

EXPLAINING APOSTASY PASSAGES

HEBREWS 6:4-6

INTRO (JUSTIN)

- Review Almost Christian

CONTEXT (JUSTIN)

1. Hebrews 5:11–14 — Spiritual Immaturity
 - a. "By now you ought to be teachers"
 - b. "Milk" vs. "Solid food" Immature vs. mature believers.
 - c. This is showing us that these are believers that are slow to grow, not apostate.
2. Hebrews 6:1–3 — Call to Maturity, Not Re-Foundation
 - a. "Let us press on to maturity, not laying again the foundation..."
 - b. These are elementary doctrines that are already taught and believed.
 - c. The audience is not being called to be saved, it's being told to mature.

APOSTASY SECTION (BRIAN)

3. Hebrews 6:4–6 — Apostasy?
 - a. "Those who have once been enlightened... tasted the heavenly gift... shared in the Holy Spirit... if they fall away, it's impossible to renew them again to repentance..."
 - b. Who are these people?
 - i. "Once enlightened" - received gospel knowledge
 - ii. "Tasted the heavenly gift" - experienced Christian community & blessings
 - iii. "Shared in the Holy Spirit" - close proximity, not necessarily indwelling

- c. These are professing people, not truly regenerated. They are “almost Christians”.
 - i. These people would be described the same as those in Matthew 7:21–23 – “Lord, Lord...” but never truly known by Christ. They were around it, participating in it, but never truly born again.
 - ii. Experiences do not equal salvation
- d. "Fall Away" (Greek: parapiptō)
 - i. Complete rejection of Christ after full exposure to the truth. This is not speaking about “falling” into sin – this is rejection of the gospel altogether after being exposed to it.
 - ii. Not loss of salvation, but evidence of never having been saved. They fell away from the truth they were told. They rejected Christ which meant they were putting Him to shame all over again. They would have been on the side crucifying Him.
 - iii. Could this mean losing salvation? NO. If salvation can be lost and never regained, this contradicts other Scripture:
 - 1. Phil. 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - 2. John 10:28–29 ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all^[a]; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.
 - 3. Scripture cannot contradict itself, so the idea that this is truly talking about falling away from salvation is an impossibility, which is how our passage starts. This must be a hypothetical argument talking about a person falling away from the truth and experiences they were given.

TWO FIELDS (JUSTIN)

4. Hebrews 6:7–8 —Two Fields

- a. Field 1 Receives rain, produces crops, blessed by God
- b. Field 2 Receives rain, produces thorns, near cursed
- c. Both fields receive rain, but only one bears fruit.
- d. These two fields are two categories. The genuine field bears fruit as it is watered whereas the dead/false field never bears fruit no matter how much it is watered (also Mt 3:8-10; 7:15-20; 12:33-35; Acts 26:20; Jms 2:14-26).
- e. The author expresses confidence his readers are field #1, and that they will bear fruit and be blessed by God.
 - i. He is **not** expressing confidence that they will do what they must to keep from losing their salvation. He is expressing confidence that they are genuine Christians and therefore they will mature and bear fruit since that is what genuine Christians do.
 - ii. The author writes like this in Hebrews 10:39, “But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed but to those who have faith and are saved.”