

Pastor Clifford
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The Book of Hebrews: Chapters 5 & 6

(Blue text is Hebrews)

Hebrews 5

“Every high priest is a man chosen to represent other people in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers sacrifices for their sins. ² And he is able to deal gently with ignorant and wayward people because he himself is subject to the same weaknesses. ³ That is why he must offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as theirs.

⁴ And no one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He must be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was. ⁵ That is why Christ did not honor himself by assuming he could become High Priest. No, he was chosen by God, who said to him, “You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.”

⁶ And in another passage God said to him, “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. ⁸ Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. ⁹ In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. ¹⁰ And God designated him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

- A High Priest is able to deal with people *gently*
- Every High Priest is chosen by God
- Jesus in humility did not assume He could become High Priest on His own.
- Jesus offered up prayers to the one He knew could answer.
Matthew 27:16 & John 17
- Jesus learned obedience through suffering and became the source of salvation for all who obey Him.

Philippians 2:6 "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

¹¹ There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. ¹² You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. ¹³ For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. ¹⁴ Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

The author of Hebrews faced a challenge in the people he wrote to – Immaturity

- The natural progression is that by now they should have been teachers.
- The danger of immaturity.
- The goal is to recognize good from evil.

Hebrews 6

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. ²You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

It is crucial to continue being students of the Word/Truth

1 Corinthians 3:1 "Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. **2** I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, **3** for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? **4** When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?"

4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come – ⁶ and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

7 When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God's blessing. ⁸ But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it.

2 Peter 2:17 "These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are doomed to blackest darkness. **18** They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. **19** They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. **20** And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. **21 It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life.** **22** They prove the truth of this proverb: "A dog returns to its vomit." And another says, "A washed pig returns to the mud."

9 Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other

believers, as you still do. ¹¹ Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. ¹² *Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.*

1 Peter 1:1 "This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. **2** God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, **4** and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. **5** **And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.**

13 For example, there was God's *promise* to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an *oath* in his own name, saying:

14 "I will certainly bless you,
and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."

15 Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

16 Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. **17** God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who

received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. ¹⁸ So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.

Two observations that are profoundly important:

- 1. Promise**
- 2. Oath**

Webster's Dictionary

1. Promise (a.) In general, a declaration, written or verbal, made by one person to another, which binds the person who makes it to do, or to forbear to do, a specified act; a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act.

Oath: A formally affirmed statement or promise accepted as an equivalent of an appeal to God; affirmation. the form of words in which such a statement or promise **is** made.

Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. ²⁰ Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek."