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# Go on to Maturity Heb 5:11 – 6:20

Ted Ohrn  
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# BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front)

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- We need to grow up and have mature faith
- We need to make sure we are building on a good foundation
- We must endure and continue to love others and follow faithful examples to keep us from growing dull
- Our hope is in God's faithfulness, not our own
- ~~This hope is anchored with Jesus in heaven~~



# We need to grow up

Heb 5:11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. 12 **You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others.** Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, **who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.**

# Am I dull?

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- Do you have the ability to understand more than the basics?
- Are you teaching what you have learned to someone else?
- Can you discern right and wrong, biblically?



# Check your foundation

*Heb 6:1 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. 2 You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.*

# Check your foundation

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- Repentance
  - Faith
  - Water Baptism
  - Baptism in the Holy Spirit
  - Laying on of Hands
  - Resurrection
  - Eternal Judgement
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Heb 6:4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— 6 and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

**DON'T TURN BACK**

Heb 6:7 When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God's blessing. 8 But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it.



**DON'T TURN BACK**

# How to understand hard verses

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1. Remember the audience
  2. Examine the words used
  3. Context of the book
  4. How does it fit within the NT and the rest of the Bible
  5. Make your best conclusion
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# Step 1 – Understand the audience

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- Written to Jewish Christians
- They were suffering persecution
- Some were considering giving up on their faith in Christ.



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# Step 3 – Understand the context of the book

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- Heb 3:6 We are God's house if we hold firmly to our confidence and hope
  - Heb 3:14 We share in Christ if we hold our original confidence firm to the end
  - Heb 4:14 We have a great high priest, hold firmly to the faith we profess
  - Heb 10:23 We should hold fast to our confession of our hope without wavering
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# Step 3 – Understand the context of the book

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- Heb Chp 3: Don't harden your heart
  - Heb Chp 4: Don't fail to enter God's rest
  - Heb 10:26-27 If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins remains, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume all adversaries.
  - Heb 10:39 Don't shrink back and be destroyed
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## Step 4 – How does it fit within the NT

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- Col 1:22-23 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- 2 Pet 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

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# Conclusion

- Faith that saves is also faith that endures.
- We must hold to our confession of faith to the end.
- If we turn again to sin, we risk becoming hard and unrepentant.
- These verses don't say a fallen Christian can't be forgiven, but that those who willfully turn away won't come back.
- The impossibility is because they've hardened the heart beyond repentance, not that God is unable or unwilling to offer it.

DON'T TURN BACK

Heb 6:9 Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. **We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation.** 10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. 11 Our great desire is that you will **keep on loving others as long as life lasts**, in order to **make certain** that what you hope for will come true. 12 Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, **you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.**

# God's unchanging promise

Heb 6:13 For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

14 "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number." 15 Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

Heb 6:17 God also bound himself with an oath, so that **those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.** 18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are **unchangeable** because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. 19 **This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.** 20 Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.



## Questions to ponder

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Are you growing in your faith?

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Are you teaching others what you have learned?

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How is your foundation?

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Are you loving others as long as life lasts?

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Are you following the examples of other faithful people?