

The Alternative: _____ = apostasy = a denial of the gospel by those who once professed to hold to it.



Playing For Keeps
Hebrews 5:11-6:12
Sunday, December 12, 2021

The Hope: We are _____ of better things so be _____ and _____ to imitate faithful followers of Christ.

The readers of Hebrews had become spiritually lazy. They were well instructed but they were not living out their faith. As a result they were not experiencing the benefits of a vital connection to God. It is no wonder that some of them were tempted to revert back to the rituals of Judaism. So the author rebukes their immaturity and tells them to press on beyond the ABCs of Christianity to a vibrant life-transforming faith in Christ. But he warns them that they are at a defining moment in life and in danger of demonstrating a hard heart and a counterfeit faith. Eternity is at stake! But he is confident that their faith is genuine and they will indeed press on with diligent eagerness to imitate faithful followers of Christ.

NEXT STEPS

- Examine yourself – are you spiritually lazy (sluggish) or dull of hearing? Are you ruthlessly applying God’s Word and taking every thought captive to obedience to Christ? Are you in danger of falling away and demonstrating that your connection to Christ has been superficial?
- Are you facing a defining moment in your walk with Jesus? What do you need to diligently pursue and develop your walk of faith in Christ? How can you, in Paul’s words to the Philippians “forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”?

The Problem: _____ because they have become _____ of hearing.

The Solution: _____ to maturity by building on the foundation, not by rebuilding the foundation _____ and _____.

NEXT WEEK: *Jesus: a Steadfast Anchor for the Soul* | Heb. 6:13-20



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Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org/growthgroups

CONNECT *(ask these questions to check-in with your group)*

Share your favorite Christmas tradition and your best Christmas ever.

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:12 together. How did you come under God's Word in the passage and in the message?

2. How would you define Christian maturity? What does it look like? How does that compare to the description in 5:11-14?

3. What are the ABCs of Christianity? What is the difference between building on the foundation of these ABCs and constantly rebuilding the foundation? Why does it matter?

4. Identify and describe a defining moment when you were at a spiritual crossroad and chose to follow God instead of falling away. Are you facing a defining moment right now?

5. Do you struggle with understanding 6:4-8? What do you think the author's purpose is in this passage?

PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- Share & pray for loved ones or people you know who are facing defining moments.
- Pray for the Spirit to use this season to present the gospel so that not-yet believers would face their own defining moment – We are playing for keeps!