

CHRIST PROVIDES GRACE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Aim of the Lesson: To know how a Christian should live to obtain grace from Christ for spiritual growth.

HINDERANCES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH – 5:11-14

1. Being “dull of hearing” [5:11]. The same word is “slothful” in 6:12. Dull hearing is lazy hearing and this affects obedience and growth. A lazy hearer is indifferent in obeying God, which stunts his growth.
2. Being unable to teach others [5:12]. One must grow to teach and teaching stimulates more growth.
3. Eating spiritual baby food [5:13-14]. Simple truths from God are necessary for the growth of baby believers, but complex truths are needed for the growth of mature believers.

BASIC GRACE FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH – 6:1-3

1. Truths about the new birth: repentance and faith [6:1]. These help the young believer gain assurance.
2. Truths about church ordinances: baptisms and laying on of hands [6:2]. These explain the differences of Christian ordinances from similar laws of other religions.
3. Truths about future events: resurrection and eternal judgment [6:2]. These prepare them for their future.

THIRD APPEAL – Hebrews 5:11-6:8 - Do not fail to grow by God's grace. [See next page for a graphic.]

SIN THAT STOPS CHRISTIAN GROWTH – 6:4-8

1. Various interpretations of 6:4-8. [1] It refers to persons that are saved, but fall away and lose their salvation. [2] It refers to persons that appear to be saved, but when they fall away, they prove they were hypocrites. [3] It refers to persons that are saved, but to “fall away” is hypothetically stated to keep them from apostasy. [4] It refers to persons that are saved, but “fall” by joining the ranks of Christ's enemies. They can be restored by repenting (leaving Christ's enemies), confessing their sins and returning to Christ for spiritual growth.
2. The persons described in 6:4-5 are saved. They were “enlightened” [cf. 10:32]; “have tasted the heavenly gift” [cf. 2:9]; were made partakers of the Holy Spirit” [cf. 3:1, 14]; “have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come” [cf 2:4]. This is a clear description of genuine believers.
3. The sin to “fall away” in 6:6 is examined. This is not a sin from which it is impossible to repent. “Fall away” [*parapipto*], the Greek verb used only here in the NT, is translated most frequently in other literature “to fall in one's way” [*Manual Greek Lexicon of the NT*, Abbott-Smith]. In Gal 6:1 the Greek noun of the same root is translated, “fault” [*paraptoma*]. The man overtaken in this odious sin (“fault”) needed to be restored to his Christian walk by spiritual believers who had to take great care not to fall into his sin. The believers in Heb 6:6, who had fallen by joining the enemies of Christ, needed the same kind of help.
4. The impossibility “to renew them again unto repentance” is examined [6:4, 6]. By returning to Judaism [or to the world], a Christian is guilty of crucifying Christ. “While crucifying the Son of God” [temporal adverbial participle], he cannot be renewed to repentance [a change of mind]. He has to break this ungodly relationship before he can repent and grow in Christ. Usually such a Christian will need one or more spiritual believers to help him break his corrupt alliance with the world. When the alliance is broken, he can repent, be restored to fellowship with Christ and enjoy spiritual growth [Gal 6:1]. God sent Nathan to restore David [2 Sam 12]. See other examples in Jam 5:13-20; 1 Jn 5:16; Jude 22-23].
5. The field illustration [6:7-8]. Compare the fruit of the field with the works of the believer in 1 Cor 3:12-15. The thorns and briars of the field and the worthless works of the believer are alike and are burned up. In the case of the believer, he shall be saved, yet so as by fire. He shall suffer great loss, but not his soul. So it is with the field. It shall be burned to destroy the thorns and briars, but not the field. Also see 1 Cor 9:27; 2 Pet 2:7-9 (Lot).

ENCOURAGEMENTS FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH – 6:9-20

1. Believers are encouraged that God remembers the work and labor of love that they have done [6:9-10].
2. Believers are encouraged to follow those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises [6:11-12].
3. Believers are encouraged that God has promised to bless them and then confirmed it with His oath [6:13-18].
4. Believers are encouraged that Jesus is their Anchor, Forerunner and High Priest in Heaven [6:19-20].
Jesus is the Anchor for the believer's soul, having entered within the veil of the heavenly temple [6:19].
 Jesus assures every believer that He has put away his sins, which gives him the basis for solid growth.
Jesus is the Forerunner into the heavenly temple and has opened the way into the most holy place [6:20].
 Jesus invites believers to enter Heaven's most holy place, which inspires confidence for Christian growth.
Jesus is the believer's High Priest forever, interceding for him every day [6:20].
 Jesus is the only mediator a believer needs and He will enable him to grow and be victorious over any sin.

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WE DENY GOD' WORD

Hebrews 5:11-6:8

Related Words:

Pipto – “to fall”

[Hebrews 4:11]

Parapipto – “to fall by the wayside” [Hebrews 6:6]

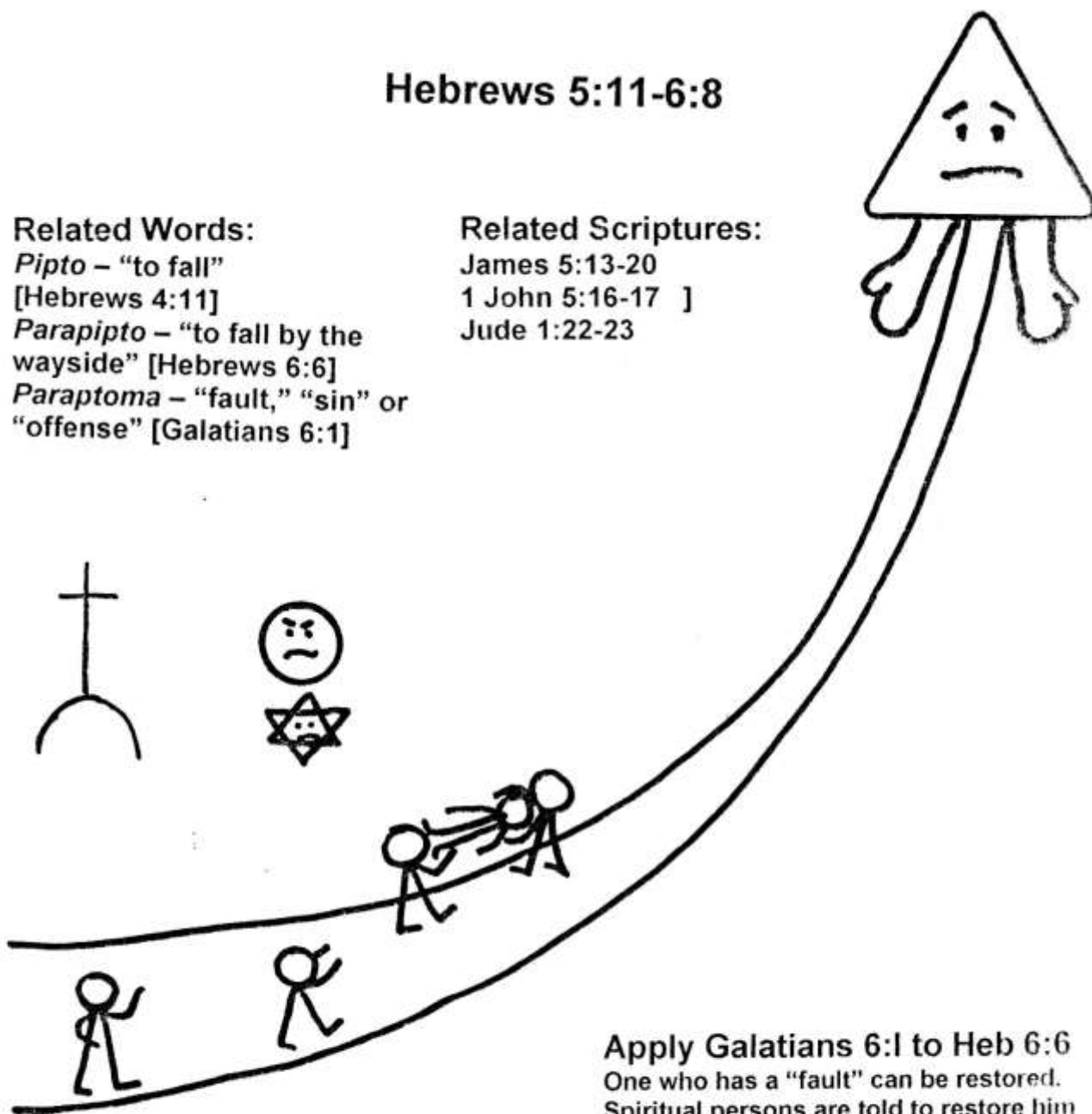
Paraptoma – “fault,” “sin” or “offense” [Galatians 6:1]

Related Scriptures:

James 5:13-20

1 John 5:16-17]

Jude 1:22-23



Apply Galatians 6:1 to Heb 6:6
One who has a “fault” can be restored. Spiritual persons are told to restore him with meekness or gentleness [James 5:16-18 also includes prayer]. This shows that a fallen believer can be restored.

WHEN WE FAIL TO GROW BY HIS GRACE

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON HEBREWS 6:4-6

1. "[It is impossible] . . . to renew them again unto repentance." The author is addressing Christians who have truly been saved [6:4-5], so these believers do not need to be renewed again unto repentance for salvation, but unto repentance for Christian growth. Note: repentance is a change of mind that changes a life.

2. "Seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God" The phrase "seeing they crucify" is a participle, which acts as an adjective or as an adverb. I believe this participle is a temporal adverbial participle and can be translated in English, "while crucifying" [cf. Dana and Mantey, *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, pages 226-227]. See also the International Standard Version, the Complete Jewish Bible and *Be Confident* by Warren W. Wiersbe on p. 66 for agreement on this interpretation for these verses.

That would mean that any Hebrew Christian who fell into sin by going back to Judaism could not be renewed to repentance for Christian growth "while crucifying" the Son of God. By going back to Judaism [or by going back to the world in the case of a Gentile Christian], a Christian is crucifying Christ by joining with those who hate Christ and are guilty of crucifying Him.

That is where the spiritual brother must take action and restore a fallen brother by leading him away from Judaism or the world, so he will stop crucifying Christ. If the spiritual brother is successful in restoring the fallen brother, he has helped the fallen brother to stop crucifying Christ so he can once again grow in his Christian life.