Impossible

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Okay, we're going to go straight to Hebrews quickly. Hebrews 6. We've been looking at the elementary things, the elementary principles of Christ. We looked at.

The repentance of dead works and a faith towards God. The doctrine of baptism, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of dead and eternal judgment. And it says we will move on from, from those things if God permits. Now, there is within every education system, every area or level of advancement you come to, there are decisions of where an individual can go at the end of the year. Not everyone advances from every class.

You know, in America, I have heard that some teachers just passed people even though they didn't meet the requirements that the class needed. Right. Stacy and I were put in a weird environment. We had 38 young people up in Alaska that we were teaching a few weeks ago, and we had to grade all of their work and papers from people who just barely seem to know how to write. One lady just seemed like she was sleeping the whole entire time.

And we were not supposed to fail anybody. So we were just like, man, what do we do? How do we grade? Such a huge difference. Some of those ladies and guys were sharp as a razor and others more like a marble, right?

But I mean, they had to somehow grade, and it wasn't easy. But sometimes we just pass people, right? Just, hey, move on. I don't want you in first grade anymore. You go to second grade, right?

Let that teacher deal with you for a little bit. Well, in the elementary principles of Christ, his goal is always to move us on to perfection. But that doesn't mean that everyone does move on to perfection.

In verse four, we're going to look at verse four through eight. There is a danger in not moving on. Yes, it is helpful in our culture to get an education. It is helpful to learn Spanish or, you know, do all these things. It's wonderful to have an education.

But this spiritual education is not just a badge that you wear. It's not just a grade you got. It's necessary for the walk that you will encounter. It is absolutely essential that Christians get an elementary education. For without it, you cannot successfully endure the difficulties that you are going to encounter without learning.

Like we talked about, to repent of dead works and to have faith. Unless as a child you learn that certain things are no no's and there is a time to come, you cannot be a successful adult.

Yes, in school, there are certain children who didn't learn that lesson that now are frustrating whole generations of teachers.

Oh, Lord, their parents didn't teach them the right from wrong. Great. Now I'm trying to teach them physics. It doesn't work well in the Christian life. It is necessary.

But if you don't advance, if you don't learn those lessons, there are things that come as a result. It is important for us to know this. So we're going to just read chapter six and then we'll begin, see how far we get. Chapter six, verse four. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, have tasted the heavenly gift, have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves, the Son of God, and put him to an open shame.

For the earth, which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receive blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. There is a

very real impact not learning elementary things. It has an absolute effect on your walk. If you don't learn elementary things, you cannot survive in an age when those skills are required.

You cannot operate in the kingdom of God, confronted with innumerable evils and difficulties, unless you have learned these lessons. There are consequences to not learning these things. Now, we always want to reward people with candy canes, right? From Sunday school to all sorts of things. We're like, hey, you learn your memory verse and I am going to give you a Snickers bar.

This is wonderful way to encourage children in spiritual activities. Sugar.

Now, we may think that's real effective, but that's not how God always encourages people. He also lets people know that there are consequences to not learning the lesson. I like the thing. I can't remember the evangelist's name. Ray Comfort.

And he says sometimes Christianity encourages people in the way that a person is encouraged to wear a parachute on a plane. And the stewardess comes and says, hey, look, put this on and it's going to make your trip more enjoyable. And so they put on the parachute, and then they began to kind of hurt their back, you know, and it starts to feel not as comfortable. They kind of start to question, I thought this was just going to make my life, my flight, more comfortable. And eventually they see other people snickering at them and laughing at them for wearing a parachute, and they take the thing off.

That's entirely different motivation than the stewardess who comes and says, hey, look, the plane is going to crash, We've run out of fuel. Put on the parachute. It could save your life. You need it because this thing is going to crash. In a similar way, we have to understand that these elementary things not learned have consequences.

Now, within the body of Christ, there are ways in which the Church is divided, right? Liberal and conservative and different ways. One of the ways it is divided is in the area of eternal security or the security of the believer, right? And individuals who, because I don't study different people a whole lot, if I'm wrong, just let me know. But is my

understanding that Reformed or calculated Calvinistic individual believe in the security of the believer?

Am I saying that right? I think. I think so. And then individuals with an Arminian background believe that salvation can be lost, right? And so Arminians believe that it is based on the free will of men and women to be saved and therefore they can lose their salvation.

So oftentimes, like our friend Ray said as a kid, he was losing his salvation nearly every week and was getting saved at the altar just about as often, right? And then individuals from a Reformed perspective would say, no, you cannot lose your salvation. Christ chose you, gave you the gift, and you can't lose it. So that's one way of which the church is divided in the way it thinks. Well, we have this verse, these verses in chapter six, and then we also have some interesting verses in verse 9 through 12 which appear to be teaching the opposite thing.

And the way I love to see things is, hey, no one ever taught me the right way to do anything. So I just teach what the Bible has to say as it comes along. So if this is within your view or not, so be it. So I'm just going to go through it. What does it say?

It is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come. If they fall away, to renew them again to repentance. For they crucify for themselves the Son of God and put him to an open shame. Now, this verse would be used by individuals who believe that salvation can be lost as an individual losing their salvation. And this would sometimes be viewed by individuals who are a Reformed perspective, from my understanding, is that they have never been saved at all.

Okay, but when I look at this, these individuals have partaken in something. What is it that they have participated in? It says they were once enlightened, right? There is at least a mental understanding of the things of God that they didn't possess before. It says they have tasted of the heavenly gift.

These individuals have participated in at least the gifting of which comes from God. Now we do see that that possibly can be done to individuals. They said, have we not prophesied? Have we not done all these things? Right?

And then Jesus said, hey, look, I never even knew you. So they at least have participated in spiritual activities and they have become partakers of the Holy Spirit. They have in some way at least had a relationship with the Holy Spirit, right? This is astonishing to say. I would love to say that all of us have reached this level of maturity.

If we could say that every one of us have participated of God's gift, encountered the Holy Spirit in some way, have been enlightened. I would think that a church should feel fairly good about itself for that kind of maturity. But even after that, and even more, it says in verse five, have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come. These individuals have had interaction with the Word of God, have sustained or have gained nutrients from it, benefited from it, and actually through that been able to understand spiritual things beyond what they can experience on earth. These are individuals who have had an experience of some kind.

Now, I am not necessarily going to say to you or to demand that these individuals are saved, but they have definitely experienced something that is desirable for every Christian. But in verse 6 it says, if they fall away, if they fall away, individuals with this much interaction, with this much experience, with this much participation, face a place of falling away without the elementary things haven't been gained. This thing becomes top heavy in some way and has the possibility of crashing without the solid foundation there. All these spiritual gifts and enlightenments and experiences are not enough to sustain these individuals. And it says it is impossible to renew them again to repentance.

There is, it appears here to be teaching in chapter six of Hebrews, a place to which an individual falls to where they cannot be restored. What does that mean? Is it a place that we should be scared of? Or is the motivation here not just to terrify us, to traumatize us, but to us to take seriously the elementary education that is being offered to us at the moment.

Because it is. This danger exists. So let's look at what it is now. I don't necessarily. I can't be the person who says this is what it is, right?

I'm just going to acknowledge that I am not the authority, you know, and at the same time, I don't have anyone telling me this is what it means. So we have the opportunity. Okay, let's try to examine from Scripture what it says in John 6. We're just going to just get a little bit of a picture of individuals. Jesus begins to talk to them about his flesh and blood, that, hey, any individual that eats of these things and drinks of them has life.

In 55, he says, for my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in him and I in him, as the living Father sent me. And I live because of the Father. He who feeds on me will live because of me. Okay, and he gives us teaching.

It's a hard teaching in verse 60. Therefore, many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, this is a hard saying. Who can understand it? And these individuals turned around and walked with Jesus no more. These are individuals who had participated in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

What a privilege to walk with Jesus physically. A hard privilege, but nonetheless a privilege to be able to participate in the feeding of thousands of people from very little food. To see individuals with devastating lifelong physical conditions healed. To see demons cast out of individuals who had been tormented their entire life, to see him demonstrate his authority over death, that is an astonishing privilege. And even though these individuals had been a part of Jesus ministry, they turned around and walked with him no more.

We see other indications later on. In some of the parables. We get a picture of certain peoples, right in the parable of the in the wedding feast, we see an example that all these individuals are invited. Many are rejected, reject the invitation and don't come. But he offers an invitation to everyone in the byways and the highways, the sick and the poor.

And he invites them to come. And his wedding hall is full and there's a time of rejoicing. It's so wonderful. Until something is noticed. There's someone out there with the wrong clothes on.

Oh, no. They said, tie him and throw him out into outer darkness. Get rid of him. He doesn't have the right clothes on. It's strange.

We could try to draw from that. But it appears that there is a place where individuals who are at the same feast, some are cast out. In the parable of the virgins, we see that there are 10. It appears that they are in a similar spot. They are waiting.

Yes, they all fall asleep. They have lamps. But when the bridegroom comes, some are let in because they still have oil in the lamps. But those who do not have oil, they look the same. They're all virgins.

They all have lamps, but those without a burning light are cast out. And over again we see that there's these parables, these parables of certain people. We see that the individual with the talents, if you remember 10 and 5 and 1, and the 1 who had the one talent went and hid what they had been given. And upon the reckoning of that which was given, the one who had hidden this talent was cast out. Where they are cast out is places of darkness, of everlasting punishment.

It feels like these individuals who appeared in so many ways, so close to their neighbors do not have something that enables them to continue. And it appears that. That it is a lasting, irrecoverable condition.

I'm not trying to convince you of a doctrine, but I would just ask you, is that your perspective? I'm going to try to draw this just a little bit. The unpardonable sin. Is there a place that is irrecoverable for a person, a spiritual person, individuals with seemingly right intentions? It says when Jesus was accused of doing things under the influence of the devil, he gives this teaching.

In chapter 1231 of Matthew, it says, therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men. But the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. There is a place, it feels like to me, from what Scripture is saying and Jesus is teaching here, there is an act against the Holy Spirit from.

From which, having been done, there is no repentance. For is there. Is. Is there any examples that we would say that we could say that people in Scripture fell into this sort of condition?

Well, one we know of, we see in Judas. Judas, the individual who betrayed his master with a kiss. How much had he participated in. In this list that we read in Hebrews, would you have said he was a full participant in this list? Tasted, experienced, learned, witnessed?

I would say absolutely yes. But the Scripture says that he went to the place determined for him or prepared for him. Right? It is an individual. It appears that there is no recovering from that place.

I'm going to go in. First Timothy is a place talking about faithful sayings. And there are many faithful sayings, just little ditties or poems or things that help us remember spiritual truths.

In chapter two, verse 1113, it says, this is a faithful saying, for if we died with him, we shall also live with him. If we endure, we shall also reign with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful. He cannot deny himself.

In the avenue of where we are going here and what we are talking about, is there a place in which a person can descend in which their denial of Jesus Christ, of the work of the Holy Spirit places them in a position spiritually for from which they can never recover?

Is there. Does it feel to you that there is enough evidence in Scripture to think that at least it may be possible? I know that everyone has a foundational doctrine of some kind, and it's not necessarily my desire to change that. But my question is, is the

author of Hebrews giving us this information for a reason? Does he bring us to a certain spot?

Is he desirous of us examining a spiritual condition that is terrifying for a real reason? Is it possible that today individuals, at not having received and learned elementary principles, but haven't participated in certain, at least spiritual performances or biblical intellect, can reach a position of falling from which they do not recover? I would say that you and I love to watch videos of individuals who turn from one spiritual perspective to Christianity. Is that true? We love to hear stories of individuals who are turned from darkness to light, to see that the fruits of the Spirit begin to replace the fruits of the carnality that they had long been sufferers under.

It's a beautiful thing. But do you know there's other videos on the Internet that show something different? They show individuals now, because I don't necessarily. I personally have never watched these videos, but I'm pretty sure I probably have heard of them. I've listened to people at times that experience and proclaim the joy that they have been able to escape the clutches of Christianity and now are willingly enjoyingly embracing the fruit that comes from atheism.

Do you think that's possible? Do you think that is possible? It is my understanding completely that different cults have the most fruit in disaffected Christians, not sinners. Christianity likes and is told to reach out to the bottom to reach those who are hurting full of sin. But cults are full of individuals who used to call themselves Christians.

Interesting. Is there a place of denying the Holy Spirit that leads you to a place that prevents you from participating in his work for the future? My understanding from Scripture that at least it is a place to be aware of that is a dangerous place, that all the benefits that Christ intends to give us can be compromised by being brought to a spot of denying the Holy Spirit work, where an Individual is brought to the place of saying, no, that Holy Spirit is not a good individual, but an evil one. That place is made, I believe, up of individuals who once professed Jesus as the Christ.

It doesn't probably take a long perusal of you and your family and your neighbors to find people in that condition.

Individuals who are just like you and I today, no different in many ways, and yet started on a slippery slope as a result of not having learned the basic principles of Christ. I am not going to try to change your opinion on whether or not a person can lose their eternal security in Jesus Christ. That's for you to decide. But what I want to emphasize is that spiritual truth that has been presented to you as a person, you are going to need and be held accountable for learning. He is not presenting the truth of the gospel of true spirituality to make your life comfortable.

He is giving you that foundation. Because there is a tremendous storm coming, a violent passing of waves that's going to leave many bones of houses scattered all over the countryside. Because the foundation that was supposed to supposed to be there was despised when it should have been being built.

I don't know if anyone knows. Dick and Jojo Potter, He was the janitor at north beach for a lot of years and very instrumental in the Pacific Beach Church. But he was not a carpenter. And we're rebuilding this house right now.

Dick, what were you thinking? He just put his joists right on the dirt, right on the soggy, wet dirt. He didn't have any foundation at all in his house. And now that work, which he should have done is costing us and his grandson considerable amount of money to try to put in. It is time for you to build your foundation.

There is no excuse for being negligent in that duty. Today elementary principles are being brought to your attention because they have to be learned. Without them, you will not survive in the world's marketplace or the spiritual marketplace on our account. Individuals. We recognize everywhere today that America is being left behind in a lot of ways because most or a lot of Americans are refusing to gain an education.

They are not capable to exist within the workplace. It is astonishing to see how fast the Ukrainians, the Mexicans are taking over the profitable jobs. When they don't speak English, they don't have our culture. All because individuals who were born here will

not learn elementary things. I'm not criticizing them.

They're wonderful.

But do we risk the our church and the losing or the lessening of its significance because we refuse to learn elementary things? There is a real danger let's embrace that teaching and I believe, escape this type of judgment that I believe spiritually is being told to us that does exist. So let's pray.