Hebrews 5:11- 6:12

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Hebrews 5:11–6:12*** (ESV)  
**11** About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. **12** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, **13** for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. **14** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. **1** Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. **3** And this we will do if God permits. **4** For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. **7** For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. **8** But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. **9** Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. **10** For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. **11** And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

1. Briefly summarize Hebrews 1-5.
2. In Hebrews 5:11, what does “dull of hearing” mean? See also Is 6:9-10, Ezek 12:1-2 and Zech 7:9-11. What kind of people are dull of hearing? In what ways does this apply to us?
3. Consider the phrase “**basic principles** of the oracles of God” (GR **stoichea**) from Hebrews 5:12. This is the only time the Greek **stoichea** is used in relation to God’s word. Usually **stoichea** referes to the elementary spirits of the world ([Col 2:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.72.2.8), [Col 2:20](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.72.2.20), [Gal](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.69.4.8) 4:3, Gal 4:[9](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.69.4.3)). What is being contrasted?
4. What happens when people don’t have a solid understanding of the basic principles of God? What was the situation for the readers of Hebrews?
5. What is the “word or righteousness” in Hebrews 5:13? How does one become righteous? See Rom 3:21, 4:13, 9:31, Gal 2:21, Gal 3:21, and Phil 3:9. What does this tell us about the problems the Hebrew readers were dealing with?
6. In Hebrews 6:1-2 the author encourages his readers to maturity, moving beyond the elementary teachings that are foundational to their faith. What are those elementary teachings? Is the order they are listed in significant?
7. Why does the author speak of “**laying again** a foundation”?
8. In Hebrews 6:3, what does the phrase “And this we will do” refer to?
9. What is the danger presented in Hebrews 6:4-6? How could be impossible for anyone to be “restored again to repentance”? Consider the context of the audience and how they are being pressured. Consider also Rom 1:18-32.
10. What point is the author trying to make in Hebrews 6:6 when he says “they are crucifying once again the Son of God”?
11. What is the point of the brief analogy or parable of Hebrews 6:7-8?
12. What is the Greek translated “sluggish” in Hebrews 6:12? Where else was this same word used in this passage?
13. From Hebrews 6:10-12, how are the Hebrews (and we) encouraged to live?