

“Let Us PRESS On To Maturity”
Hebrews 6:1-8
1/25/26
Message 10

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Let Us PRESS On To Maturity”

- **Review**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**

- **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- Paul Quotes the OT –
- If you don’t understand the OT you will not be able to understand Hebrews

- **2. Jesus is Superior**

- Jesus is BETTER Than
 - The Prophets - Ch 1
 - The Angels - Ch 1-2
 - Moses - Ch 3
 - Joshua – Ch 4
 - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
 - The Tabernacle Ch 9
 - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

- **3. Encouragement - Don’t quit**

- The ultimate goal of the book

- To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times, and help them to endure.

- **This Morning 2 Main Points to Pressing On To Maturity**

- The Exhortation To Maturity vv. 1-3
- The Exposure To The Gospel vv. 4-8

The Exhortation To Maturity vv. 1-3

- **1. Therefore v. 1a**

Hebrews 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, *leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,*

- **1. Therefore**

- **Why**

- In light of Hebrews 5 - Their lack of Spiritual Maturity

- **Last Week - Don't Miss OUT**

- **The Reason For Their Lack Of Growth v. 11**

Hebrews 5:11 (NKJV)

11 *of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

- They had BECOME DULL of Hearing

- **Difficult to teach**

- Cast blame / complain

- Sadly the church has dumb down the messages

- **The Results Of The Lack Of Growth vv. 12-13**

Hebrews 5:12–13 (NKJV)

12 *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

13 *For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.*

- Reasons for being stuck
 - Unrepented Sin & Compromise
 - Spiritual Pride / Complacency - Lukewarmness
 - Cares of the World
 - Fear
 - Busyness

- **The Response That Is Needed v. 14**

Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)

14 *But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

- There is the great deception in the Church today –
 - Knowledge = Maturity
 - We go to Bible studies – listen – radio – internet – podcast
 - We think - Intake = Maturity and Health
 - This is GOOD
 - BUT There has to be an outflow – USE of it!

- Maturity comes when we take God's word and put it to use
 - If you don't Exercise / use your know knowledge
 - You become like the DEAD Sea
 - The Dead Sea is dead because there is no outlet
 - That is whom solid food is for –
 - The ones who put God's Word into practice
 - Person who says –
 - How can I apply this right now
 - Pray it in right then
- The phrase “by reason of use” is very interesting
 - At that time the same phase was used to describe the way that athletes trained for the Olympic Games
 - It refers to training by repetition

• **2. Leaving the discussion of the elementary Principles v. 1b**

Hebrews 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

- **1. Going beyond the basics.**
 - Elementary principles - This has the idea of “ABCs.”

- They are basic building blocks that are necessary
 - Which are always IMPORTANT
 - But must be built upon –
 - Otherwise it has only a foundation and no structure.
- NOTE
 - A note to those still learning the basics
 - Each step is a building block
 - The Bible DEEP
 - No one has full understanding of all that GOD is
 - But we do grow as we take each step

• **3. Perfection v. 1c**

Hebrews 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

- **1. Perfection**
 - Greek - τελειότης teleiôtēs;
 - Means - Perfect, one who reaches a goal. Perfection or perfectness, stressing the realization of an end in view, the state achieved when a goal has been accomplished (Col. 3:14; Heb. 6:1).
 - Which is much better understood as “MATURITY”
 - Application

- The Job of the church
- Move people from Basics to Maturity

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- The call is plain: let us go on to MATURITY

4. Some of the “basics” to go beyond vv. 1d-2

- **1. Repentance from dead works and of faith toward God v. 1e**

Hebrews 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation **of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**

▪ The First Basic Doctrine - Soteriology

- Soteriology = Theological term
 - Meaning the study of Salvation
- Repentance
 - Greek - μετάνοια metánoia

- Means - To repent. A change of mind, repentance (Heb. 12:17). Repentance, change of mind from evil to good or from good to better
- To make a 180 in life
 - Headed one way stop and turn head in the opposite direction

- **Repentance is KEY to Salvation**

- You can't be saved unless you repent
- JTB first message

Matthew 3:2 (NKJV)

2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

- Jesus first message

Matthew 4:17 (NKJV)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- Peter's first message

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- **From Dead Works & of faith toward God**

- In regard to the Jewish believers
 - The LAW / Animal Sacrifice
- For us
 - Trying to earn God's love and grace – Salvation

- Salvation is a gift from God
- YOU CAN'T EARN you simply by faith receive it

- **When you repent – TURN towards GOD**

- Turn away from the sinful direction you were headed
- BUT when you turn you have to turn towards something else
- That is you turn from your sins to and turn to GOD

- **Sadly Repentance**

- Sadly - The modern church has lost this message
- That you now can come to Christ without forsaking REPENTING from your sins
- At the very least that's the way they act by ignoring sins
- YOU MUST REPENT

- **3. Of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands v. 2a**

Hebrews 6:2 (NKJV)

2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

- **The Second Basic Doctrine - Pneumatology**

- Noo – muh – taa – luh - jee
- The Doctrine / Work of the Holy Spirit
 - Doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands

- **Baptisms**

- Notice Paul says, baptism(s) plural.
 - Probably included OT washing as well
 - There are many types baptisms spoken of in the NT
 - Some count as many as 7
 - 1. The Baptism of Moses (1 Corinthians 10:1–3)
 - 2. The Baptism of John (Mark 1:4)
 - 3. The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)
 - 4. The Baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11–12)
 - Judgment or Acts 2
 - 5. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13–14; 1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - 6. The Baptism of the cross (Mark 10:35–39)
 - Suffering
 - 7. The Baptism of believers (Water) (Matthew 28:19)

- We look at the a few

- **1. The Baptism Into the Body of Christ**

- A Work of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

John 20:22–23 (NKJV)

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

- That takes place by the Spirit when we're born again into the family of God
- When we become one with Him - our sins are washed away with His blood.
- The Spirit transplants His nature in us.
- We're literally born again.
- The Holy Spirit alters our spiritual DNA.
- He creates a family relationship between me, and you, and the rest of the body of Christ.
- So Baptized into the Body of Christ.

- **2. Water baptism**

- Symbolic – What take place when a person is being baptized in water

- **3. The Baptism of the HS**

- 3 Aspects of the Holy Spirit ministry
 - It is represented by three Greek prepositions

- ‘Para’, ‘En’, and ‘Epi.’

○ 1. “Para”

- Before Conversion
- He is the One convicting him of his sin, convincing him that Jesus Christ is the only answer.
- The Holy Spirit is constantly testifying of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come

John 16:8 (NKJV)

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

○ 2. “En”

- At the Moment of conversion
- HS indwells us
- Keeping us on the right track
- Comforter – Helper

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

○ 3. “Epi”

- Empowering us for Ministry Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- This is an EMPOWERING – Given GIFTS
- The Holy Spirit has SEALED - FILLED You
- 1. FINISHED TRANSACTION
 - When important legal documents are processed, they're stamped with the official seal to signify the completion of the transaction
 - Ephesians 1
- 2. OWNERSHIP
 - The Holy Spirit is God's Seal upon our lives to prove His OWNERSHIP
 - You see, Jesus Purchased you from the Slave Market
 - You were once a slave to sin, but now you belong to Him. (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)
 - We are really NOT OUR OWN to live as we please
 - We MUST DIE to OURSELVES and LIVE FOR HIM
- 3. EMPOWERING
 - To Do His Will & Work
 - Us your GIFT(S)
- **Laying on of hands**

- Laying on of hands was used in the OT 2 ways
- 1. Identification
 - When a person brought a sacrifice to the temple
 - They would lay their hands on its head as a way to identify with the sacrifice which was then offered as a substitute for them.
- 2. Ordination
 - When an elder, priest, or prophet was commissioning someone to a specific task for the Lord
 - They would lay their hands on his or her head and thus officially recognize them as called by God.
- The early church followed the same practice,
 - When a person was appointed by the H.S. to an office in the church or a mission of the church, it was confirmed by the laying on of hands.
 - Or when spiritual gifts were received, they sometimes came through the laying on of hands.
- **4. Of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.**

Hebrews 6:2 (NKJV)

*2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, **of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.***

▪ The Third Basic Doctrine - Eschatology

- The study of the End Times
- Resurrection of the dead

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- One day, the bodies of both the righteous and the wicked will be resurrected immortal.
- Every human being will live forever...but then comes the judgment...where you will be assigned to heaven or to hell.
- Eternal Judgment
 - Judgments

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

- Great white throne (Rev. 20:11-15)
- Bema Seat (2 Corinthians 5:9-11)
- In Christ = Heaven
- Not in Christ = Hell
- Your choice

• **5. A statement of hope and dependence on God v. 3**

Hebrews 6:3 (NKJV)

3 And this we will do if God permits.

- **1. If God permits**
 - What he wanted them to do was to press forward.
 - But this Required more than his effort they must make progress.
 - God will HELP BUT they must want that help

The Exposure To The Gospel vv. 4-8

- **1. The Danger vv. 4-6**

- **1. Preface**

- One of the MOST Controversial Passages in the Bible
- Hear My Heart
 - This issue before us is about God Sovereignty vs. Man's Free Will
 - Did God choose me
 - Did I choose God
 - Am I secure in Christ
 - Can I walk away from Salvation

- **BOTH sides**

- **Make valid points**

- **Have scripture to support their views**

- I have shared my view
 - I love and respect all those who see this issue different
 - I simply lean more on the Sovereignty of God side
 - BOTH see valid reasons for those who come down on the other side
 - Fellowship SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN

- Let's Look at the verses before us

- I will give you the possible meanings

- And you can decide
- **2. The Text vv. 4-6**

Hebrews 6:4–6 (NKJV)

4 *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

▪ **For it is impossible**

- The word impossible is put in a position of emphasis.
 - The writer to the Hebrews does not say this is merely difficult, but that it is without possibility
- Note the other uses of impossible in Hebrews:
 - It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18).
 - It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats can take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).
 - It is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- So - Whatever is taking place
 - IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to come back to GOD
 - So this means it more than just a falling into a sin (Carnality) and then repenting and coming back to God
 - It more than what the Prodigal Son did!

▪ **Enlightened**

- Greek - φωτίζω phōtízō
- It described the experience of light shining on someone, of a “new light” shining on the mind and spirit.

▪ **Tasted**

- Greek - γεύομαι (geuomai)
- The idea of “tasting” may mean to “test” something
- The same word Jesus tasted death in (Hebrews 2:9)

▪ **Partakers of the Holy Spirit**

- This is an unique term in the New Testament.
- Since it means “sharing” the Holy Spirit, it has to do with receiving and having fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

▪ **Tasted the good word of God**

- This means they experienced the goodness of God’s word, and saw its goodness at work in them

▪ **The powers of the age to come:**

- This is a way to describe God’s supernatural power.
- The writer to the Hebrews describes those who experienced God’s supernatural power.

▪ **If they fall away, to renew them again to repentance**

- If they... to be renewed...
 - Something very serious is taking place

○ **3. The Three Possible Meaning**

- **Commentators Divide on this issue**

- Usually deciding the issue with great certainty
 - But with no agreement.
- Which to me is very frustration
 - We need to be able to look at this and see both sides and agree to disagree

- **1. Those who profess to be Christians BUT are not really saved**

- Many hold this view
 - Parable of the sower and the seeds
 - Matthew 7
- BUT as I read the text –
 - From Paul's description they appear to be Saved!!!

- **2. It's Hypothetical**

- It is taking the "IF THEY"
 - *Barnes, "It's not an affirmation that any had actually fallen away, or that they would."*
 - But let's suppose they could...It's over!
 - God does not have some other cure for sin when Calvary is rejected.
 - No better proposition. Not even a plan B.
 - He is like the drowning man. If there was but one plank by which he could be saved, & he

should get on that plank, & then push it away
& plunge into the deep...he must die.

- IF you go back to the LAW –
 - There is nothing there - YOU are LOST
- Notice the Pronouns
 - Verse 1-3 – WE
 - Verses 4-8 – THEY
 - Verses 9 – WE
- Just so you know “IF”
 - There is a Debate whether or not the “IF” is even there in the original Greek

▪ 3. It's about the Possibility of Apostasy –

- People who hold this view believe
 - That a person CAN'T lose their salvation
 - BUT A Christian can WALK away from their Salvation
- They have Valid Points
 - Examples
 - Demas

2 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)

10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

- The End Times is marked by a falling away
 - They have to fall away from something

- Galatians

Galatians 5:4 (NKJV)

4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

- Don't Drift away (Hebrews 2)
 - They drifted away from something
- Hebrews 10:26-29
 - Warns that if one willfully continues to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins remains.
- **4. Some closing thoughts on this**
 - **So which ONE is It**
 - Do your own homework –
 - Come to your own conclusions after you have studied BOTH sides
 - JUST DON'T DIVIDE
 - **As for me**
 - I look at passages like this and wonder - scratch my head
 - BUT I also weigh them out in all of scripture
 - There are many verses that speak of Eternal Security of the believers – that's the side I lean on

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:31–39 (NKJV)

- 31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*
- 32** *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*
- 33** *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*
- 34** *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*
- 35** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*
- 36** *As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*
- 37** *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*
- 38** *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*
- 39** *nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

John 10:28–29 (NKJV)

- 28** *And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*
- 29** *My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

John 5:24 (NKJV)

- 24** *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

- 13** *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*
- 14** *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

1 Peter 1:3–5 (NKJV)

- 3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,
reserved in heaven for you,
5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.*

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

*6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

*25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God
through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

1 John 2:19 (NKJV)

*19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us,
they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made
manifest, that none of them were of us.*

Jude 24 (NKJV)

*24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you
faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

- I lean on that more than the ones that show that one can walk away
- I put more confidence on God ability to hold me then I put in my ability to hold HIM

▪ **CRITICAL**

• How I use this

- For those who are not paying attention to SOULS, their walk with Jesus
 - Wake up get serious
- For those down and feeling out – n o way I can ever be saved

- Let me encourage you with the security of your salvation

- **LAST Thoughts**

- We will NEVER solve this issue
 - So - let's keep moving forward on things we do agree on
- NO DIVISION

- **2. An illustration vv. 7-8**

- **1. For the earth which drinks in the rain... v. 7**

Hebrews 6:7 (NKJV)

7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

- **Those who hear and respond**

- Here are illustrations showing that those who hear the gospel message and respond in faith they are blessed

- **What is FRUIT**

- Faithfulness to God – His Word

- **2. But if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected**

Hebrews 6:8 (NKJV)

8 but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

- **Those who reject it are cursed**

- If ground is blessed by rain but refuses to bear fruit, no one blames the farmer for burning it.

Mark 4:13–20 (NKJV)

13 And He said to them, *“Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”*

14 *The sower sows the word.*

15 *And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

16 *These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;*

17 *and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.*

18 *Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,*

19 *and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

20 *But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”*

Closing

- My Precious Brothers and Sisters
 - Take care of YOUR SOUL
 - Don't play games with God – Eternity is forever
 - Bear Fruit For the Lord