



An Observation:

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Assumption: Christians can and should develop spiritually over time, just as babies develop physically over time

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A Challenge:

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

Hebrews 6:1-3

A Warning:

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:4-8

Principles for Handling Unclear Passages:

- 1) The whole Bible is a single, cohesive unit and it will never contradict itself
- 2) Therefore, we can interpret unclear passages in light of other, clearer passages that speak to the same issue

Passages that speak to the eternal security of the believer:

Romans 8:31-39

2 Corinthians 1:22

Ephesians 1:13

Ephesians 4:30

Romans 11:29, "The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

These individuals appeared to be believers but they were not actually genuine, born-again, Spirit-filled believers

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.” -1 John 2:19

“Genuine faith, by definition, perseveres; where there is no perseverance, by definition the faith cannot be genuine.” –D.A. Carson

An Assurance:

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation...For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise...We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:9-20

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