

You Can't Fall Away If You Keep Moving Forward

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So last week we learned 2 main things from Hebrews 6:2.</p> <p>— We learned that Christians, or those who are close to being a Christian, have to move on from conversion to commitment.</p> <p>— — Too often these people get stuck in the conversion place in their walk with Christ. They attempt to build a foundation then destroy it, build it again then destroy it, and the process goes on and on.</p> <p>— — — These people don't ever move on from their profession of faith to living/commitment to God.</p> <p>— The second thing that we learned last week is that we can not live in 2 worlds.</p> <p>— — We need to let go of our old world and embrace our new world which is Christ.</p> <p>—</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>This week we will begin looking into the next 6 verses.</p> <p>— These verses present some very difficult biblical topics and so we will spend a couple of weeks in these verses.</p> <p>— — So, we will look at God's bigness this morning.</p> <p>— — — We will see that we need to be moving forward and not falling.</p> <p>— — — — We will also spend some time talking about different terms used in this passage.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 6:3-8: 3 And this we will do, if God permits.</p> <p>4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,</p> <p>5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,</p> <p>6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.</p> <p>7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;</p> <p>8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.</p>	<p>Verse 3 is a continuation from the preceding verses but it also speaks to what we will look at in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>— So, the last couple weeks have have looked at:</p> <p><u>READ: Hebrews 6:1-2:</u> Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.</p> <p>— — What is God permitting us to do based on what we have studied so far in these verses?</p> <p>— — — Well, it is maturity. More importantly, spiritual maturity.</p> <p>— — — — But it can also go further than this as well.</p> <p>— — — — — That word maturity can also be translated: a state of perfection, perfection, and completeness.</p> <p>— — — — — — This is what God is calling us to if we are to be believers of Jesus Christ.</p>
	<p>Our maturity moving forward from basic things of God to more depth is moving on from very imperfect to closer to perfection than where we were.</p> <p>— Our growth in spirituality is not something that we can just decide on our own.</p> <p>— — It is dependant on God because nothing happens apart from God.</p> <p>— — — Everything that happens is done with God’s knowledge.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Matthew 10:29-31:</u> “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Proverbs 16:9:</u> The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Prov. 15:3:</u> The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, we learn that God has to be involved in our growth in maturity and into perfection but why?</p> <p>—Because we are totally dependent on God for every aspect of life.</p> <p>— —We take for granted the fact that every breath is a gift from God until we can't breath, we take for granted that the things that we drink are gifts from God until we haven't drank anything, and we take for granted the food we eat until we haven't eaten anything.</p> <p>— — —We are absolutely dependent on God for every aspect of our lives.</p> <p>— — — —<u>READ: Isaiah 41:13:</u> “For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’</p> <p>— — — —<u>READ: Psalms 121:l:</u> will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.</p> <p>— — — —<u>READ: Colossians 1:17:</u> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.</p> <p>— — — — —The author of Hebrews is reminding the readers that God calls, opens hearts, grows, waters, redeems, perfects, and much more.</p> <p>— — — — —He leads us into our repentances and we are to submit to Him and His leading.</p> <p>— — — — — —That is what is being said in verse 3 and in verse 4-8 we are taught of those who do not submit to God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Thus, we must press on towards growth in God.</p> <p>—Andrew Murray wrote, “In commerce, in study, in war, it is so often said: there is no safety but in advance. To stand still is to go back. To cease effort is to lose ground. To slacken the pace, before the goal is reached, is to lose the race. The only sure mark of our being true Christians, of our really loving Christ, is to deep longing and the steady effort to know more of Him.”</p> <p>— — This is exactly right! As we get into what verse 4-8 are talking about we need to understand that none of those things talked about in verse 4-6 are speaking of those who are continuing to move forward, who are continuing to grow, continuing to put in effort, keeping the pace, and steady in our effort.</p> <p>— — What verse 4-8 are speaking of is those who are content with where they are as this is the first step in moving backwards and those who are moving backwards.</p> <p>— — — So, Christians; press on in growth, knowledge that is turned into wisdom, in submission to God, in dying to yourself.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Philippians 3:14: I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.</u></p>

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 6:3-8: 3 And this we will do, if God permits. 4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.</p>	<p>With the remainder of our time this morning I would like to define some terms that we see in the passage.</p> <p>— The first term that we need to investigate is enlightened.</p> <p>— — Biblically, enlightening means to cause light to shine upon some object, illuminating, make known, give light.</p> <p>— — — Further study of enlightening we see it show up in several places: READ: Hebrews 10:26: 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.</p> <p>— — — — — READ: Luke 11:36: 36 “If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays.</p> <p>— — — — — READ: John 1:9: 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.</p> <p>— — — — — READ: Ephesians 1:18: 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,</p> <p>— — — — — — What do we see this enlightenment to mean? Knowledge of the truth, illuminate, and enlightened.</p> <p>— — — — — — — What are all the passages talking about though?</p> <p>— — — — — — — — An exposure to the gospel. The good news of Jesus Christ.</p>
	<p>So, Jesus is the light of the world bringing enlightenment to all people.</p> <p>— That when we accept the message of this enlightenment that we will have a hope in his calling.</p> <p>— — He will illuminate in us those dark areas that need to be removed.</p> <p>— — — That when we accept Jesus as our sacrifice and join Jesus in removing our sin we have a sacrifice for our sins on our behalf; Jesus the once for all time sacrifice.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The next term we need to understand is: heavenly gifts.</p> <p>— The heavenly gifts point to the blessings of God which may include but this is not an exhaustive list: The Holy Spirit, spiritual realities, gifts of God (like spiritual gifts give to believers), the gift of grace, the gift of righteousness, and the gift of Jesus Christ. Believers in Christ we get to enjoy these gifts whether we realize or not every single day.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Acts 2:38 (NASB95):</u> 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: John 4:10 (NASB95):</u> 10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Ephesians 2:8 (NASB95):</u> 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Romans 5:17 (NASB95):</u> 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 (NASB95):</u> 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.</p> <p>5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Shared or partaken in the Holy Spirit is our next term that needs to be looked at.</p> <p>— The Holy Spirit is a gift from God and so one would be able to partake of this gift.</p> <p>— — William Hendriksen wrote this, “Sharing in the Holy Spirit implies that this is done in fellowship with others believes. And the Spirit of God manifests himself in various spiritual gifts given to the members of the church.”</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: 1 Corinthians 12:7–12 (NASB95):</u> 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Our next term is: the good word of God.</p> <p>—God’s word is a gift to us.</p> <p>— —It is how He reveals Himself to us, it is how we draw close to Him, it is how we learn to live, it is How we learn to treat others, it is how we spiritually nourish our souls, it is how we learn to be saved, and so much more.</p> <p>— — —God speaking to humanity so that we can know Him is a gift that Almighty God has given us.</p> <p>— — — —READ: Romans 10:17 (NASB95): 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.</p> <p>— — — —READ: Psalm 119:105 (NASB95): 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.</p> <p>— — — —READ: Matthew 4:4 (NASB95): 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ ”</p>
	<p>Our last term is: the powers of the age to come.</p> <p>—These powers of the coming age are also already in this age.</p> <p>— —Hendriksen wrote, “In principle we are able to experience in the present age the powers that belong to the future age. When the coming age dawns, we shall fully realize the supernatural power we now are allowed to observe.”</p> <p>— — —These powers of the coming age are seen in righteousness now while we are yet sinners, salvation from eternal death, justification, God’s grace, redemption, and more.</p> <p>— — — —READ: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB95): 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>You know Christian's, this is a list of things that those that fell away experience to some degree.</p> <p>— But this is a list of things that we as Christians should engage in.</p> <p>— — We should be enlightened by the light of the world (Jesus Christ) more and more each and every day.</p> <p>— — We should be enjoying and utilizing the heavenly gifts every day.</p> <p>— — We should be changing by the guidance of the Holy Spirit every moment of every day.</p> <p>— — We should be consuming the word of God at least daily if not much more than that.</p> <p>— — We should be recognizing and enjoying the powers that God is displaying all around us every day.</p>
	<p>So what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>— Know that God is in control of everything and every move, thought, idea; God knows them all.</p> <p>— We need to recognize that if we are pressing on in growth we will not have to worry about falling away.</p> <p>— Lastly, we need to use this list of bad examples as ways of growth in our lives.</p> <p>— — Be active in these place that are mentioned and not in a kind of way; but in an all out kind of way.</p>
	<p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p>