

**The Book of Hebrews
Session Five
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Hebrews 5: 11–14 – strong reproof for these believers not having matured, but staying babes, needing the milk of the Word and not solid food. Mature believers have their senses exercised to discern good from evil and can understand the more mature, solid food.

Chapter Six

**Verses 1 & 2 – “Therefore” ties this back to 5:11-14. “principles” – beginnings
“doctrine” – *logos*, word “perfection” – maturity “foundation” – Ephesians
2:20; I Corinthians 3:1,2,10,11; Hebrews 2:3,4.**

Listing of 6 Elementary Christian Doctrines

with which these Hebrew believers would be familiar:

- 1) “repentance from dead works” – Hebrews 9:14. To turn away from the lifeless observances of your former ways.**
- 2) “faith toward God” – turn to believing God. Salvation is not of works, lest any man should boast, but is by believing God’s Word.**
- 3) “doctrine of baptisms” – the baptism of holy spirit replaces that of water.**
- 4) “laying on of hands” – operating manifestations or, possibly, Old Testament sacrifices replaced by Christ’s sacrifice.**
- 5) “resurrection of the dead” – Jesus Christ has been raised, the firstborn from the dead. Others to follow.**
- 6) “eternal judgement” – the return of Christ and future judgements, including that of the Church for rewards.**

Verse 3 – “this will we do” – go on unto mature subjects.

Verses 4 & 5 – “those” – Christians of a Hebrew background were:

- 1) “once enlightened,” 2) “tasted of the heavenly gift,” 3) “partakers of the holy spirit,” 4) “tasted of the good Word of God,” and 5) “tasted of the world to come.”
All 5 terms indicate salvation and a previous growth and maturation in the Word.**

Verse 6 – “fall away” – to fall aside so as to desert. It is impossible (verse 4) “to renew them again to repentance” from dead works or lifeless observances of their former ways (verse 1), i.e. the practice of the law. “crucify to themselves the son of God afresh” – a return to offering daily animal sacrifices. “open shame” – make a mockery, ridicule publicly. Galatians 5:4.

It is impossible to genuinely renounce and change from (repent of) the dead works of the law when you continue daily to practice and be zealous for them.

The law is like barbed wire – easy to get into, hard to get out of.

Verses 7 & 8 – an illustration: the same rain falls on different plants. Some are “blessings,” some are “cursings.” Jesus Christ is “the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). How he is received determines blessing or cursing.

Verse 9 – “better” – superior “things that accompany salvation” – blessings
“though we thus speak” – the previous stern warning

Verse 10 – A reference to eternal rewards. He will remember at the *bema* your work and labor done for Him. What is at stake for these believers? – 1) blessings now and 2) rewards throughout eternity
They had worked and labored, ministering to the saints and still were.

Verse 11 – “full assurance” – perfect certainty, complete freedom from doubt.
Used here, Colossians 2:2, I Thessalonians 1:5, Hebrews 10:22.
“of hope” – that Jesus Christ is coming back! Be diligent until he does.

Verse 12 – “followers” – imitators “them” – believers that have come before us, exemplified here by Abraham. It takes “believing” and “patience” to receive God’s promises “

Verse 13 – “promise” God made to Abraham – Genesis 21:12 – “In Isaac shall thy seed be called.” Galatians 3:16 – “He saith not, ‘And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.’” God swore an oath. We swear oaths on something greater than ourselves – Bibles in a court of law, or on the lives of our children. There is no thing nor one greater than God, so “He swore by Himself.”

Verse 14 – the oath from Genesis 22:16-18.

Verse 15 – patient endurance. God performed what He promised – Isaac was born. Of him has come the Christ. Hebrews 11: 17-19. Romans 4:21 – “fully persuaded”

Verse 16 – an oath settles it.

Verse 17 – “immutability of His counsel” – the unchangeableness of His Word
“heirs of the promise” – Galatians 3:26-29. Includes all of us!

Verse 18 – “two immutable things” – the promise made and the oath sworn to Abraham. God also made a promise to his son that He would raise him from the dead (Hebrews 5:5 called a promise in Acts 13:32,33) and swore it by an oath (Hebrews 5:6 called an oath in 7:20,21). It “is impossible for God to lie.”

“consolation” – encouragement

“refuge”- a place of protection and safety

God’s Promise – Our Hope: Jesus Christ is Coming Back to Gather Us to Heaven

Verse 19 – the hope is an “anchor” giving sure moorings in turbulent seas; a fixed point in our lives. “entereth into that within the veil” – into the true Holy of Holies, heaven itself.

Verse 20 – “forerunner” – one who goes in advance where the rest will follow. By his ascension into the heavens, Jesus Christ has gone into the true Holy of Holies, heaven itself. We will follow when he returns to gather the Church together.

“... And so shall we ever be with the Lord”

I Thessalonians 4:16