



Are You Ready To Run? The Race Marked Out

Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20
BASIC TRAINING
October 12, 2014

MEMORY VERSE:

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain," (Hebrews 6:19, NIV84)

OVERVIEW

The writer of Hebrews believes his congregation is up for the race (cf. 6:9). They have shown great promise. All that is needed is diligence, perseverance. Now is not the time to become lazy. However, there is a problem among the hearers of this message. They are slow to respond; they lack motivation. They must decide whether they are going to run the race. If they are, they need to get on with their training.

NEXT WEEK:

Read Hebrews 7:1 - 10:18

There is a thematic unity in these chapters; the writer of Hebrews never wavers from his assigned topic of Jesus as "the great high priest." Indeed, chapters 7–10 seem to constitute yet another "sermon-within-a-sermon" (like 3:7–4:13), this time one in which the writer chases the idea of Jesus' priestly ministry through three key Old Testament texts: Psalm 110:4; Jeremiah 31:31–34; and Psalm 40:6–8

SERMON NOTES: Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20

Question: How can we know that we are on the path to maturity?

THE PATH TO MATURITY IS NOT JUST ABOUT RIGHT ANSWERS

¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.

- **True faith is not static.**

⁴ **It is impossible** for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, ⁶ if they fall away, **to be brought back to repentance**, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

- **True faith is more than talking a good game.** (Cf. Hebrews 3:7-12)

THE PATH TO MATURITY MOVES FROM RIGHT ANSWERS TO RIGHT LIVING

⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that **produces a crop useful** to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that **produces thorns and thistles** is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. ¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget **your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.**

- **True faith produces good fruit** (Cf. James 2:14; Matthew 7:15-23)

¹¹ **We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.** ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

- **True faith perseveres to the end** (cf. Heb.3:6 ,14; Heb. 4:1 – 2; Heb. 6:11)

THE PATH TO MATURITY HOLDS TENACIOUSLY TO GOD'S PROMISE

¹³ When **God made his promise** to Abraham, since there was **no one greater for him to swear by**, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." ¹⁵ And so after **waiting patiently**, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ **We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.** It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

- **God is able to keep his promise**
- **God is willing to keep his promise**

How can we know that we are on the path to maturity?; when we see faith moving from our head, to our heart, and to our hands; when we discover encouragement and security in God's promises.

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Hebrews 5:11 - 6:20

OPENING

- Can you think of a time when someone used reverse psychology on you? What did you wind up doing? Or, what did you refuse to do?

GOING DEEPER

- What do you see as the prevailing language used to describe faith? Is it descriptions geared toward content? Do you sense that the prevailing descriptors of faith lack an emphasis on works?
- Salvation in the New Testament has a past, present, and future tense. In the past we have been saved from the penalty of sin; presently we are being saved from the power of sin — its rule over us has been broken; in the future we will be saved from the presence of sin.¹

Yet, we all too often speak of our “conversion” experience as a past experience, as being saved. However, we have been saved from something to something. We have been saved from sin and we are saved to pursue Jesus and His righteousness. Pastor Bruce shared that we are to move from a faith that moves from right answers to right living. This right living is to be evidenced by good fruit and perseverance to the end. How does this affect your daily walk with Jesus? What does this infer about being a disciple?

CHALLENGE

- Many of us have friends or family members who have walked away from their faith, and their church community. As you absorbed the teaching in Hebrews 6, what did you learn that may help you to reach out to them?

¹ Guthrie, G. H. *The NIV Application Commentary: Hebrews 6:4 – 12*.