

9 – CONSEQUENCES OF TURNING AWAY (HEBREWS 6:4-8)

I. Four Views

A. The Loss of Salvation

- The four phrases of verses 4 to 5 describe a believer.

B. Profession Rather Than a Commitment

- The writer seemed to illustrate a person who seemed to be a Christian but was not.

C. A Hypothetical Situation

- This passage is hypothetical with the meaning of "if it were possible."

D. The Apostasy of Jewish Believers

- This passage speaks to Hebrew believers forsaking Jesus to return to the Mosaic system.

II. Turning Away (Hebrews 6:4-8)

A. Their Description (Hebrews 6:4-5)

1. Enlightened (Hebrews 6:4a)

- To be enlightened is a natural way to refer to the conversion experience.
- "Enlightened" is also used on Hebrews 10:32 referring to a true Christian experience.

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 10:32 (ESV)

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,

2. Tasted the Heavenly Gift (Hebrews 6:4b)

- The word "tasted" means to experience something as in the phrase "tasted death."
- To taste the heavenly gifts means to experience salvation.

3. Partakers of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 6:4c)

- This refers to those who have experienced the ministry of Holy Spirit.

4. Tasted the Good Word and Power (Hebrews 6:5)

- This refers to those who have experienced the goodness of God's word.

Understanding Our Faith: The Letter to the Hebrews

- It also refers to those who have experienced the power of God in their midst.

B. Their Actions (Hebrews 6:6a)

- The phrase "fell away" means turn aside from the true faith.
- It means to leave the Christian faith or become an apostate.

C. Consequences (Hebrews 6:6b)

- The writer states that it is impossible for such a person to come to repentance again.
- This is because they have publicly shamed the Christ by denying his sufficient sacrifice.

D. The Illustration from Nature (Hebrews 6:7-8)

1. Productive Ground (Hebrews 6:7)

- A productive field is useful for the one who plants it.
- It receives the blessing of God.

2. Unproductive Ground (Hebrews 6:8)

- The unproductive field is worthless and in danger of God's judgment.