

SERMON-BASED STUDY: TOE DIPPERS

Hebrews 6:4-8, ESV – ⁴ 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, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 What does it mean to *have been enlightened*, to *have tasted the heavenly gift*, and to *have shared in the Holy Spirit*? What does it mean to *have fallen away*?
- 2 Why is it impossible to *restore them again to repentance*? Why is true acceptance of Jesus necessary for repentance?

3

What does the metaphor in verses 7-8 teach us about *bearing fruit*?

DIGGING DEEPER

A

1 Peter 1:3-5, ESV – ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* ⁴ *to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,* ⁵ *who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Jude 1:24-25, ESV – ²⁴ *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,* ²⁵ *to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

4

What does it mean that God is guarding us through faith and is able to keep us from stumbling?

5

What does it mean to be *born again*? What is our *living hope*? Why is the resurrection of Jesus the key part?

6

How do you feel when you read that God is the one who ultimately keeps you secure? How does this impact the way you live your life?

B

1 John 2:19-21, ESV – ¹⁹ *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.* ²⁰ *But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.* ²¹ *I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.*

7

Why is it significant that those who left *went out from us*?

8

What does it mean for us to be *anointed* and to have *knowledge*?

TAKING IT HOME

This passage addresses the question of the difference between true believers and those who are “dipping their toes in the water of faith.” What about you? Are you responding to God’s grace and blessings by producing the “fruit” of a transformed life, or are you producing *thorns and thistles*? Spend some time in prayer, asking God what steps you need to take to mature in your faith.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 24:24
 Luke 14:28-32
 John 6:40; 10:27-28
 Romans 8:29-30, 38-39
 Ephesians 4:30
 Philippians 1:6
 2 Timothy 1:12