

A Dangerous Direction

Text: Hebrews 6:4-6

Date: 6-16-24

- **Arminian view** – this is talking about true believers who can lose their salvation. If this is the case, then it is impossible for a person who falls away (apostatizes) to be saved again according to this passage.
- **Non-Arminian view 1 (not true believers)** – These are professing believers but truly never accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts. Those who fall away fall from the knowledge of the truth and not personal possession of it.
- **Non-Arminian view 2 (hypothetical case)** – These are true believers with a warning against apostasy. This warning is hypothetical in order to keep true believers from apostatizing as Christians. Just the thought of eternal judgment is enough to keep them in the faith.

This then is a warning to remain in the faith. The passage serves to correct their wrong ideas, “and the argument seems to be that if it were possible for those who had had the experience of verses 4-6 to fall away, it would be impossible to renew them unless Christ died a second time . . .” (W. H. Griffith Thomas, *Hebrews: A Devotional Commentary*, p. 74 – quoted in Kent 114).

This would not be the first hypothetical of impossibility in the Scriptures (Gal. 3:12; James 2:10).

- **Non-Arminian view 3 (carnal Christian case)** – These are true believers who have begun to live away from God and now are in danger of coming to a habitual sinful place, a point of no return whereby God must punish them.
- **First century view** – This sin could only be committed by the Hebrew believers while the Temple was being used for the priestly and sacrificial system. Yet, the writer connects this to the NT High Priesthood of Jesus Christ.
- **Final initial thoughts:** The writer of Hebrews presents a serious matter. No matter which view a person takes, the truths presented are of utmost importance. Having a relationship with God through Jesus Christ is a sober matter and not something to be trifled with or fooled around with.

I. The specifics characterizing this person (Heb. 6:4-5)

It is impossible begins these verses and a simple Greek meaning of the word (*adynatos*) means “not capable of occurring or being accomplished or dealt with”.¹ The word is used elsewhere in Hebrews in 3 important verses (6:18; 10:14; 11:6).

- *Those who were once enlightened* – The word *enlightened* (Greek: *photizo*) means to *give light to, to be illuminated, to shine upon*. The qualification is *once* (Greek: *hapax*) meaning *on one occasion, once and for all*.
- *Tasted of the heavenly gift* – The word *taste* (*geiomaí*) means to *experience, partake in, eat*. This seems to indicate not just a sampling but a whole tasting or complete acceptance and belief in salvation. By definition, then, this is to experience salvation.

What is the gift? Various interpretations include salvation, eternal life, forgiveness of sins, Jesus Christ, or the HS.

- *Made partakers of the Holy Spirit* – The word *partake* (*metochos*) means to *share in, participate in*. The word gives the idea of *receiving a share of something*. This same word was used in 3:1 and 3:14.

¹ Brannan, R., ed. (2020). In [Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament](#). Lexham Press.

This certainly implies sharing and partaking of the Holy Spirit, His gifts, and His activities. Combined with the use elsewhere in the book of a saved believer, this would lead to the conclusion that a regenerated child of God is in view.

- Tasted the good word of God – Refers to experiencing the specific parts of the *word (rhema – brief statements) of God* and finding it good. This could refer to the gospel.
- Tasted the powers of the age to come – This may speak of the future kingdom of Christ. The powers may refer to the miracles performed in the first century validating the work of the apostles. Those will reoccur in the kingdom age.

II. The seriousness confronting this person (Heb. 6:6)

they shall fall away: This phrase (Greek: *parapesontas*) has its only use here in the Greek NT. It means *to commit apostasy, to leave a certain state or condition*. This can't refer to certain sins of "weakness" for which Scripture offers support for full repentance and restoration. As we are about to see, they are sins that go against the Son of God Himself. If this is truly talking about a believer, the meaning would be fall away from Christianity. There are some sins that, if habitually continued, will cross a line that will not allow that person to repent. Only God knows when this would be.

Let me stop and say this is a dangerous place to be. We must continually be on the lookout to confess sin of any kind.

This verse confronts us with the grave reality that no matter which position one takes, they are left with no hope for repentance if they fall away.

The *Arminian* is left with no second chance. The *unsaved* belief is left with losing opportunity to be saved. The *hypothetical* position is presented with a frightening scenario if it were possible to go back to the old life. The *carnal believer* would be in danger of final and permanent physical repercussions and even loss of future rewards.

Why this is a serious matter:

- Seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh – Just as these people repudiate Jesus Christ and dishonor Him, God will do the same in giving up on them. These people have experienced the crucified Jesus Christ but now turn their backs against Him and symbolically align themselves with those who crucified Jesus Christ.
- Put Him to an open shame – This idea is that of public exposure through humiliation. This is a declaration of the shameful character and attitude behind the apostasy.

The reason for not being able to repent is clear: these people have gone against all that God has offered; namely, His Son Jesus Christ. God can do nothing else for them. He has already done it all. They have chosen this path themselves, a path of disobedience, faithlessness, and rejecting the truth.

Application Lessons

- Examine yourself to see if you are in the faith. Are you truly God's child?
- Control what you can control: make sure your life is moving forward in maturity and don't bring yourself to a place where God can cast you away either in physical death, reward loss, or eternal damnation.
- Wake up each day with the goal of being filled with the Holy Spirit, dying to self, and saying no to sinful thoughts, actions, and habits.
- Trust in God that He will help you live in victory.