

Expanded Report: Warning Against Falling Away (Hebrews 5:11-6:20)

Prologue: The Call to Spiritual Maturity and the Warning Against Apostasy

As the family gathered for their evening study, Ryan opened the Bible to Hebrews 5:11-6:20. In this passage, the author of Hebrews urges believers to grow in spiritual maturity, warning them against falling away from their faith. The passage speaks to the importance of progressing beyond the basics of the Christian faith and striving for deeper understanding. It also presents a stern warning about the dangers of apostasy—the rejection of faith after having once known the truth. Amid these admonitions, the author also reassures believers of the unshakable hope they have in Christ, encouraging them to hold fast to their faith as an anchor for the soul.

“Tonight, we’re going to talk about growing in our faith and why it’s so important to keep moving forward in our relationship with Christ,” Ryan said. “The author warns us about the dangers of falling away from the faith, but he also gives us great encouragement about the hope we have in Christ.”

Ariel, feeling the weight of the warning, asked, “Does this mean that if we stop growing in our faith, we could lose our salvation?”

“That’s an important question,” Ryan nodded. “This passage is urging us to keep growing and to be careful not to fall away from the truth. The warning is about the danger of becoming spiritually complacent or turning away from Christ after having known the truth.”

Alice, cuddling Mr. Fluffernutter, asked, “So, we need to keep growing and learning about Jesus, right?”

“That’s right,” Yaya smiled. “Our faith should never stay the same—it should always be growing and deepening.”

Key Teachings: Growing in Faith and Hope in Christ

1. The Call to Grow Beyond the Basics

Hebrews 5:11-14

“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

- **Spiritual Immaturity and Complacency:**

Ryan explained, “The author is addressing believers who should have been growing in their faith and teaching others by now, but instead, they are still relying on the basics of the Christian

faith. The analogy here is that of a baby still drinking milk instead of eating solid food. Spiritual maturity means moving beyond the foundational truths of repentance and faith, and growing in our understanding of God's Word."

Ariel asked, "So, we can't stay the same in our faith forever—we need to grow?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "Just like we grow physically by eating solid food, we need to grow spiritually by learning more about God's Word and applying it to our lives."

- **The Need for Spiritual Maturity:**

Ryan continued, "The author is challenging believers to progress toward maturity. When we don't grow in our faith, we remain spiritually immature and unskilled in understanding God's Word. But as we grow, we begin to discern good from evil and live according to God's truth."

Yaya added, "Spiritual growth is an ongoing process. We should always be seeking to know God more deeply, applying His Word, and becoming more like Christ every day."

2. The Warning Against Apostasy

Hebrews 6:4-6

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

- **The Seriousness of Apostasy:**

Ryan explained, "The author gives a strong warning about apostasy—turning away from the faith after having once tasted the blessings of salvation. This is not a small matter; it's a rejection of Christ's sacrifice, as if to crucify Him again. The passage is making clear that turning away from Christ after having known the truth is a grave decision."

Ariel asked, "So, if someone stops believing after knowing Jesus, they can't just change their mind and come back?"

"This passage warns us about the difficulty of returning once someone has completely rejected the truth," Ryan said. "It's not that God can't forgive, but that such a decision reflects a hardening of the heart, making it difficult for the person to return."

- **The Danger of Drifting Away:**

Ryan continued, "The warning here is to take our faith seriously and not become complacent or allow ourselves to drift away. We are encouraged to keep growing in our faith, so that we don't fall into spiritual apathy or reject Christ later on."

Yaya added, "We must be vigilant in guarding our hearts and staying close to Jesus, so we don't fall away. It's important to continually seek God and stay grounded in His truth."

3. The Encouragement of Unshakable Hope in Christ

Hebrews 6:19-20

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

- **Hope as an Anchor for the Soul:**

Ryan explained, “In the midst of warnings about falling away, the author offers a great encouragement: our hope in Christ is unshakable. Our hope is like an anchor for the soul—it keeps us steady and secure, even in the storms of life. Jesus has entered the heavenly sanctuary as our High Priest, and He is the guarantee of our hope.”

Ariel asked, “So, Jesus is like our anchor, keeping us safe no matter what happens?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Our hope in Christ keeps us firm and steady, no matter how difficult life gets. Because of Jesus, we know our future is secure, and we have the strength to keep going.”

- **Jesus as the Forerunner:**

Ryan continued, “The passage also tells us that Jesus is the ‘forerunner’—He has gone before us into the presence of God. Because He’s already there, we can have confidence that we will follow Him and enter God’s rest as well.”

Yaya added, “This is such a comforting thought. Jesus has made the way for us, and our hope in Him is sure. He is the anchor of our soul, holding us fast to God’s promises.”

4. The Key Teaching: Spiritual Growth and Unshakable Hope

Key Teaching:

The key teaching of this passage is that growth in faith is essential, and that believers must persevere in their faith to experience the full blessings of salvation. The author of Hebrews warns against apostasy, urging believers to grow in spiritual maturity and not fall away. However, the passage also offers great encouragement: our hope in Christ is an anchor that keeps us secure, no matter the difficulties we face. Jesus, our High Priest, has entered the presence of God on our behalf, and through Him, we have an unshakable hope that will carry us to the end.

Ryan summarized, “This passage challenges us to keep growing in our faith, to stay vigilant in our walk with Christ, and to hold on to the unshakable hope we have in Him. Our hope is secure, and as we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will be able to endure and experience the fullness of God’s promises.”

Practical Applications: Growing in Faith and Holding Fast to Hope

The family discussed how they could apply these teachings in their daily lives:

1. **Growing in Faith Through Bible Study and Prayer:**

Ariel suggested, “I can spend more time reading my Bible and talking to God, so I grow in my faith and understanding.”

Alice added, “I can remember to trust God and not give up, even when I don’t understand everything.”

2. Guarding Against Spiritual Complacency:

Ryan encouraged them, “We should always be paying attention to our hearts, making sure we’re not drifting away from Christ. It’s important to stay close to Him every day.”

3. Holding Fast to the Hope We Have in Christ:

Yaya reminded them, “Whenever life gets hard, we can remember that our hope in Jesus is secure. He is the anchor for our souls, and we can trust Him to hold us steady.”

Takeaway: Perseverance, Growth, and Unshakable Hope

As the family reflected, Yaya shared a story of how she had to rely on God’s hope during a challenging season. “There was a time when I didn’t know how things would work out, but I held on to the hope I had in Christ. I kept trusting, even when it was hard, and God proved faithful. His hope truly is an anchor for the soul.”

Ariel smiled, “So, when things are tough, we can trust that Jesus will help us?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and we can

also be confident that Jesus is always there, securing our hope, helping us grow, and guiding us toward the eternal rest He has promised.”

Key Points Summary

1. Spiritual Growth Is Essential:

- Believers must strive for spiritual maturity and not remain complacent in their faith. Moving beyond the basics of the faith allows us to grow stronger and more able to discern God’s will.

2. Apostasy Is a Serious Danger:

- The warning against apostasy reminds us that we must remain vigilant in our faith, persevering to the end and avoiding spiritual drift.

3. Hope in Christ Is Unshakable:

- Our hope in Jesus is secure, like an anchor for the soul. He has entered into God’s presence as our High Priest, and we can be confident that He will bring us to the end of our faith, where we will rest with Him forever.
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Key Verse:

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” (Hebrews 6:19)

This passage teaches us that spiritual growth, vigilance in faith, and a firm hope in Christ are essential for believers. Jesus, our High Priest, offers us the unshakable hope that keeps us secure through life's challenges and leads us to the eternal rest He has promised.