

# Moving Towards Maturity

Text: Hebrews 6:7-12

Date: 6-23-24

## I. An agricultural illustration (Heb. 6:7-8)

**Application:** Who is this talking about? This illustrates a true believer who is maturing in his spiritual growth. The believer who drinks in the rain of God's Word will bear true fruit as a result.

**V. 8:** But the opposite can also be true. Some believers will produce rotten fruit pictured by thorns and thistles (*briers*).

**Quote:** "The metaphor recalls God's original curse on the ground (Gen. 3:17-19) and suggests that an unproductive Christian life ultimately ("in the end") falls under the severe condemnation of God and is subject to His blazing wrath and judgment (cf. Heb. 10:27)".<sup>1</sup>

## II. A loving encouragement (Heb. 6:9-10)

What are the things that relate to salvation? These are the fruits of maturity. This is living righteously and by faith (Heb. 11:6). There is evidence of fruits of repentance. This is submitting to God and resisting the devil. It is living obediently and joyfully in the fear of the Lord. It is Heb. 6:4-5. This may also point to the believer's ultimate salvation and inheritance.

One of the great promises in the Bible: God knows who has been following Him and enduring in the faith. God sees all our work and will reward those who have loved Christ by loving others and faithfully continuing in that ministry.

God will act fairly upon the basis of His own character, and because He won't forget our work He will make sure our regeneration and all works done rightly after it will be remembered.

The believer's work is that which is done *toward His name*. The name of the Lord represents the totality of His being, character, and actions. Believers actively working and loving the name of the Lord equates to loving God Himself. This is fulfilling the greatest commandment. Loving God also means you will love your neighbor and loving your neighbor means loving Christ's body the Church.

This must be a labor of love and not just laboring. This is a delight and not just a duty. Are you truly loving God, loving your neighbors, and loving the brothers and sisters by treating them with humility and kindness?

## III. A prayerful directive (Heb. 6:11-12)

- **Live diligently**

"Live fervently", the writer says. There are no days off for the believer. Diligence means earnestly and persistently growing in our faith and walk with God.

- **Live with confidence**

The believer has the certain hope of Jesus Christ and a truly bright future. Therefore, we must live with full confidence and assurance that He is coming again and we will have the totality of our spiritual inheritance.

- **Do not become lazy**

The author cautioned these new believers about the potential cooling and waning of fervor that would happen if they failed to be diligent and attentive to God's Word to the very end (6:11).

- **Be imitators of those who have already inherited the promises**

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<sup>1</sup> Hodges, Z. C. (1985). [Hebrews](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 795). Victor Books.