

Review – Jesus Our High Priest

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 5:1** For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;...⁷ In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. ⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, ¹⁰ being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.





Charge of Spiritual Apathy

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 5:11** Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.
 - *“It is the likeness of Jesus as high priest to Melchizedek that the author has in mind.”*
 - *Robertson’s Word Pictures in the NT (A.T. Robertson)*
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 13:15** For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.'



Symptoms of Spiritual Apathy

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 5:12** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God ...
 - *“Alas, what a commentary on modern Christians.”*
 - *A.T. Robertson*
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:1** ... the elementary teaching about the Christ, ... repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.



Symptoms of Spiritual Apathy

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 5:12** ... and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

➤ *"This description stands in stark contrast to those under the New Covenant ... Regression is shameful. Furthermore, immaturity is disadvantageous" – Cockerill*

- ^{NAS} **Jeremiah 31:34** "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD



Full Speed Ahead

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:1** Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...³ And this we shall do, if God permits.
- *On the other hand, if those who live on milk are infants, then the “solid food” of Christ’s high-priestly ministry is for “the mature.”*
 - Cockerill



Danger of Spiritual Apathy

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:1** Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity... ⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. ⁷ For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; ⁸ but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.
- *A person is either in the process of spiritually maturing or they are in the process of falling away.*



A Hard Truth

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:4** For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance
 - “The present active infinitive ... bluntly denies the possibility of renewal for apostates from Christ (cf. 3:12-4:2). It is a terrible picture and cannot be toned down.”
 - *A.T. Robertson*



Comments on Hebrews 6:4-6

- “In short, the Apostle warns us, that repentance is not at the will of man, but that it is given by God to those only who have not wholly fallen away from the faith. It is a warning very necessary to us, lest by often delaying until tomorrow, we should alienate ourselves more and more from God.”
 - *Calvin*
- “The word “impossible” (*adynatos*) occurs four times in Hebrews. In 6:18 it is “impossible” for God to lie; in 10:4 it is “impossible” for the blood of animals to remove sins; in 11:6 it is “impossible” to please God without faith; and here (6:4) it is “impossible” for apostates to be restored through repentance. In each instance the impossibility is stated absolutely.”
 - *Life in Spirit NT Commentary*



Only Two Possibilities

- Either this teaches salvation can be lost, or that the Holy Spirit works in a legitimate but temporary capacity in some.
 - Scripture does not support the former but does provide many examples of the latter.
- ^{NAS} **John 6:37** "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."



- ^{NAS} **John 10:27** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ "I and the Father are one."
- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, ... to those ... who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



Temporary Working of the Spirit

- ^{NAS} **John 6:70** Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" ⁷¹ Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.
- ^{NAS} **Acts 6:3** "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task ... ⁵ And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.
- ^{NAS} **1 Samuel 16:14** Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.



- ^{NAS} **Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 13:20** "And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.



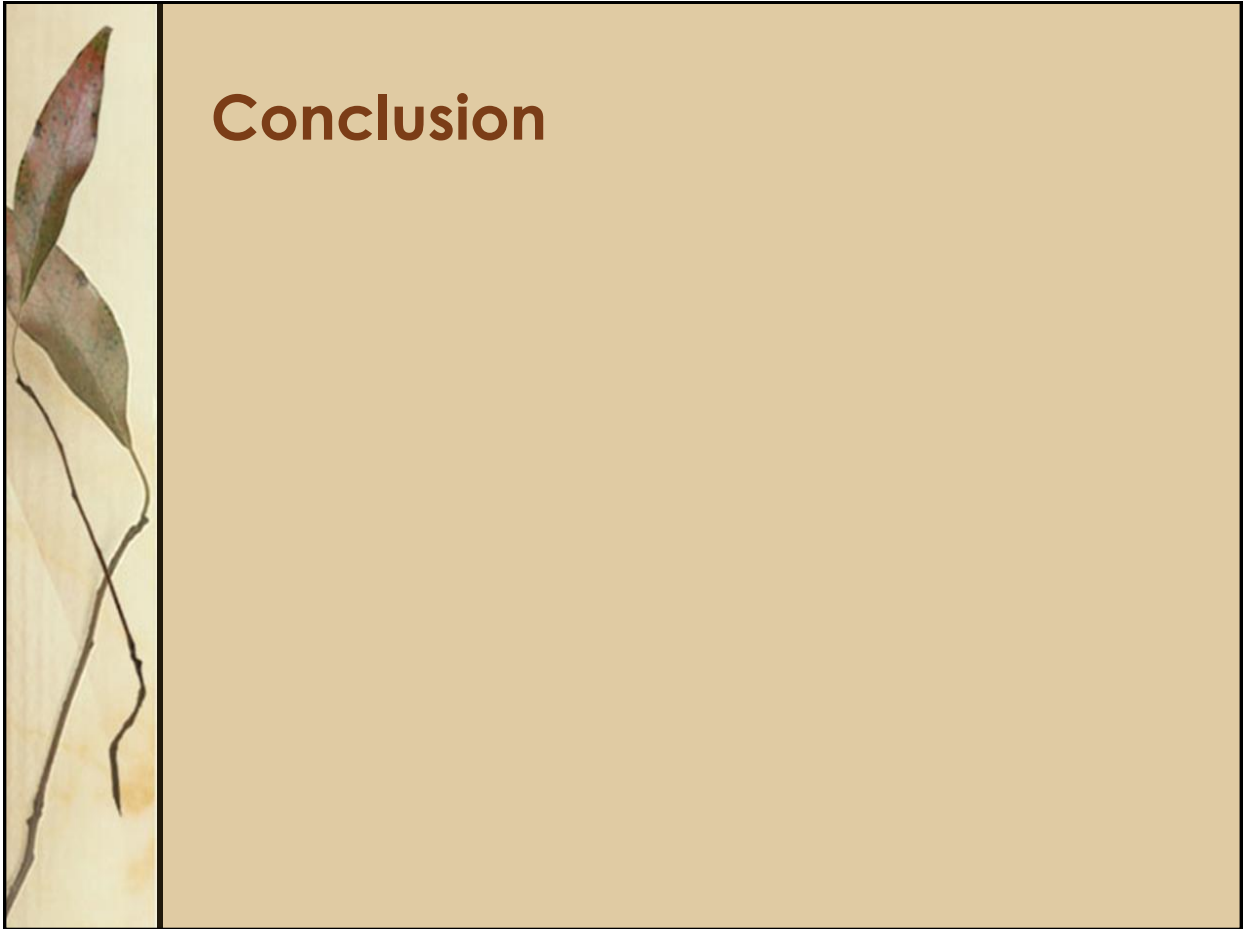
Perseverance is The Proof

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 3:6** ... whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.
 - ^{NAS} **Hebrews 3:14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end;
 - ^{NAS} **1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.
- *Perseverance to the end is the only sure proof that we are actually in Christ.*



Room for Optimism

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:9** But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.



Conclusion



Pressing on to Perfection

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 2:10** For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 5:9** And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:1** Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity
- *Spiritual maturity (growth in Christ) comes from continually growing in spiritual knowledge and living accordingly (5:12-14).*



Growing Up Into Christ

- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 4:11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,



Pressing On the Upward Way

- ^{NAS} **Philippians 3:7** But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... ¹⁰ that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.