

LIFE Group Discussion Questions
Hebrews 6:1-12 – A Warning Against Falling Away
Week of Nov. 8-14, 2009

Summary – After the stinging rebuke of 5:11-14 (“you still need milk”), our writer encourages his charge to go on to maturity. There is a more positive tone here as he expects better things from them than the immaturity they were showing. We see a frightening warning against falling away and the highly controversial “impossible to restore again to repentance” phrase that has stirred lively debates on whether or not one can lose their salvation. The writer goes on to encourage them to avoid laziness and to inherit the promises of God via faith and perseverance.

General questions:

1. What grabbed your attention the most?
2. What was the big idea?
3. Any questions?

Specifics:

4. I'm confused. I thought he said they couldn't receive solid food in 5:12 because of their immaturity. Next thing you know he's telling them to go on to maturity - to go on to solid food, in essence. What's up with that?
5. Ever know anyone who rejected the faith? How did that play out? How long did they last? Why did they turn away? What did you learn from that?
6. What's the difference between backsliding and apostasy (falling away)? Ever know anyone who backslid and then came back?
7. Do you know anyone who is backslidden at the present time? Based on this passage, how should you deal with him/her?
8. What are some of the positive pastoral touches from the writer that we observe in this passage? Comparing 5:11-14 and the present passage, what kind of balance do we need in taking care of one another? (assumption: every believer is a caregiver, teacher, disciple-maker to some extent)
9. Compare and evaluate, i.e., which is more true:
 - The best way to win back the immature or backslidden Xian is through stern warnings of judgment to come.
 - The best way to win back the immature/backslidden is through high expectations of obedience and spiritual progress.
 - The best way to win back the immature/backslidden is to give them something to do in the church.
10. What role, if any, do we play in our own experience of assurance of salvation? Do you agree or disagree with this statement “Assurance of salvation is not static, but dynamic.”
11. Verse 12 warns us against sluggishness. Describe that condition. How do we get out of sluggishness?
12. What does “going on to maturity” look like in everyday life? How do we go from immaturity to maturity?

Rabbit trail of the week: How does v. 3 contribute to the main idea, esp. that part about “if God permits.” (hint: the write has a strong view of God's sovereignty as well as a healthy view of human responsibility)

