

## Sermon Study - Hebrews 5:11-6:20 -Assurance

Remember to use the leader guide to help you with this study if possible.

**Problem:** lack of maturing means lack of assurance

### **Main Idea:**

Assurance is not a doctrine to be learned but a lifestyle to be lived

### **Text:**

#### **you have become dull of hearing**

Heb. 5:11 ¶ About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since **you have become dull of hearing.**

Heb. 5:12 For though **by this time you ought to be teachers,** you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,

Heb. 5:13 for everyone who lives on milk is **unskilled in the word of righteousness,** since he is a child.

Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

*(this) Hebrews 5:10-7:1;*

*(dull of hearing) Hebrews 3:6 "if"*

*(milk) 1 Peter 2:2 - the focus in 1 Peter is desire not infancy - not so here*

*(infancy) 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 -still of flesh because they were a young church - not so with these Christians*

->The author is about to speak of Melchizedek but takes an aside to express concern that the church may not even have an appetite to know this. This is a concern worthy of this aside. Their lack of development in maturity is a sign that something is wrong.

#### **let us move on to maturity**

Heb. 6:1 ¶ Therefore **let us** leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and **go on to maturity,** not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Heb. 6:2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

*Ephesians 4:11-16 - maturity is the goal - prepare for this*

*Philippians 3:7-16 - straining to experience what we have - standing still is not good*

->Nevertheless, the author is going on to speak about mature things - things not belonging to justification but things that have to do with sanctification. Essentially the Hebrew church was facing temptation regarding the basic doctrines of justification to go back to Judaism and the author here expresses concern at the idea of laying again the case that should have been settled- salvation (justification) is by grace through faith and nothing else.

#### **God willing**

Heb. 6:3 **And this we will do if God permits.**

Heb. 6:4 **For it is impossible,** in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

Heb. 6:5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Heb. 6:6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Heb. 6:7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

Heb. 6:8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

*2 Peter 2:20-22 - profession without possession is worse than atheism*

->The reason for going on to speak about mature things, even though some will not be able to handle it, is because the ones who remain unable to handle it demonstrate that they are unchanged by the Word. They, being unaffected and able to flippantly deal with the Word that is living and active and sharper than any two

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edged sword, are not only unconverted but they are without even the conviction that they need to be converted -demonstrated by their immaturity. This is a terrifying section regarding our culture where immature Christianity is the norm. These folks experienced all the good things that the community of the Word can offer and remained unchanged- there remained no hope to bring them back to real repentance.

### **we want you to have full assurance**

Heb. 6:9 ¶ Though we speak in this way, **yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—** things that belong to salvation.

Heb. 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

Heb. 6:11 And **we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,**

**Heb. 6:12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

*2 Corinthians 13:5 - examine yourself*

*Matthew 7:15-20; 13:1-9 - know yourself by your fruit (gal 5:22 - fruit of the Spirit)*

*Ephesians 2:8-10 - His work is displayed in yours*

*1 John 1:6-10; 2:3-6, 9-11, 15, 19, 28-29; 3:4-10, 16-21; 4:13-17, 20-21; 5:1-2, 13 -assurance is a lifestyle*

->Here the author distinguishes between the immature and those willing to go one- the truly converted.

Remember that the human author writing this was not omniscient and so he marks a difference understanding there was a mixed multitude in the church. To the beloved, he is sure of better things and writes so that these truly with salvation can have earnestness and not be sluggish. Remember that our works do not save us - they do not justify us, they do not sanctify us, nor do they glorify us. God does this -our works assure us and display the change God is bringing. We can see this inward change by the outward and our diligent pursuit of maturity is evidence of His work.

### **In the anchor of your soul**

Heb. 6:13 ¶ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,

Heb. 6:14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

Heb. 6:15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Heb. 6:16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

Heb. 6:17 **So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose,** he guaranteed it with an oath,

Heb. 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, **we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.**

Heb. 6:19 **We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,** a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

Heb. 6:20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

*Galatians 3:1-6 - works do not bring salvation -past present or future*

*James 2:18-26 - They bring assurance*

*The truly saved cannot lose their salvation but they can lose their assurance - the goal is maturity - pursue it and rest assured that God will complete what He started in you - Phillipians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9*

->Salvation is of the Lord and that means sanctification - the Lord is faithful to finish what He started, and He will bring His people to maturity. We can pursue it with confidence in the anchor of our soul.

### **Implication:**

Works do not bring salvation, past, present or future -Galatians 3:1-6

They bring assurance. - James 2:18-26

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### **Application:**

Assurance is not a doctrine to be learned but a lifestyle to be lived - let us then press on to maturity and the assurance that comes with it- knowing that Christ, the anchor of our should, will sustain us on the journey

### **Action:**

- watch the following video and discuss how to continue to develop in EACH of the five steps -even if you are saved for example how can you mature in your understanding of your salvation or even if you have read the Bible, how can you get a more mature understanding of its content and scope, or even if you are in a 24/2 group how can you be a better member, a better prayer partner, a better counselor etc., or even if you are worshiping God through service in some capacity, how can you enjoy Him more in what you do? How can you use your gifts more effectively or even develop them more fully for the glory of Christ? Finally, even if you are leading a group, how can you grow in your ability and faithfulness to the task?

watch the following video before trying to discuss these questions -

<http://www.barabbasroadchurch.com/mission.php>

discuss the following article:

<http://thecripplegate.com/5-signs-of-maturity-in-a-believer/>

finally, here is a longer one on pursuing excellence that is very good and relevant here:

<https://bible.org/seriespage/mark-11-pursuit-excellence>