

## Hebrews 6:1-12 – The Fallen and the Faithful – Lesson Summary

A few years ago I went skiing with a friend in Colorado. We had a great time as we tackled increasingly harder slopes. He convinced me to take the lifts to the top of the mountain where I found out that the only way down was to ski a double black diamond, the hardest slope there. Standing atop the mountain, with no other way down, I watched as professional skiers and snowboarders immediately dropped into the slope and effortlessly made their way down. Eventually, I did the same. However, when I dropped in, within 200 yards I fell and slid further and further down until the Lord brought me to a stop. The end of Hebrews 5 and beginning of Hebrews 6 presents a similar reality in regard to our faith. The author addresses a group of individuals who should be “professionals” in faith. However, they are needing to be taught the basic elements of faith in order to move on to the maturity he addresses in the first 3 verses of Chapter 6. As a lack of their understanding many were in danger of slipping away and some were “sliding down the mountain”.

Upon challenging his audience to grow in faith he reminds them of their former Jewish ways before Christ. He reminds them of what they left behind in order to encourage them to move forward in faith. Through Christ they had left behind the dead works of the law and ceremonial washings. Christ became the fulfillment of the law and His blood has washed us clean. Our pursuit of Christ is not about works but instead about grace. He addresses the resurrection of the dead and the need for Christ so that we would experience His resurrection power. All of these things are bound to the work of Christ as He grows us in maturity as God permits.

The author quickly transitions into a warning against falling away. The Hebrews were sliding. They were beginning to break under the pressure of the culture around them. Some were pursuing their old Jewish ways while others pursued the culture. As a result, they, having experienced the blessings and truths of Christ, are denying these things and sliding toward another “truth”. The author warns them that some will reach a point in which it is “impossible” to return. This passage is not referring to an individual who has received Christ and then walks away from faith. Once you are in Christ, and He in you, your relationship is eternally secure. Instead, this is a warning to those who are experiencing the blessings of Christ among others, speaking in a way that might reflect Christian belief, but having never surrendered fully to Christ’s Lordship in their life. Their hearts have turned from God as they’ve rejected Him.

Thankfully, the author provides hope for those who are truly in Christ. His final verses in this section point to the hope we have in Christ. Our salvation is secure and our works are not in vain. The Lord is using them for His glory. We must continually evaluate the work the Lord has called us to, the fruit that our lives are producing, and our constant pursuit of Christ. Is it possible that you are “sliding” down the mountain? Does your life reflect maturity, growth, and skill as you navigate the slope of Christian faith? Or, like my skiing, does your lack of maturity cause you to slide further and further from the truth?

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do you recognize your spiritual weaknesses so you do not drift away?
- 2) How can you respond to tests of faith so you can move forward toward spiritual maturity?
- 3) What type of situations may people find themselves in where they respond by clinging to their faith for dear life?
- 4) How does reflecting on what Jesus has done and where he is now and what he will do in the near future help us in the times when our faith is struggling?