

## Procrastinate or Persevere?

### Hebrews 6:1-12

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / January 12, 2025

**Hebrews 6:1-12** “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, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits. <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. <sup>9</sup> Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

#### I. You need to make sure you're not so close to coming to Christ that you never do!

A. Some people remain unsaved because they refuse to abandon something(s) for Jesus.

**Hebrews 6:1-2** “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, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”

B. Some people “taste,” but never eat.

**Hebrews 6:4-6** “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, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> 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.”

C. Be careful! The longer you “almost” trust Jesus, the less likely you are to truly trust Jesus.

#### II. You need to celebrate the “things that belong to salvation” that you see in yourself and each other!

**Hebrews 6:9-10** “Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. <sup>10</sup> 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.”

A. God is not so unfair or insensitive that He fails to see what you do for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Proverbs 19:17** “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.”

**Matthew 10:42** “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

**Matthew 25:40** “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.’”

B. Assurance and certainty of salvation accompanies those who earnestly serve the Lord and His people!

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

C. God’s Word tells us to imitate those who minister well and finish well, to the glory of God.

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

**Hebrews 13:7** “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** “We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work ...”

**1 Timothy 5:17a** “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor...”

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. Name something the Lord has called you to abandon in order to fully trust and follow Christ.
2. Describe a time in your life when you had “tasted,” but not eaten. When do you think you were “so close, and yet so far?”
3. What did Pastor Peter mean when he said, “The longer someone ‘almost’ trusts Jesus, the less likely they are to truly trust Jesus”?
4. Pastor Peter emphasized the importance of understanding who the writer of Hebrews was addressing; unbelievers in Hebrews 6:1-8, and believers in Hebrews 6:9-12. Why is that an important distinction to make?
5. The Bible speaks often of imitating those who are striving in their faith. Who has God brought into your life that is worth imitating? What will you do this year in your walk with Christ that someone should imitate?