

Lesson 6: Hebrews 5:11–6:20

Discussion Questions

What did you notice about these verses when you heard Cliff tell them?

Part 1: 6:13–20

After noting that those who eat solid food—that is, the mature—have “faculties trained by practice,” Cliff poses the following questions: If I keep practicing what I’m practicing now, what kind of person will I become in five years? Am I practicing the habits of wisdom and growing into maturity? Or, am I headed the other direction?

- How would you answer these questions? What kind of person do you want to be in five-years? What practices are you doing now that will shape you into that kind of person?

Based on the stories of Peter and Judas, Cliff thinks there might actually be more hope for those who “fall away” than an initial interpretation of this passage might imply.

- What do you think? After the thorny ground is burned, is it dead forever? Or, can the burning lead it back to fruitfulness?

Part 2: 6:9-12

- After the initial excitement wanes, and you start to feel yourself losing interest in a project, what do you typically do? How do motivate yourself to keep working in this phase of the project? What lessons does that teach us about the life of faith?
- If your group is brave enough, discuss the theological quandary this passage raises: Is our hope realized through our own effort or through God’s grace? How do Cliff’s reflections about competitive and non-competitive understandings of power shape the way you think about this quandary?

Part 3: 6:13–20

Cliff offers a definition of Christian hope based on these verses (and with a peek toward Hebrews 11): hope is anchored confidence that God can be trusted to fulfill his promises even when everything around us seems to suggest otherwise

- How would you define Christian hope for someone who asked about it?
- What is the source of your hope?