

The Necessity of Discernment and Threat of Deception

Hebrews 5:11-6:1-8

Series: Deception and
Discernment

Text: Hebrews 6:1–8

Date: October 5, 2025

Title: Don't Waste Grace

- I. **Spiritual maturity involves understanding the _____ of the faith (vv1–3).**

Hebrews 5:14 – But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern both good and evil.

- They should be beyond needing someone to review these basic teachings with them:

Past 1. Repentance & faith=doctrines about

Present 2. Washings & laying of hands=matters of Christian

Future 3. Resurrection & judgment=_____

**The solution to spiritual immaturity isn't review of the basics; it's a
_____ change that sees the need for growth and discernment.**

II. Spiritual maturity can be _____ (vv4–6).

– Three views of this passage:

1. Real salvation, inability to be saved after falling→Believers can lose their salvation (Goes against John 6:37; 10:27–29; Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:3–5; et al)
2. Real salvation, inability to lose salvation→Loss of rewards and/or some kind of earthly judgment (Doesn't account for salvation language in v6)
3. Inability to be saved after falling, inability to lose salvation→Earlier descriptions must refer to false conversion

This passage is a warning against the danger of

_____.

*1 Tim. 4:1–2 – But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will **fall away** from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ²by means of the hypocrisy of liars **seared in their own conscience** as with a branding iron,*

Heb. 10:26–31 – For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has

regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰*For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.”* ³¹*It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

- The danger of being in church and exposed to truth but rejecting it is a concern throughout Hebrews (cf. 2:1–3a; 3:12–14; 4:1–2).
- Apostasy can happen with people who are convinced they have experienced some kind of spiritual reality.

Matt. 7:21–23 – *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.* ²²***Many*** *will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not* ***prophecy*** *in Your name, and in Your name* ***cast out demons***, *and in Your name* ***perform many miracles?*** ²³*And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who* ***practice lawlessness.***”

- By being a part of a faithful church, false believers will be experience ‘blessings by association’ that come from being in proximity to God’s true people.
- The apostate have been meaningfully a part of the Church and been blessed for it, but they have never been *full* participants in it.
- The judgment on the apostate is firm and severe because their seared consciences won’t permit them to come to a saving faith.

- Apostasy isn't just harmful to the sinner: it dishonors Jesus Christ by pretending that His sacrifice on the cross was meaningless and didn't accomplish anything.

It's useless to move beyond the basics of the faith and 'press on toward maturity' if we aren't certain our faith is

_____.

III. Spiritual maturity exposes the _____ of our faith (v.7–8).

- Both kinds of 'ground' receive the rain, but the produce of each points toward their ultimate destination.
- Remember the message of the Parable of the Soils (cf. Matt. 13/Mark 4/Luke 8): There are many who hear God's Word and appear to actually grow—even appear to actually produce something—but whose faith ultimately doesn't last when things get hard.
- Heb. 6 is a reassurance for true believers when other apostatize and a warning to those who do that 'wasting' God's blessing as part of a good church brings extra judgment.

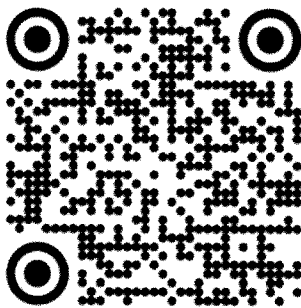
True salvation is evidenced by _____ fruit.

What do we do with this text?

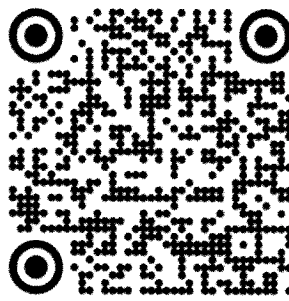
1. Don't _____ church.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you feel confident enough in the basics of the faith to be able to teach them to others? If not, what needs to change about your *attitude* (heart) to get to that point?
2. Explain how Heb. 6:4–6 should NOT be understood to mean true believers can lose their salvation.
3. How should you respond to the reality of apostasy in the Church?
4. How can spiritual maturity be dangerous?
5. What do this passage and the Parable of the Soils teach us about true vs. false conversion?



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Blanks: basics, salvation, practice, eschatology, heart, dangerous, apostasy, genuine, nature, persevering, play