<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
Strengthen Your Foundation
Hebrews 6:1-9

<u>Introduction</u>

Hebrews is written to believers who started off with passionate, joyful faith in Christ. But some of them are now on the brink of falling away, because they had become dull of hearing.

<u>What should they do</u>? (6:1-2)

If you have to lay a foundation again and again, that shows there's something wrong with the foundation. The fact that they were not moving on to maturity shows there's something wrong with their foundation of repentance and faith.

So they need to hear the milk of God's Word earnestly, fully repent and trust Christ, and then build on that foundation by growing into maturity.

<u>Why is this so urgent</u>? (6:3-6)

Some of them may have thought they would repent as soon as they sinned just a bit more.
So the author warns them that they can only repent if God enables them (v.3).
And he warns that if they continue in willful sin, they could so dishonor Christ that God would never again enable them to repent.

<u>Why would that be so serious</u>? (6:7-8)

Because if they do not repent, they will produce only thorns and thistles, and if nothing changes, they will be cursed and burned.

<u>Can this judgment happen to someone who has been saved</u>?

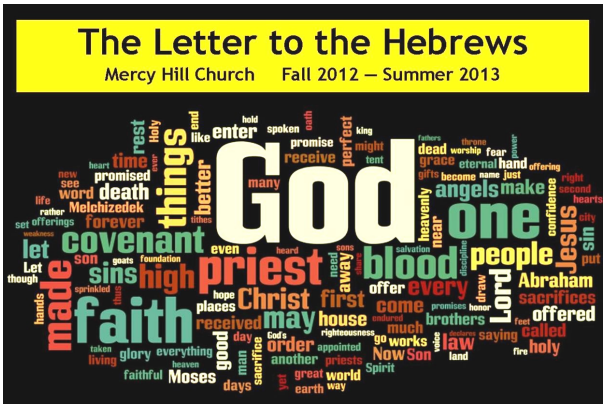
No. After describing the people of vv.4-6, the author says he 's convinced of better things concerning *his readers* — things that belong to *salvation*.

Which means those in vv.4-6 didn't have salvation. They had powerful spiritual experiences, but not salvation.

<u>How can I know I am genuinely saved</u>?

By turning to Jesus as you are, and trusting Him.
By turning from sin and trusting Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and Treasure.

As you do that, you can be assured you are saved, your foundation is solid, and God's grace will never be lifted from you.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

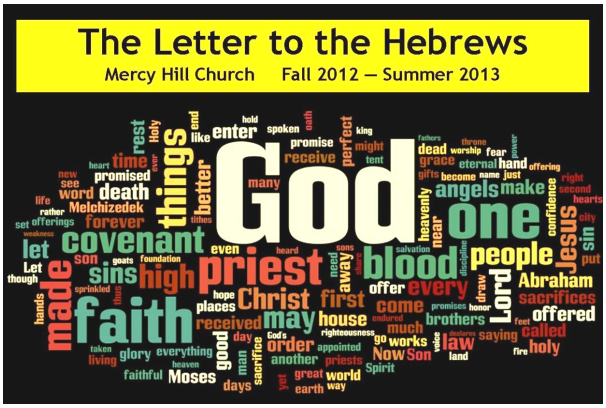
This is a tough passage. What questions were raised in your mind about this passage?

Does it make sense that their problem was not that their foundation was fine and they just needed to build on it — that their problem was that their foundation was shaky and needed to be strengthened? (Remember that in 5:12 we read that they need to hear the basics again — they need milk. So there's a problem with their foundation.)

Have you ever thought that you could only repent if God permitted it (v.9)? Does that make sense? Why or why not?

How is your foundation? Does it have the cement of faith? Are you really trusting Christ to forgive you, change you, satisfy you? Really? Does it have the rebar of repentance? Have you turned away from all known sin? (Not that you become perfect — but that in your heart you are longing to never sin again.)

Were you persuaded that v.9 shows that the people of vv.4-6 didn't have salvation? Why or why not? Why is that important?

What did God do in your heart during Communion?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.