**Hebrews 6: The necessity to keep growing**

**Main Idea of Hebrews: If we stay faithful, we can have partnership with God’s Son who is both King and Priest**

**Main Idea today:**

**There is real danger in not growing.**

**We can’t face an adult world with the character of an infant.**

**Context: Hebrews 5:11-14**

* **Clearly written to believers**
  + **Heb. 3:1; 10:10, 14, 16-17**
  + **“you have become dull of hearing” … “you ought to be teachers” … “teach you again the first principles” … “have come to need milk” … “he is a babe” … “solid food...for those who are of full age (mature)”**
* **The writer’s concern is not to become Christians, but to mature**
* **Can’t live in an adult world as a baby**
* **It’s not just what we know, but what we do with what we know**
* **This is verified in the main clause of the whole passage in 6:1**

**Hebrews 6**

**Hebrews 6:1-3 – “Let us go on to maturity”**

* **Governing idea: “Let us go on to maturity”**
* **They could go on to maturity only “if God” permitted it**
* **Growth occurs when God enables**
* **Verse four explains when God may not permit it – “For…”**
* **He now discusses Christians who fall away from the path to maturity**

**Hebrews 6:4-8 – “It is impossible to again restore some to the path to maturity”**

* **There are some cases in which renewal to the path to maturity doesn’t happen**
* **6:4-9 talks about those persons**
* **They were not only believers, but growing disciples**
  + **“Once enlightened” = same word idea as in 10:32 (2 Cor. 4:3-6)**
  + **“Tasted” = Heb. 2:9 “experienced”; “heavenly gift” = Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23**
  + **“Partakers” = “Partners;” “close business associates”; they walked with God**
* **6:6 - “If they fall away” – From what? The path to maturity.**
* **“Impossible” (6:4) because of what’s happened to them and the Lord’s reaction to it**
* **Not passive, but active; “it is impossible to renew them”**
* **“Nothing shall be impossible with God”, but we can’t**
* **Judgment is inevitable, but it *may be* restorative**
* **Notice the progression from 2:1-4 and 3:7-14, 4:1, 11**
* **What we believe has a practical impact on our lives!**
* **Why is it so difficult to bring them back?**
  + **Jesus is “just another person” to them; “re-crucify” Jesus**
  + **Claiming to have been a Christian and living contrary lives puts Him to “open shame”**
* **6:7-8 – All of this is a figure of speech; people are not literally “ground”, they don’t literally bear herbs, thorns, or briers (notice the language from the curing of the ground in Genesis).**
* **Why, then, would we think the fire is literal?**
* **Very common figure of speech for temporal judgment in the OT (Ez. 15; Isa. 9:18-19; 10:16-19; Jer. 17:27; 21:12; Isa. 9:18-19; 10:16-19; also Jn. 15:6).**
* **The purpose of the burning involves the fruit of what they’ve done**
* **Believers who will not grow over time will face inevitable consequences apart from God’s intervention and mercy.**

**When you love someone and you know they are in danger, you warn them.**

**God loves you.**

**We need to grow. There is real danger in not growing.**

**We can’t face an adult world with the character of an infant.**