

CAN'T STOP
CAN I STOP

WON'T STOP
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Sermon Notes



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Can't Stop Won't Stop: Sermon Notes

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HEBREWS 5:11–6:12

BE CHALLENGED

¹¹About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

¹Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And this we will do if God permits.

Hebrews 5:11–6:3

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

- “Dull of hearing”—lazy, sluggish, culpable negligence

The readers won't understand the truth if they don't want to understand it, and so the fundamental issue facing the readers isn't intellectual but moral.

Thomas Schreiner, *Commentary on Hebrews*, 169

- How are they described?
 - Unable to teach others
 - Their need for milk and not solid food
 - Spiritually untrained in distinguishing good from evil

CHALLENGE: GROW UP!

- Christ: Hebrews 5:9—“being made perfect . . .”
- Christians: Hebrews 6:1—“. . . go on to maturity . . .”
- The point: fully developed, reaching your full potential, infant—adult

The mature “know how to make the right choices when confronted with critical decisions.”

George Guthrie, *Hebrews*, 204

BE WARNED

⁴For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. ⁷For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:4–8

CONTEXT: WHO IS THE AUTHOR WRITING TO?

- Those who have been enlightened
- Those who have tasted the heavenly gift
- Those who have shared in the Holy Spirit
- Those who have tasted the goodness of the word of God
- Those who have tasted the powers to come
- The primary audience is Christians!

WHAT IS THE WARNING?

- What does this warning mean?

From [The Race Set Before Us](#) by Thomas R. Schreiner and Ardel B. Caneday

- Loss of salvation—“The Bible’s warnings and admonitions make it clear that heirs of God’s promises can, by forsaking Christ, fail to persevere in faithfulness and long-suffering, and thus lose the inheritance of salvation”
- Loss of rewards—“The loss that a Christian may encounter concerns ‘rewards’ only, not salvation or eternal life, which comes to us only by faith in Jesus Christ”
- Test of genuineness—“The biblical warnings are addressed to people who profess faith in Jesus Christ but who prove to be false or disingenuous in their confession”
- Hypothetical loss of salvation—“The warnings focus on correcting ‘wrong ideas’ by making it clear that if a Christian could apostatize, it would be impossible for that person to become a Christian again.”
- Means of salvation—“God’s warnings and admonitions . . . serve to elicit belief that perseveres in faithfulness to God’s heavenly call on us”

• Truths to hold on to

• We can have assurance of salvation because our salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

John 10:28-29

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

• BUT we should take the warnings to persevere in the faith seriously!

• The warnings challenge us to examine the genuineness of our salvation.

• The warnings challenge us to avoid falling away.

• The warnings inspire us to faithfully persevere until the end.

• Warning: Don't quit!

BE ENCOURAGED

⁹Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. ¹⁰For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. ¹¹And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Hebrews 6:9-12

CONTEXT

- Earnestness—eagerness, effort, haste, suggesting being meaningfully engaged in something
- Sluggish—same word from Hebrews 5:11 (“Dull of hearing”)

WHAT IS THE ENCOURAGEMENT?

- They are loved by God
- God sees their love for others
- They have an opportunity to persevere in love toward God and others

ENCOURAGEMENT: LOVINGLY PERSEVERE!

MATURITY = ASSURANCE + PERSEVERANCE

DO YOU HAVE ASSURANCE?

- Trust in Jesus

ARE YOU COMMITTED TO PERSEVERE?

- What are you doing to persevere?
- Who do you have in your life to help you persevere?