

# Warning



**Hebrews Chapter 6 vs. 4 -12**

## The danger of falling away -Hebrews 6:4-12

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.



Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.



It is **impossible** ..... if they **fall away**, to be brought back to repentance,

## **Apostasy is final**

It's not  
impossible for  
God – but ...



This isn't just  
having second  
thoughts but is a  
total rejection of  
everything they  
had learned.

## The Scene:

Jewish messianic believers were in the congregation in Rome where persecution of Christians was beginning and would soon become fierce under Nero.

Jews in the synagogue, for the present, were in a safer position. But their leadership was becoming more resistant to acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah, and so made it very difficult for Jews to accept Jesus and remain in the synagogue.

## The options:

Deny Jesus as the Messiah and go back to the Synagogue



Stay and suffer

It is impossible ..... if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance,

Are these true believers or were they never really saved?



The importance of verse 9 to this passage:

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation.



## Secure in the Saviour ?

John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.



It is easy to fool ourselves with all the things such as they would have experienced or seen and still not be saved.



Dazzled by the bright lights

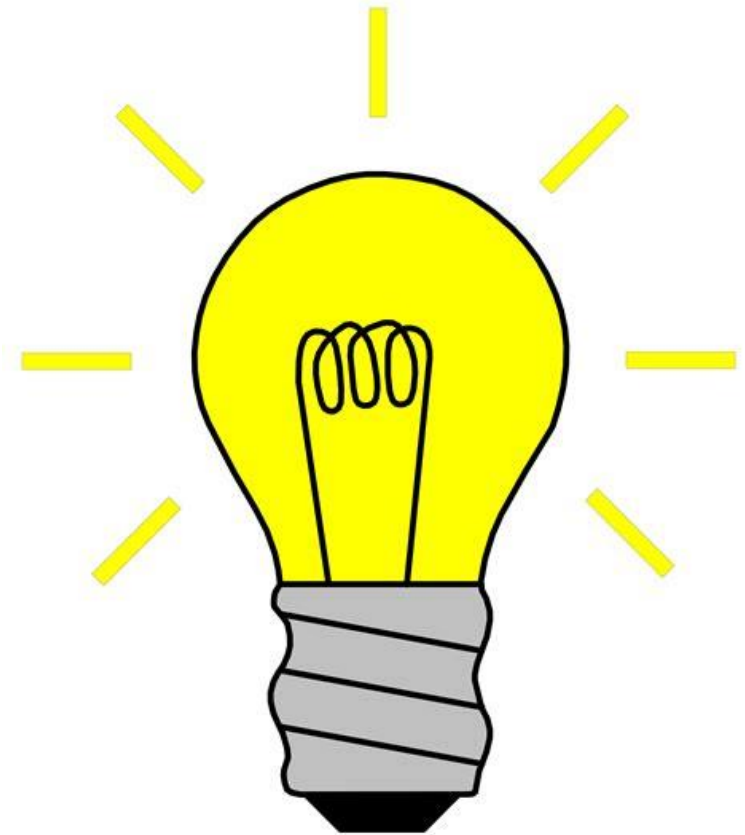


those who have once been enlightened

To hear and know the truth of God and his salvation

Numbers 22:31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

Acts 8:13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.



who have tasted the heavenly gift

They believed the promises of peace, forgiveness, fellowship



who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

His influences on heart, mind and body, His supernatural working



Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'

“Success” is not a guarantee!

who have tasted the goodness of the word of God

Appreciate its beauty, truth, wisdom



Jesus' word to Pharisees

John 5:39-40 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

who have tasted .... the powers of the coming age,

Anticipation of heaven, peace and justice - seen amongst brothers and sisters in worship.



All these things are wonderful **experiences**

**They are tokens of the salvation we have,  
but are not proofs of a fundamental change of nature**

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, '**I never knew you.** Away from me, you evildoers!'



If they turn back – there is no way back

because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Rejection of Jesus (the Son of God) and of the means of forgiveness and grace.

It was man's rejection that put him on the cross as hated criminal.



## Cf. Moses and the rock

Numbers 20:11-12 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."



Land that **drinks in the rain often falling on it** and that **produces a crop** useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.



What are all those blessing meant to produce?



But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed.



Still not too late to change?

In the end it will be burned.



Compare  
the parable of the Sower

This is Not an empty warning!  
It's a dangerous road you are thinking of entering.

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case-

Dear friends – better things?





-things that accompany salvation.

What are these?



God is not unjust;

He is gracious in his dealings with us

He sees and knows



he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

He remembers and notes the fruit of your salvation

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.



We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end,

One of the important things that  
accompanies salvation is ...  
**perseverance**



in order to make your hope sure.

Here is the means of knowing – reality of salvation

They are not just experiences, as wonderful as that may be  
but they produce supernatural fruit for God's glory.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

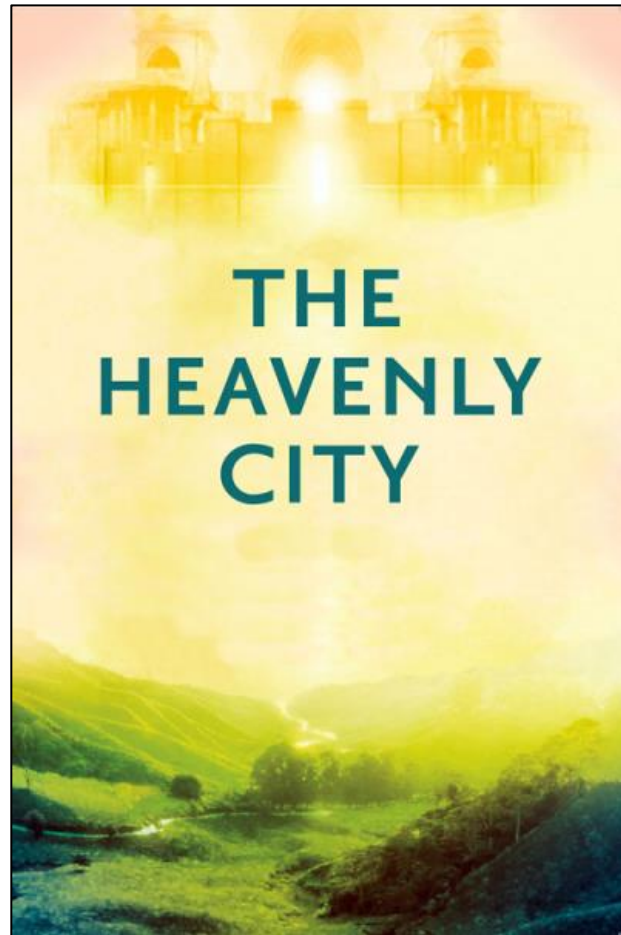
We do not want you to become lazy,



With God's help, effort will be required!



but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.



Hebrews 11:10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, No turning back.

2. The world behind me,  
The cross before me (x 3)  
No turning back, No turning back.

3. Though none go with me,  
Still I will follow (x 3)  
No turning back, No turning back.

4. Where Jesus leads me,  
I'll surely follow (x 3)  
No turning back, No turning back.