**Spiritual growth & enduring faith – Heb. 5:11 – 6:20**

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity… Heb. 6:1

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Heb. 6:11 -12

**Spiritual immaturity – 5:11 -14**

* Dullness in hearing God’s Word – 11
* Unable to teach others – 12
* Lack of understanding of the basic teachings about Jesus life & ministry – “milk” – 12 – 13
* Lack of discernment & understanding of using God’s Word in daily life - 14

**Spiritual maturity – 6: 1-12**

* Moving forward in our faith – press on to maturity – 1
* Knowledge of the essentials of faith – 1-3

Repentance & faith – relationship with God

Washings & laying on of hands – relationship to church

Resurrection from the dead & eternal judgment – future purposes of God

* Assurance of Salvation – 4 – 6

Salvation cannot be lost.

Salvation is a one -time experience

Salvation is not a multiple experience

Salvation cannot be regained because it cannot be lost

Salvation is certain – Heb. 5:9 – eternal salvation

The experiences described are clearly experiences of believer’s

Enlightened

Tasted the heavenly gift

Partakers of the Holy Spirit

Tasted the good Word of God

Tasted the powers of the world to come

The illustration of the impossibility of lost salvation

v.6 – Lit. reads – “and having fallen aside”

Hypothetical illustration – “in the case of those” if one could fall from an experience of salvation, he could never be brought to repentance & faith again.

“Let’s suppose that you do not go on to maturity. Does this mean that you will

go back to condemnation, that you will lose your salvation? Impossible! If you could lose your salvation, it would be impossible to get it back again; and this would disgrace Jesus Christ. He would have to be crucified again for you and this could never happen.” Warren Wiersbe – The Bible Exposition Commentary

The certainty of salvation is shown in several places in Heb. 6:18-19; 10:14

* Fruitfulness is certain – 7 -10

Fruitfulness is evidence of Salvation – v.9 “better things” relates to what accompanies salvation

Matt. 13: 1-9; Heb. 6:10 – fruitfulness in the Hebrew believer’s

Fruitfulness varies in each believer’s life – Some 100, 60, 30, fold in fruitfulness – Matt.13:8; 1Thess. 1:3-10

* Diligent effort in growing to maturity in Christ – 11 -12

Believer’s must put effort into growing up in Christ – 2 Pet. 1: 1: 5 -11

Live above sluggishness, neglect, dullness…as you grow in Christ

Believer’s imitate the faith & patience of others who have followed Christ – Heb. 11

**Spiritual security – 6:13 -20**

* God’s promises of security – 13 -15

God promised Abraham was kept even though Abraham failed many times – Gen. 22:16-17;

Abraham “patiently waited” for the promise of God – He was not slothful – Heb. 6:12

* God’s unchangeable oath – 16 -18

God’s oath shows the unchangeable nature of our salvation

God’s promise & His oath assures us of eternal salvation – “the hope set before us”

Believers have fled to Jesus who is our refuge take hold of our hope set before us

* Jesus Christ our anchor of hope – 19 -20

Believers hope in Christ is an anchor for the soul – Col 1:5

Our hope is stedfast & sure

Our hope is in Jesus Christ our high priest who is in the presence of God

* Jesus Christ is our high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek – 5:10