

The Falling Away & Eternal Salvation

All Scripture is KJV: Hebrews 6:4-9

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

The explanation of Hebrews 6.

But to understand this passage and to get its context lets first go to Hebrews 5:12.

Hebrews 5:12 ¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- ✚ So the bible is showing us that there are easy things to understand in the bible, which is referred to as the milk of the word, but equally so there are things that are much deeper and much harder to understand, which it refers to as the meat of the word.
- ✚ Paul also makes it quite clear that there are many other things in the word of God which are also hard to be understood. (2 Peter 3:16)

2 Peter 3:16

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood**, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

- ✚ This passage of Hebrews 6:4-9 is very often used to try and prove that you can lose your salvation.

But on close inspection of the passage it can be seen that if that was to be the case then this passage of Hebrews 6 is taken out of context, and it is clear that the passage is being forced to say what they want to believe it to say.

This is a passage that I have mentioned many times in passing. But I think that leaving it unanswered would be detrimental to those who don't have a clear understanding of it.

So today we are going to look at several of the key verses which it explains in the passage.

Hebrews 6:1-9

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

1. The doctrines of Christ are those that bring salvation. It is the gospel message of his death, burial, and resurrection.
2. In verse 2 it explains these simple doctrines as something that is very easy to understand, and lists them for us.

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

- a) Of the doctrine of baptisms.
 - b) Laying on of hands. Praying for someone.
 - c) The resurrection – salvation.
 - d) Of Hell and its judgement.
 - e) The resurrection of the dead both those to life everlasting in heaven,
 - f) And those who are dead to everlasting judgement.
- The word used in verse 1; of going on unto perfection, simply means to continue in the word of Christ and perfecting his word in us to completion.
 - It is when we continue in Jesus, and learn more about him, without staying in the milk of the word but seeking out that strong meat unto perfection (completion).
 - The word perfection here is not talking about a person being perfect. It is talking about being completed in God's word.
 - This is the same word the Apostle Paul used of the saints coming to perfection in Ephesians.

Ephesians 4:11-13 King James Version (KJV)

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² **For the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and **of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

- It was not that the saints (Christians) would be perfect. **But that the Word of God would be perfected in them.** That the Word of God would come to its full completion in them as opposed to remaining as babes in Christ.
- Paul encouraged those who had tasted the word of God to continue to grow in the word.

1 Peter 2 King James Version (KJV)

1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ² **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:** ³ **If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**

⁴ To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ⁵ **Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

Hebrews 6:3...continued...

³ And this will we do, if God permit.

- Yes, those in Christ will grow if God permits. They will come to the full knowledge and the grace of Jesus.
- But what about those who don't?
- Hebrews 6:4-9 explains.

⁴ **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,**

- a) Once enlightened – those that had the knowledge of God revealed to them.
- b) They have tasted the heavenly gift – they have seen that salvation is possible. They have tasted it. They have been declared the things of Gods wisdom.
- c) They were even witnessed to by the Spirit of God. The Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost had revealed to them the wisdom of God and that salvation was shown unto them. But they chose to reject it.
- d) Ephesians 1:17-19; tells of the enlightenment of the people hearing Gods word and being exposed to it.

Ephesians 1:17-19 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

- You might want to disagree with God showing the lost, the ways of salvation.
- But its true God does show them. He did in the OT and still does in the NT to show us through the Holy Ghost.
- Every single person who has ever heard the gospel message has at some time been a partaker of the Holy Ghost as they have been witnessed to.

- ✚ The Holy Ghost even spoke through Caiaphas the High priest, who did not even believe on Jesus Christ, neither did he get saved. But the Holy Ghost worked through him....Who prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation. (John 11)

John 11:49-53 ⁴⁹ And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, ⁵⁰ Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. ⁵¹ **And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus**

should die for that nation;⁵² And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.⁵³ Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

- ✚ The Holy Ghost has a ministry in unsaved people. Look what Jesus said in John 16 about the ministry of the Holy Ghost.

John 16:7-11⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ Of sin, **because they believe not on me;** *(so do these people believe on Christ yet? – No)*

¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

❖ **The Holy Ghost has a ministry to reprove the whole world.**

- ✚ The whole world is not saved, therefore Jesus sent the Holy Ghost to reprove the whole world.

- ✓ Jesus said: none come unto me unless the Father draw him

[John 6:44](#) No man can come to me, **except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day.

- ✓ If I be lifted up I will draw all men.

[John 12:32](#)

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men unto me.**

1. So the Holy Spirit has a ministry to draw all men unto Christ.
2. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, to draw all men. The whole world.
3. So the fact that a person took part in the Holy Ghost, and the Spirit did such a great work in his heart, but the person **never called** upon the name of the Lord Jesus does not make him saved.
4. That's how they tasted that the Lord was good. That's how they tasted the heavenly things, **because the Holy Spirit was at work in them.** But they never got saved.
5. **That's how they were even enlightened,** which was through the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. It is only by the power of the washing of the Holy Spirit that a person in Jesus can get saved. And these people tasted that, but they never got saved, because they did not call upon the name of the Lord Jesus. They could taste it, but in the end they did not want it.

- ❖ There have been many times during my ministry, when I have been able to share Christ with people, and you preach to them the gospel of salvation. And when you ask them that “**do you want to be saved**”. They often come back at you and say they will have to think about it. They tasted it, but did not want it.
- ❖ They put their lips to the cup of the Lord, to the words of the Lord but they did not want to drink of that living water.

✚ **The Holy Ghost does not just work in the hearts of the saved. But the Holy Ghost also works in the hearts of the unsaved when they exposed to the Word of God.**

✚ That’s why when you go out and give the unsaved the gospel, you pray that God will open and soften the hearts of the unsaved that they may be prepared to receive his word.

✚ Why else would we pray for our loved ones to get saved if this was not possible?

✓ Other verses that prove the Holy Ghost works in the unbeliever is as follows:

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.** *(According to this scripture the fathers in the OT resisted the Holy Ghost- they were unsaved as well, but the Holy Ghost ministered to them anyway).*

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the **Holy Ghost**, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, **with joy of the Holy Ghost.**

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Hebrews 3:7-8 ⁷ Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, ⁸ Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Hebrews 10:15-16 ¹⁵ Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, ¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

✓ Ezekiel 11:19, Ezekiel 36:26, Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10

But let’s continue.....

Hebrews 6:5

⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

1. If this verse theoretically was teaching that you could lose your salvation. Would it not also be teaching that you could never get it back?

2. It does not mean because someone has tasted the word of God that they are saved.
3. Neither does it mean that because someone was a partaker of something that they are saved.
4. Nowhere in this passage does it say that these people were saved.
5. **But yet people will want to point to this passage to say that you can lose your salvation. Well if that's the case then you can't get saved again either.**

✚ And I want them to show me that if you could lose your salvation according to this passage then how can you get it back again. When it specifically says that..... **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance.**

✚ How then would it be possible to get them saved again?

✓ **Even so, there is no evidence of this person ever having called upon Jesus for salvation.**

6. Just because a person is a partaker, or that he has tasted Gods word, or been enlightened, does not make him saved. Also just because a person goes to church, and sings the hymns does not mean that he is saved, or a believer.
7. These are people who have had the gospel preached to them, they have heard the word of God, they understood the word of God, and had spent a lot of time getting to know who God is, but despite all that it does not make them saved.
8. In Hebrews 6:6, It says that "if they should fall away".....⁶ **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance.**
9. The reason that they are not saved is how to **renew them again unto repentance.....** is because of what they have become. Dull of hearing.
10. The remainder of verse 6 tells us why..... **seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh**, and **put him to an open shame**
11. They have at this point made a mockery of Jesus.....just as the people did at the time when Jesus was sent before Pilate, to be crucified.
 - a) They have now made Jesus into a mockery, and put him to open shame, despising his salvation, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh.
 - b) It's just like as if they sending Jesus to be crucified again.
 - c) The did not believe, even though they had the truth and even understood the truth.

✚ These verses don't say this person was saved.

✚ Yet when you use clear verses on salvation, verse after verse speaking about salvation being eternal and being sealed by the Holy Spirit upon believing on Jesus, yet the sceptics don't want to believe those verses?

- In Matthew Chapter 27 we read of Jesus being crucified and the people knowing full well who he was. But yet they crucified him.

Matthew 27:17-35.

¹⁷ Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

¹⁸ For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

¹⁹ When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

²¹ The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

²² Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

²³ And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

²⁵ Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

²⁶ Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

²⁸ And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

²⁹ And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

³⁰ And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

³¹ And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

³² And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

³³ And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

³⁴ They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

³⁵ And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

- So even as Jesus **tasted**, it did not mean that he drank the gall (bile) and vinegar.
- Jesus refused to drink something that in which he was being mocked.
- In the same way people can taste the gospel and yet never drink it.

Hebrews 6:7-9

⁷ For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

⁸ **But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.**

1. This person is rejected. He never believed
2. He has by his actions cursed Jesus instead.

⁹ **But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.**

- The Apostle Paul was comparing those that were unsaved to those that were saved.
- To be saved a person has to believe and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus to get saved.
- This people group Paul was talking about in Hebrews 6:1-9 were not saved. So they could not even lose their salvation if it was even possible.
- But notice that he said if they were saved? And had lost their salvation? How would they ever get saved again?
- If you could lose your salvation in this way then these verse would state that you could never get it back again, or be restored again to salvation?

Matthew 7:15-24 (KJV)

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

What is the Will of the Father in Heaven ?

- The will of the Father is that all men will believe on His Son for everlasting life.
- And if they don't believe on Jesus, then verse 22 is the result.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

- Preaching and teaching about Jesus, and doing wonderful works means nothing for salvation.
- Salvation is not by and works, or any works of righteousness.
- Salvation is only by believing on Jesus, and on him alone.

- So losing your salvation once saved is refuted.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....