

Hebrews 6:9-12

Hebrews 6:9 (NOTES)

- "Beloved" - The writer is now speaking to believers, the true converts in his audience.
- "we are convinced of better things concerning you" - The writer is not concerned that the "Beloved" have failed to mature, fallen away, or rejected Christ altogether.
- "things that accompany salvation" - The writer is convinced that the things that accompany salvation - those things that give evidence of conversion - are apparent in the lives of the beloved, the brethren. This is the "vegetation" mentioned in vs. 7 (or fruit Matthew 13).
Matthew 13:23
- This vegetation/fruit is the product of our new nature, our changed character, and the indwelling presence of God's Spirit "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."
Galatians 5:22-23
- "though we are speaking in this way" - The writer is referring to the analogies used in verse 7-8 (ground, rain, vegetation, blessing, thorns, thistles, cursed, burned). He means that the use of the analogies was a way of speaking to communicate a truth to the unbelievers in the audience, but that they should not be taken as questioning the salvation of the "beloved."

Hebrews 6:10 (NOTES)

- "God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name" - The implication here is that it would be unjust on God's part to forget our work and our expressions of love. God is all-seeing and all-knowing (omniscient). God rewards our love and faithfulness in ministry to others.
- "God is not unjust" - He Keeps His word. He rewards righteous behavior - expressions of love being those He values most. He also punishes the unrighteous for their unforgiven sin. He is zealous for His "beloved" and will deny them nothing they are promised.
Isaiah 30:18

- "your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints." - Ministry is a labor. We should be engaged in the labor of ministry, especially toward the saints - members of the Body of Christ; our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ministering to others in the Body is not just for the pastor. Every Christian should be involved in ministering to others, and we should do so through the fruit of the Spirit. When we express love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control in the Body, we are glorifying God in our love for others.
- The first fruit mentioned is "love." In the Great Commandment, Jesus said "and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Love God; love others - the Great Commandment.
Mark 12:30-31
- We must first love God correctly, and only then we will be able to love others. If we run around trying to bring social justice to everyone, or to eradicate poverty, or to end hunger at the expense of developing our love for God (heart, soul, mind, and strength) - we will achieve little of any lasting value. Moreover, we cannot bring social justice to everyone, or eradicate poverty, or end hunger. These are false pursuits. God wants agape-lovers, not crusaders. If we love Him correctly, we will love others correctly.
Matthew 26:11
- How do we develop our love for God? How do we love Him correctly? How do we know when we are doing it wrong? There is a test in this passage: view the things we do for others through the lens of God's glory. When we express love (agape - unmerited, not storge - family, phileo friendship, or eros - romantic love) for others, we must ask ourselves, "What is my motivation?" If we are trying to please the other person so as to get a thank you, or a compliment, or a return gesture, or glory for the act to feed our pride, then our "love" was really a self-indulgent act of self-deception or a self-deceptive act. of self-indulgence.
- This is hard to do, because we are still "in the flesh." Most everything we do is for self - our love, as stated above; our compassion, which often is more about relieving our own discomfort at someone else's pain or suffering than showing them God's virtues; even generosity, which longs for accolade - we envision how others will react when they learn of our generosity and we fantasize about how we will be seen by others. Consider Jesus's admonitions in the Sermon on the Mount.
Matthew 6:1-21
- We love God most purely when our first and only concern in our expressions of love are for Him - what He will think of us and what others will think of Him. This is the test of our fulfillment of the Great Commandment to love Him with. all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. When we do so, we will love our neighbors as ourselves.

Hebrews 6:11 (NOTES)

- "we desire that each one of you show the same diligence" The writer is now speaking to the unconverted Jews in his audience. He wants ALL Hebrews (Jews) to love God in truth, which they cannot do apart from recognizing and accepting Jesus as the Christ - the Anointed One (messiah) Moses and Gabriel promised would come.
Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Daniel 9:24-26
- "to realize the full assurance of hope until the end" - Remember, the Jews were already following the right God. They had their "assurance." They thought they were in good spiritual shape. They knew they were God's chosen people, and believed that all was well. They served Him through the OT (old covenant) by keeping the Law of Moses - all the rituals, feasts, dietary restrictions, and the sacrificial system. They did not understand that all these things were mere shadows of Him who was to come. The writer of Hebrews wants all Jews to "realize the full assurance of hope" by trusting in Jesus as the Christ rather than trusting in their keeping of the old covenant through the law, and sacrifices, and all the rest of it. Otherwise, they have no hope at all.
Hebrews 10:1-10, Colossians 2:16-17
- This is the call to evangelize our friends, neighbors, and family members, the person on the street, co-workers, etc. We must pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with others, and we must live our lives such that we do not do damage to the Gospel or fail to represent God well by our character and behavior. Don't try to win souls for Christ in between your road rages and other tirades or bouts of foul language or bottles of beer or infidelities and lies. We evangelize others best when we do so out of a life of exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit - "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Hebrews 6:12 (NOTES)

- "so that you will not be sluggish" - Spiritually dull; of no real spiritual account - slow to hear, slow to believe. Unconverted Jews are merely religionists performing mindless tasks with no real relationship with God.
Hebrews 5:11, Luke 24:25-27, Matthew 13:14-15
- "*be* imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." - The "those" to whom the writer is referring are the true believers among them - the Jews who have found Christ and have, thus, become complete.
- "through faith and patience inherit the promises" - This means to become co-heirs with Jesus through faith in Him demonstrated by patience in waiting for His certain return.
Romans 8:12-17

- What are "the promises"? A new home, Canaan (which foreshadowed eternity with God in the New Jerusalem), a great nation (of God's people - the OT saints and the Church), a great name because he would be a blessing to all the families of the earth (the Savior would descend through his line).
Genesis 12:1-3, Galatians 3:6-9, 16, Revelation 7:9