

Hebrews: The Supremacy of Jesus

Lesson 6:

“Why You Should Endure
with Jesus”

(Heb. 6:1-20)

Brian G. Chilton



Outline

Introduction:

Part One: Endurance Comes With Profession with Possession (6:1-8).

Part Two: Endurance Comes with Evidence of Possession (6:9-12).

Part Three: Endurance Comes with Encouragement with Possession (6:13-20).

Discussion

Application

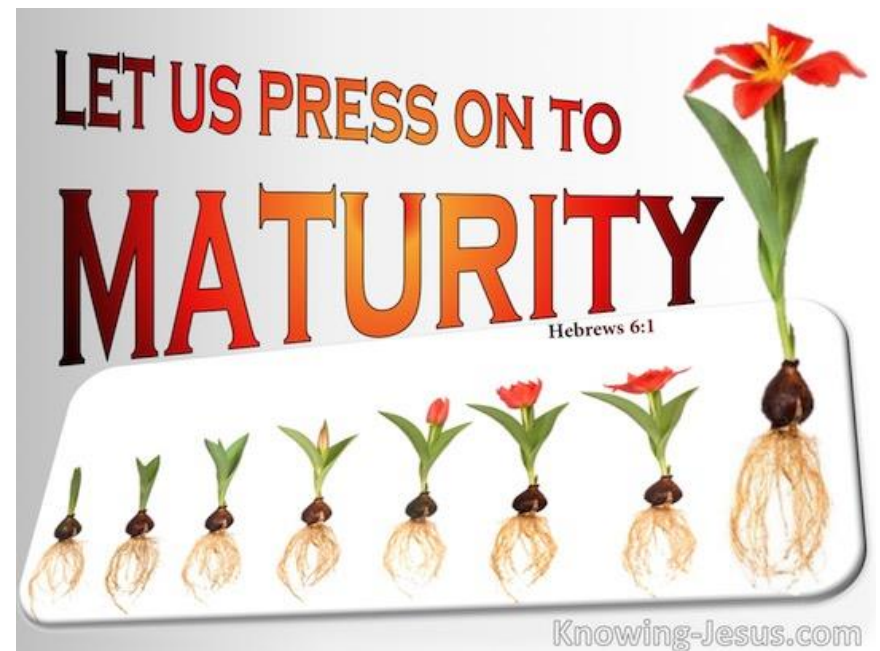
Introduction

- Hebrews 6 has been quite controversial for some time.
- Calvinists, Arminians, and Wesleyans have debated this passage for years.
- Does this chapter teach that one can lose their salvation, or does it provide assurance?
- Furthermore, what emphasis does this text place on Christian maturity?

Things to Look For

- Look for the importance of further spiritual and intellectual development in the faith.
- Look for the importance works play in demonstrating the validity of one's faith.
- Look for the ways that one can know that he or she is a Christian.
- Look for the assurances that come with a person's salvation.

**PART ONE:
ENDURANCE COMES
WITH PROFESSION
WITH POSSESSION
(6:1-8).**



A. PROFESSION OF FAITH AND DEAD WORKS (6:1-3).

- (6:1-2) Hebrews calls for individuals to move past fundamental, elementary doctrines to deeper issues.
- Hebrews gives six elementary doctrines.
 - 1: Repentance from dead works.
 - 2: Faith in God.
 - 3: Baptism.
 - 4: Laying on of hands/Spiritual gifts.
 - 5: Resurrection.
 - 6. Eternal judgment.
- (6:3) People need to stand by their core Christian doctrines and not be inclined towards syncretism.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED
UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED,
DIED AND WAS BURIED; HE DESCENDED INTO HELL;
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD;
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, AND IS SEATED
AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD
THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE WILL COME TO JUDGE
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT,
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS,
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS,
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND LIFE EVERLASTING.
AMEN.



B. WARNING OF PROFESSION WITH NO POSSESSION (6:4-5).

- These are the great controversial verses of the chapter.
- How does one interpret them?
 - 1) Apostasy is possible.
 - 2) Hypothetical situation using rhetoric.
 - 3) Loss of rewards.
 - 4) Disingenuous Christianity.
 - The best view seems to be number 2 which would actually in a sense lean towards the view of eternal assurance.

B. WARNING OF PROFESSION WITH NO POSSESSION (6:4-5).

- The believers had:
 - 1) Been enlightened.
 - 2) Tasted the heavenly gift.
 - 3) Shared in the Holy Spirit.
 - 4) Tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age.

C. CONSEQUENCES OF PROFESSION WITH NO POSSESSION (6:6).

- A person can resist to the point of having a hardened heart (Rom. 1:28).
- It would take a miracle to bring someone back to faith if they lost their salvation—
“recrucifying Christ.”
- True Christians may backslide but will be brought back.
- Hardened Christians may bring judgment on themselves.

D. COMPARISON OF THOSE WITH POSSESSION AND THOSE WITHOUT POSSESSION (6:7-8).

- Hebrews draws the same distinctions between faith and fruitfulness.
- Good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit (Matt. 7:17-18).

Applications

- *Believers should learn the fundamentals of the faith, but not stay there. We all must grow intellectually and doctrinally in the faith as it leads to maturity.*
- *Just as it is impossible for a person to recrucify Christ, it is impossible for a person to lose one's salvation.*
- *True repentance and faith will produce good works.*

**PART TWO:
ENDURANCE
COMES WITH
EVIDENCE OF
POSSESSION
(6:9-12).**



**GRACE IS
FREE, BUT
NOT CHEAP!**

Hebrews 6:9

- Hebrews gave some severe warnings. Now the writer offers encouragement.
 - Notice that the author calls the people *dearly loved friends*, illustrating the personal connection he has with the listeners.
 - *Confident of things that are better* indicates that the author believed his listeners to be saved and that he expected better things to come from their spiritual development that *pertain to salvation*.

Hebrews 6:10

- The author had three reasons for having confidence that his friends were saved.
 - 1) They had the evidence of *work*. The people had labored in Jesus's name.
 - 2) They had the evidence of *love*. A Christian will have love in his or her heart. This is true by John's strong words in his first epistle. He writes, "*The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love*" (1 Jn. 4:8). Love is an evidence of God's salvific work.
 - 3) They had the justice of God. Since God was just, he would not overlook the fruit in the believers' lives.



Vladimir Bojey


Hebrews 6:11-12

- The author gave an encouragement and a warning.
 - Encouragement: The writer encouraged the listeners to *demonstrate the same diligence for the full assurance of your hope until the end*. This showed the people two things.
 - 1) They had assurance of their salvation, which freed them to develop and grow. Example: John Bunyan's persistent doubt.
 - 2) They could imitate the people of faith they had previously known, being *imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and perseverance*. They should continue with their faith until the end.
 - Warning: The people were warned against complacency and laziness. Lazy Christianity leads to bad ends and stunts one's development in Christ. If they did not grow, they would lapse into immaturity.

Applications

- *Genuine Christianity will produce works.*
- *As Christians, it is easy for us to become complacent, but complacency is dangerous as it does not produce growth.*

**PART THREE:
ENDURANCE COMES
WITH
ENCOURAGEMENT
WITH POSSESSION
(6:13-20).**

We have this HOPE
as an ANCHOR
for the soul,
FIRM & 
SECURE.
HEBREWS 6:19



Hebrews 6:13

- Abraham is given as an example to show God's reliability to his promises.

Hebrews 6:14-15

- Quotes Gen. 22:17.
- God promised what seemed to be an impossibility to the aged Abraham and Sarah.
- We have assurance through God's faithfulness.

Hebrews 6:16-17

- God guaranteed our salvation with an oath.
- All the promises of God will be fulfilled as God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2) and is absolutely pure and holy (Ps. 99:9; 77:13). If God promises something, he will deliver.

Hebrews 6:18-20

- First, their hope is found in the trustworthiness of God because as Hebrews reiterates, *it is impossible for God to lie* (6:18).
- Second, they could possess that hope by possessing it and maturing in their understanding of it (6:18).
- Third, they had a secure anchor in Jesus Christ who provides ultimate assurance.
- Fourth, the hope we have entered the inner sanctuary as an ultimate high priest.
- Fifth, Jesus's priesthood is eternal, meaning that his intercession does not cease.

Applications

- *God is faithful and cannot lie. God will come through with all his promises.*
- *With Christ, we have ultimate assurance of salvation.*
- *With Jesus as our priest, we have assurance, but that assurance should encourage us to work hard for Christ and to grow continually.*

Discussion

- *How do God's character and attributes provide us ultimate assurance for our salvation?*
- *Why is it important to grow beyond the fundamentals of the faith?*



Next Study:

**Lesson 7:
“Jesus: The
Provider of a
Greater
Priesthood”
(Heb. 7:1-28)**

