

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark scene of a stormy sea under a heavy, dark sky. Multiple bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, striking down from the clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and turbulent, with white-capped waves. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

# HEBREWS

PERSEVERANCE AND GODLINESS



# 8 steps of the “Path”

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1. Faith
2. Excellence
3. Knowledge
4. Self-control
5. **Perseverance**
6. **Godliness**
7. Brotherly affection
8. Unselfish love

**Perseverance** is when we choose to trust God in every test, temptation, and trial

**Godliness** is when we work to align our character, ethics, worldview, and thought patterns with Christ

# Be careful!

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① neglect → drift →

② unbelief / disobedience →  
fall away / forsake (apostasy)



“The author has now ended this stage of his discussion of Jesus as High Priest, and he begins his next main division with an appeal to the readers. This appeal forms a distinct section, on the subject of Christian maturity. In it, three possibilities are presented to the readers:

(a) **to remain slow of hearing** (5:11; compare 6:12),  
content to hear simple truths repeated again and again;

(b) to fall away from Christian faith (6:4–6); or  
(c) to go forward (6:1) to a full understanding of what  
God has promised (6:12) and now offers to men through  
Christ, their High Priest.

The aim of this section is thus to make the readers  
interested in learning more about the meaning of what  
Christ has done.”

-- Paul Ellingsworth, Eugene Nida





# 3 truths about spiritual growth/maturity

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- 1) Spiritual maturity is a **process**
- 2) Spiritual maturity is God's **expectation**
- 3) Spiritual maturity requires **training and practice**



# Hebrews 6:1–3

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- “*we must progress...and move onto maturity*”
- The writer listed several teachings that he considered elementary or “milk”; you can build on these but can’t stop with them



# 3 different views about Hebrews 6:4–8

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- 1) These people **were never saved** and cannot be saved
- 2) These people **have lost their salvation** and cannot regain it
- 3) These people **are saved but will lose their future reward**

# Hebrews 6:4–6

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- “enlightened...tasted...become partakers...tasted...committed apostasy”
  - “enlightened” means saved in 10:32
  - Jesus “tasted” death for everyone in 2:9
  - They were “partners in a heavenly calling” (3:1) and had “become partners with Christ” (3:14)



# Hebrews 6:4–6

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- *“impossible...to renew them again to repentance”*
- There is no pause in Christian maturity, only forward progress or backward decline
- To return to Judaism would align them with the people who rejected and crucified Jesus and indicate that Jesus was not the answer after all

# Be careful!

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There is a point to which a Christian can backslide so far from which there can be no return; the result is premature physical death.

(John 15:1–6; James 5:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:27–32; 1 John 5:16–17)



# Hebrews 6:7–8

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- This is not a momentary lapse in judgment. God has been working to call them back, but they are not listening.
- “Falling away” is a road marked by spiritual apathy resulting in the rejection of the Savior. (Titus 3:11)
- This type of person is “useless,” no longer fit for ministry. They disqualify themselves (1 Cor 9:27).

# Hebrews 6:7–8

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- “near a curse” does not mean “cursed”
- “burning” is not always hell. All people will face God’s holy fire to evaluate our lives.



# Hebrews 6:9–12

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- It doesn't have to be that way. There is hope for those who persevere, “press on to maturity.”
- “Sluggish” in 6:12 is the same as in 5:11
- The community is helpful again, this time as examples of faithfulness and perseverance

# Be careful!

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① neglect → drift →

② unbelief / disobedience →  
fall away / forsake (apostasy)

③ apathy → rejection of Jesus  
and disqualification or death



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# HEBREWS

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