

Notes for Study Group Leaders - Hebrews Chapter 6

1 Moving on from the basics (vv1-3):

- Take a piece of paper and, in twos or threes, make a list of half a dozen or so elements of the Christian faith which would you regard as 'the basics'.
- Does your list agree with the list here - repentance from dead works, faith in God, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection and eternal judgement?
- If your list differs, why does it differ? Is it ok that it differs?

2 The seriousness of apostasy (vv4-6):

- Scripture indicates that there are different kinds of backsliding. With references to the following verses try to identify some of the different types and fill in the table with their relative characteristics.

[Hebrews 6vv4-6; 10vv26-28, Galatians 6vv1-2, Psalm 51vv7-12, 1 Timothy 1vv18-22, Timothy 2vv25-26, 1 Corinthians 3vv11-15; 9v27; 11vv27-30]

N.B. This is not an exhaustive list of scriptures, there may be other texts that will suggest themselves to you.

Condition	Earthly Effect	Eternal Consequence	Biblical references

3 Good or bad fruitfulness (vv7-8):

- These verses indicate that all people bear spiritual fruit. In some cases the fruit they bear is positive and blesses others, in others it is negative and harms others spiritually. In your own life and walk with God can you think of times when this has been true in your life, in your testimony?

4 Things that accompany salvation (vv9-12):

- The author is confident about the state of the Hebrew Christians that he is addressing. He believes that he has seen in their lives cause for confidence. What specifically does he note as being good signs of their spiritual life?
 - How would the author regard your life, your fellowship? Would he be equally confident about you?
 - What two qualities does he say are required in order to inherit the salvation God promises?
 - What would a life look like that embodies those two qualities, and is that you?

5 Abraham's Example (vv13-15):

- Abraham waited 25 years for his first son, and then 35 years more for his first grand-children. He died still nowhere near being a 'great nation'. What does this tell us about how God works, about the kind of response God looks for from men / women?

- What promises are you / your fellowship waiting for God to fulfill? If you have no specific promises, is that okay? Are you prepared to accept the same time-scale that God used for Abraham?

6 Hope is our anchor (vv16-20):

- What are the characteristics of an anchor? How does it work? Why is it used? Can we see it working?

- In what way does the hope we have in Christ fulfill these same functions?

7 Jesus went before us, on our behalf (vv19-20):

- Looking at the Day of Atonement ritual from Lev 16vv3-28 what is the significance of this picture of Christ our high priest in heaven?

- What is the significance of the phrase 'on our behalf'?

- If Christ is our forerunner in all things, what is the significance of him being in heaven in the very presence of God?