to a farm field. Which field is your life more like:
 - a. The fruitful one receiving the blessings of God?
 - b. The weedy one in danger of being cursed and burned?
2. What "things" accompany your salvation? (vs.9)
3. Have you been lazy or are you imitating those who through faith and patience are inheriting what has been promised (vs. 12)?