

## HARSH WARNINGS & SWEET PROMISES

HEBREWS 6:4-12

<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. <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.

→ **Heed the \_\_\_\_\_ about being religious and around the things of God but not trusting God in faith. (v.4-6)**

*Notice the parallels between the people the author is speaking of here and the Israelites in the wilderness...*

HEBREWS 3:16-19 <sup>16</sup> For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

**Two main parts of this declaration...**

“It is impossible... to restore them again to repentance.”

**Separated by 5 intervening clauses...**

- “those who have once been enlightened” – *photizo* – exposure to the things of God & the Gospel
- “who have tasted the heavenly gift” – *geuomai* – to experience something
- “and have shared in the Holy Spirit” – *metochos* – companions or sharers
- “and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come” – The language here is reminiscent of those who fell in the desert through lack of faith, even though they had heard God’s voice and seen His mighty acts (*Theophanies*) yet did not believe (3:7-11). The verb “tasted” as in verse 4 refers to something having been experienced.
- “and then have fallen away” – *parapipto* – fall away, go astray, the rejecting of Christ

*Impossible = something cannot happen.*

HEB 6:18 – “it is impossible for God to lie”

HEB 10:4 – “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

*\*If these verses mean you can be a Christian and then “lose” your salvation, then they also mean that once you have lost it you can never get it back again.*

### **Three parts to this situation...**

1. There are great blessings and high religious experiences.

- A person may be enlightened. (v.4)
- A person may have tasted the heavenly gift and become a partaker of the Holy Spirit. (v.4)
- A person may have tasted the good word of God. (v.5)
- A person may have tasted the powers of the age to come. (v.5, 2:4)

*These are people who have had much religious experience, but the author of Hebrews goes out of his way to not call these people “believers” or “Christians” or “brothers.”*

2. In spite of all these blessings and experiences, this person then falls away. (v.6)

- That is, they never trust Christ and they leave completely being around the things of God and God’s people.
- What is this re-crucifixion? Christ was crucified to make His people holy and pure. That’s why He shed His blood (13:12). So when we turn our backs on that which the cross was designed to do, we say “yes” to the things that nailed Him there in the first place and “no” to His offer of forgiveness.
- In essence, we say that these other things are worth more than Christ is worth. We say with our lives we agree with those who crucified Jesus.
- It is one thing for a stranger of faith to resist Christ. It is another thing for a person who has been in church and seen and experienced all Christ offers to look at those things and say, “I think what the world offers is better than this.” That is re-crucifying Jesus and putting Him to open shame.

3. Which leads to the conclusion that, “it is impossible to restore them again to repentance.” (v.6)

- There seems to be people who, in spite of their exposure to the things of God and because of the hardness of their heart and unwillingness to submit to the things of God, cannot ever move back to a place of repentance. Again, it is because they have hardened their hearts. (3:8, 3:15, 4:7)
- This is why we MUST be careful to NOT HARDEN OUR HEARTS to the things of God.

**Can one be a “partaker” and not be a born-again Christian? \_\_\_\_!**

*(Example: the Israelites in the wilderness)*

1. Look at verses 7-8...

*In light of these verses above, the author of Hebrews talks about two kinds of fields. One produces fruit, one produces thorns. (See Mark 4; John 15; Galatians 5)*

2. Look at verse 9...

- "things that belong to salvation"
- The "better things" that he is confident about are things that always go with salvation (literally, are possessed by salvation).
- The author does not believe fruitlessness and falling away (apostasy) accompany salvation. Better things do.
- Note the difference between "those" in verse 4 and "you" in verse 9.

3. Look at Hebrews 3:12-14 and 3:5-6...

HEBREWS 3:12-14 <sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

HEBREWS 3:5-6 <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- **Perseverance in faith \_\_\_\_\_ that you have become a partaker in Christ.**

4. Look at Hebrews 10:14...

<sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- *"He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."*

- **In other words, to become the beneficiary of the work of Christ on the cross \_\_\_\_\_ is to be declared right in the sight of God \_\_\_\_\_.**

5. Look at Hebrews 13:20-21 and Philippians 1:6...

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- *"Working in us that which is us that which is pleasing in his sight..."*

- *"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion..."*

- **Ultimately, our salvation is not dependent on us. It depends on the work of \_\_\_\_\_. We aren't holding on to God, but He is holding on to us!**

1 JOHN 2:19 "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 it might become plain that they all are not of us."

MATTHEW 7:21-23 <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will

say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

- **For the one that truly puts their faith in Christ, the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ that our right standing before God is secure for all of eternity.**

JOHN 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

JOHN 6:37-40<sup>37</sup> "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.<sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.<sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

JOHN 10:27-30<sup>27</sup> "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

ROMANS 5:9-10<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

ROMANS 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 8:31-39<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?<sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?<sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.<sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,<sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

EPHESIANS 1:11-14 <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

EPHESIANS 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

HEBREWS 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

HEBREWS 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

1 PETER 1:3-5 <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

JUDE 1:24-25 <sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

→ **There are \_\_\_\_\_ in this passage for the one who trusts Jesus! God has \_\_\_\_\_ for us than simply having religious experiences.**

*We get to know God and be known by God!*

*Our relationship with Him is something that can never be taken away from us!*

*Heed the warning. Rest in the promises.*

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