

“Steps to Maturity in Christ:
A Mature Understanding of Salvation
Part 2
Hebrews 6: 4-12

If you study the Bible on a regular basis, you are going to run into some difficult things to understand. Hebrews 6 is one of those passages for many. It seems to say that a person can lose salvation and never be saved again. Let's examine the text in discover what it really says.

1. According to vv. 4-5, to whom was the writer speaking? To answer this question write down the detailed description of “Those.”
2. What did you discover? Would you say “those” are Christians or non-Christians?
3. We must be careful when we have a difficult passage. Do not pull chapter 6 out of the book of Hebrews and interpret alone. Interpret it in light of the context of the whole book. This takes long hard study. Then interpret it in light of other passages of Scripture.
4. Look at Heb. 2: 1. What had these believers started doing?
5. Look at Heb. 3-4. You will find believers were beginning to doubt the teachings of Christ.
6. Look at Heb. 5:11. What was happening to the believers?
7. How might one correct these problems?
8. In Heb. 6: 12 the writer said they had become lazy or sluggish. Have you ever been there? What caused it?
9. In order to rightly divide the Word of God we have to dig deep sometimes. Hebrews 6: 6 is the big issue for many. What does “...fallen away” mean?

There are two words that will help clear up this matter.

Apostasia—used to speak of an utter rejection of the Christian faith. It is completely falling away from the faith. It is also translated “divorce.” 2 Thess. 2:1-3; Mt. 5: 3. This is not the word used in Hebrews 6: 6

Parapipto—means to wander, let something fall by the way side. It seems to agree with the context of the book. The essence of the word is to drift, doubt, become dull, lazy or neglectful. This is the word used in Hebrews 6: 6.

10. What about the part that says it is impossible to renew one to repentance who has fallen away? As long as a person chooses to remain in a state of laziness, doubt, drifting, etc., it is impossible for that person to find repentance. But, if like the prodigal son one comes to his senses and returns to the Father, he can.
11. Can a person lose salvation? Examine these verses and answer for yourself. John 10: 27-29; Ephesians 1: 13-14; Romans 8: 33-39; Hebrews 10: 11-18
12. So concluding, it seems the writer is saying to these immature believers, you need to repent and press on to maturity or you will miss the blessings of fully knowing and serving the Lord God.

