**Hebrews Lesson 8 5:11-6:12**

**Hebrews 5:11-14 (NIV)**
11  We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.
12  In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!
13  Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.
14  But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

**Hebrews 6:1-12 (NIV)**
1  Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,
2  instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
3  And God permitting, we will do so.
4  It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,
5  who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,
6  if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.
7  Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.
8  But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.
9  Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation.
10  God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.
11  We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.
12  We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

**Chapter 5**

[5:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11) much to say about this. About Christ's eternal priesthood "in the order of Melchizedek" ([v. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A10)). slow to learn. Instead of progressing in the Christian life, the readers had become spiritually sluggish and mentally lazy ([6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A12)).

[5:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A12) by this time. They were not recent converts. elementary truths of God's word. Such as those listed in [6:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A1-2) (see note there). Having taken the first steps toward becoming (mature) Christians, they had slipped back to where they started. solid food. Advanced teaching such as that given in ch. 7.

[5:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A14) mature. Those who had progressed in spiritual life and had become Christians of sound judgment and discernment. distinguish good from evil. Something neither physical nor spiritual infants can do.

**Chapter 6**

[6:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A1-2) not laying again the foundation. Six fundamental doctrines are mentioned: (1) repentance. The change of mind that causes one to turn away from sin (see note on [Mt 4:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+4%3A17)). (2) faith in God. The counterpart of repentance. As repentance is turning away from sin, faith is turning to God (cf. [1Th 1:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+1%3A9)). (3) instruction about baptisms. Probably refers to different baptisms with which the readers were familiar, such as Jewish baptism of proselytes, John the Baptist's baptism, and the baptism commanded by Jesus (see [Mt 28:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+28%3A19) and note). (4) laying on of hands. Sometimes followed baptism ([Ac 8:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+8%3A17)). Otherwise laying on of hands was practiced in connection with ordaining or commissioning ([Ac 6:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+6%3A6); see note there), healing the sick (see [Mk 6:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+6%3A5); [Lk 4:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+4%3A40); [Ac 28:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+28%3A8)) and bestowal of blessing (see [Mt 19:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+19%3A13-15)). (5) resurrection of the dead. The resurrection of all people in the last days (see [Jn 5:25-29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+5%3A25-29); [11:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+11%3A25); [2Co 4:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A14)). (6) eternal judgment. Either the fact of God's judgment or the verdict that determines the eternal condition of those judged.

[6:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A1) elementary teachings about Christ. See note on [5:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A12). acts that lead to death. Lit. "dead works"; deeds or rituals that cannot impart life (see [9:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A14)).

[6:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A3) A common expression of dependence on the will of God (cf. [1Co 16:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+16%3A7)). Only the Lord can open minds and hearts and bring spiritual maturity.

[6:4-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A4-8) The third warning (see note on [2:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A1-4)).

[6:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A4-6) The most common interpretations of this difficult passage are: (1) It refers to Christians who actually lose their salvation. (2) It is a hypothetical argument to warn immature Hebrew Christians ([5:11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11-14)) that they must progress to maturity (see [v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A1)) or else experience divine discipline or judgment (see [vv. 7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A7-8)). (3) It refers to professing Christians whose apostasy proves that their faith was not genuine (cf. [1Jn 2:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A19)). This view sees chs. 3-4 as a warning based on the rebellion of the Israelites in the desert. As Israel could not enter the promised land after spying out the region and tasting its fruit, so the professing Hebrew Christians would not be able to repent if they adamantly turned against the light they had received. According to this interpretation, such expressions as "enlightened," "tasted the heavenly gift" and "shared in the Holy Spirit" indicate that such persons had come under the influence of God's covenant blessings and had professed to turn from darkness to light but were in danger of a public and final rejection of Christ, proving they had never been regenerated (see [10:26-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A26-31) and notes; cf. [2Pe 2:20-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2%3A20-22) and notes; [1Jn 2:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A19)).

[6:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A5) the coming age. See [Mk 10:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+10%3A30) and note; [1Ti 6:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A19).

[6:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A7-8) A short parable graphically illustrating the warning just given (cf. [Mt 13:3-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+13%3A3-23)).

[6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A8) be burned. Cf. [10:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A27) and note.

[6:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A9) confident of better things... that accompany salvation. Although the author has suggested the possibility that some of his readers may still be unsaved, he is confident that God has been at work among them. Their changed lives and works of love ([v. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A10)) suggest that most of them were indeed regenerated.

[6:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A11) to the very end. A call for perseverance in faith as an evidence of salvation. make your hope sure. See [3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A6) and note; [11:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1); [2Pe 1:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+1%3A10) and note.

[6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A12) lazy. See [5:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11) and note. those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. For examples see ch. 11.

**NIV Study Bible.**

**Open it**

1. What are some immature, childlike habits or actions that simply would not be tolerated if seen in an adult?
 **pacifier, baby bottle, talking like a baby**

2. What hero did you emulate and imitate as a kid? Why?
 **John Wayne, he was always the good guy**

**Explore it**

3. What was wrong with the group of Hebrew believers originally addressed in this passage? ([5:11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11-14))
 **They were not moving forward in faith but stayed as they started**

4. What are the marks of spiritual maturity? ([5:11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11-14))
 **Being able to decern scriptures rightly and use them**

5. Of what are infant or baby Christians ignorant? ([5:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A13))
 **The word of righteousness**

6. What fundamental or basic doctrines form the foundation of our faith? ([6:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A1-2))
 **Repentance from dead works, faith toward God, instructions about washings and laying on of hand, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement**

7. In the end, what enables us to reach spiritual maturity? ([6:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A3))
 **God will allows us to do so**

8. What are maturing, committed Christians like? ([6:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A7))
 **We hear the scriptures and use them as a plant uses water and we grow and produce good for and receive blessings from God**

9. What danger did the author warn against? ([6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A12))
 **Not to be sluggish but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises**

**Get it**

10. What is "solid food"? (Biblically)
 **Being able to discern the deeper meaning of the scriptures and applying them correctly**

11. How have you grown since you first became a Christian?
 **I have become a teacher, not just a listener**

12. How can you rely on the goodness of God’s Word for discernment in the decisions you must make?
 **Find the passages that apply to my decision and see what and how they say it, go from there**

**Apply it**

13. In what concrete ways can you strengthen your hold on Christ this week?
 **Read the bible more, pray more, encourage more, etc.**

14. What changes can you make in your daily routine over the next three days to combat laziness and exercise discipline?
 **Not pay attention so much to the many distractions that the world has**