

Hebrews

Chapter Six

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Six

SUMMARY: Verses 1-20

1. There are six fundamental doctrines mentioned as necessary for growing in faith. They are considered the 'elementary' teachings of faith.
 - A. REPENTANCE: Turning away from sin and useless religious practices; a complete change of mind.
 - B. FAITH IN GOD: Repentance is turning from sin. Faith is turning towards God.
 - C. BAPTISMS: Baptized into Body, salvation. Baptized in Holy Spirit, power. Baptized in water, identification.
 - D. LAYING ON OF HANDS: Connected to healing, blessing, ordination, and setting apart for God's service.
 - E. RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD: Those resurrected to life. Those resurrected to damnation.
 - F. ETERNAL JUDGMENT: The destiny of those who don't repent and put faith in God.
2. These 6 doctrines are considered 'elementary' and a must for growing faith.
3. "Been enlightened", "Tasted of the heavenly gift", "shared in the Holy Spirit", and "tasted of the goodness of the word of God and powers of the coming age" indicate a connection with God's kingdom and being saved.
4. It's stated it's impossible to have any other way of salvation if you turn away from the source of eternal salvation offered. This lends one to believe that 'losing your salvation' could be a possibility if one turns away from such.
5. A brief parable of a warning is given if repentance is rejected: Land producing fruit is blessed. Land that produces thorns is cursed. In the end, no fruit, it will be burned. (This is a parable of what will happen to the unrepentant)
6. Paul encourages them to remain diligent. He wants their faith to take them all the way to the end.
7. He encourages them to imitate the faith of those who have already inherited what was promised.
8. It is through faith and patience we inherit what God promises.
9. Christ is our hope for He anchors us in hope to God.
10. God makes His promise certain: with a promise and an oath. He promised it and then swore by Himself as His oath that the promise was God.
11. God CANNOT lie. Therefore, Jesus becomes our guarantee that eternal life is a certainty we can bank on as consistently and emphatically true.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. How well do you know the 'elementary' teachings listed above? Why do you feel these subjects are considered to be the ABC's of our Christian faith?
3. What do you think it means to 'fall away'? Why would someone who falls away not be brought back to a place of repentance?
4. Why is faith and patience necessary to inherit what God promises?
5. Why is bearing fruit so critical in God's mind?
6. Why do you think Jesus Christ is viewed as our anchor of hope?
7. Can you explain further what this phrase means to you, "It is impossible for God to lie."

APPLICATION

1. Take time this week to study more on the 6 ABC teachings of faith from above.
2. When faced with a trial or problem focus on the certainty of God's promise! In every situation you need a promise to hold on to for faith. List a circumstance you are facing now. Ask God to give you a Scripture for your promise.
3. How do you think patience could be displayed in your life while you are waiting on a promise?

