



# Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20

In Hebrews 3:7 – 4:12, the author quotes Psalm 95 and applies it to his readers. He uses the example of the Israelites' disobedience in the wilderness, to exhort them to continue persevering in their faith. He then transitions to talking about the theme of priesthood, after giving short snippets of it in 1:3-4 and 2:17-18. He mentions that God appointed Jesus to be a priest in the order of Melchizedek.

However, in this week's passage, the priesthood is not mentioned much. The author goes on a tangent to exhort his readers to move beyond elementary teachings to maturity. He only returns to talking about Melchizedek in chapter 7. Let's find out why he goes on this tangent.

## Launch

- 1) How would you "measure" spiritual maturity in a Christian?

## Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20 – Exhortation to Persevere In Light of God's Promise

Read Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20

- 2) "We have much to say about this..." What is "this" referring to?
  - a. Why can't the author say more about that topic? (5:11)
- 3) What should the readers be by that time? (5:12)
  - a. What did they need instead? (5:12) What did the author say that they are not acquainted with?
- 4) What do you think "solid food" (5:14) refers to? How does "constant use" of this solid food trains a person to distinguish good and evil?
- 5) The author asks his readers to "move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ". What are these elementary teachings about Christ according to the author? (6:1-2)

a)	d)
b)	e)
c)	f)
- 6) List the spiritual experience of the people described in 6:4-6a.

a)	d)
b)	e)
c)	f)



- a. What do you think each description means?
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- 7) What is impossible for these people to do?
    - a. Which group of people in the Old Testament can these descriptions be applied to? (cf. Heb 3:7-19) How about the New Testament? (cf. Matt 7:21-23, 13:18-23)
  - 8) What are these people doing to/saying about Christ with their actions when they fall away/turn away from him? (6:8)
  - 9) The author uses the imagery of land to depict the two responses to his warnings. Compare and contrast the land imagery in 6:7-8.

Heb 6:7

Heb 6:8
  - 10) Even though the author gives his readers such stern warnings, what is he convinced of? (6:9)
    - a. How have the readers shown love for him?
    - b. What are some ways that we today can show our love to God?
  - 11) What does the author want his readers to do/be? (6:11-12)
    - a. Who are the people in your life that you can imitate?
    - b. What are some ways that we can encourage each other to grow in maturity to be like them?
  - 12) What has God promised for us to inherit? (6:12)
  - 13) What did God promise Abraham and did Abraham receive God's promises? (6:13-15)
  - 14) To whom did God swear an oath? (6:13) Why didn't he swear it by someone else? (6:16)



- 15) Why did God swear an oath? (6:17)
- 16) It is impossible for God to lie (6:18) and God swore an oath to “make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised.” (6:17) What is God’s main reason for doing those things? (6:18)
- 17) What do we have as an anchor for our soul? (6:19-20) What theme does he return to?
- 18) What are some promises of God that greatly encourages you?

## Conclusion

Beginning in Hebrews 4:14, the author focuses on the priesthood of the Son. However, in 5:11-6:20, he seems to take a detour to exhort his readers to persevere on in their faith. This time, he wrote one of the strongest worded exhortation in 6:4-6, warning his readers that those who fall away after experiencing all the blessings of following God will not be able to be brought back to repentance. How could they, when they have rejected the one and only person that could save them? The Israelites who did not enter the Promised Land (and who died in the wilderness) were examples that the author gave in the previous chapters.

Thus, once again, the author urges his readers to cling on to their faith, because we will receive from God what has been promised. When God makes a promise, he keeps his promises, just like how he kept his promises to Abraham (Heb 6:14-15). To make it even clearer for us, God swore an oath by himself, and given that it is impossible for God to lie, we can be certain that he will fulfil his promises. Because of that, we can trust God, obey God, and follow God. As we continue learning about him, we will eventually be to teach others (5:12), and not live on milk anymore.