

## Lesson 6

### Hebrews 5:11 - 6:20 The Race to Maturity

1. According to Heb. 5:11, what is a danger to believers?  
**11 About this we have much to say, and it is difficult to explain, for you have become sluggish in hearing.**
2. What fault does the writer find with the readers in:
  - A. Verse 11
  - B. Verse 12  
**12 Although you should be teachers by this time, you need to have someone teach you again the basic elements of the utterances of God. You need milk, [and] not solid food.**
  - C. Verse 13  
**13 Everyone who lives on milk lacks experience of the word of righteousness, for he is a child.**
3. How do you think each fault relates to us today?
4. Why is “infant” (vs. 13) an apt description of spiritual failure?
5. Can you find at least six “elementary” doctrines, or teachings in 6:1-2?  
**1 Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**
6. According to 6:4-6, why is it absolutely essential to develop Christian maturity? (Also, 2 Peter 2:21-22)  
**4 For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift\* and shared in the holy Spirit 5 and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to bring them to repentance again, since they are recrucifying the Son of God for themselves and holding him up to contempt.**

7. What are the consequences of falling by the wayside? (vs.7-8 and CCC #598)

**7 Ground that has absorbed the rain falling upon it repeatedly and brings forth crops useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected; it will soon be cursed and finally burned**

**598 In her Magisterial teaching of the faith and in the witness of her saints, the Church has never forgotten that "sinners were the authors and the ministers of all the sufferings that the divine Redeemer endured." Taking into account the fact that our sins affect Christ himself, The Church does not hesitate to impute to Christians the gravest responsibility for the torments inflicted upon Jesus, a responsibility with which they have all too often burdened the Jews alone:**

**We must regard as guilty all those who continue to relapse into their sins. Since our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torment of the cross, those who plunge themselves into disorders and crimes crucify the Son of God anew in their hearts (for he is in them) and hold him up to contempt. and it can be seen that our crime in this case is greater in us than in the Jews. As for them, according to the witness of the Apostle, "None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." We, however, profess to know him. and when we deny him by our deeds, we in some way seem to lay violent hands on him.**

**Nor did demons crucify him; it is you who have crucified him and crucify him still, when you delight in your vices and sins.**

8. How and why does the author encourage his readers to do better? (vs. 9-12)

**9 But we are sure in your regard, beloved, of better things related to salvation, even though we speak in this way. 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones. 11 We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises.**

9. A. Read 6:13-20. What effect did God's promise and oath have on Abraham's heirs?

**13 When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, "he swore by himself," 14 and said, "I will indeed bless you and multiply" you. 15 And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise. 16 Human beings swear by someone greater than themselves; for them an oath serves as a guarantee and puts an end to all argument. 17 So when God wanted to give the heirs of his promise an even clearer demonstration of the immutability of his purpose, he intervened with an oath, 18 so that by two immutable things,\* in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. 19 This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

- B. How is this to affect Christians now?

10. When you have been spiritually lazy, what got you going again?