



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Warning Against Falling Away	SPEAKER	DSP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Warnings in the Book of Hebrews	DATE	15 & 16 May 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Continuing to unpack the different warnings from the book of Hebrews, DSP Seng Lee draws lessons from Hebrews 6:1–6 to remind us not to fall away from a relationship with God. He expounds on the three ways we can do so:

1. Aim for maturity: Be hungry for Growth
2. Avoid compromise: Be holy for God
3. Abide in Him: Be humble in God

REALITY OF FALLING AWAY

Hebrews 6:4–6 refers to believers who were not merely superficial Christians, but ones who had fully experienced (“tasted” v. 4 and 5) the reality of God’s power and salvation. Yet, they chose to walk away from God – It is a conscious, deliberate and intentional decision. It can happen to anyone – our loved ones, church leaders, even angels have fallen. We need to guard against falling away and continue to strengthen our relationship with God.

Key points to note about falling away:

1. It does not happen accidentally. There is a process.
2. It is not about God’s inability to forgive.
3. It is because we have walked so far that we cannot hear God’s voice.

AIM FOR MATURITY: BE HUNGRY FOR GROWTH

Maturity in Christ is defined as being able to discern between good and evil, not by your age or the titles that you hold. Practice is key to growing in maturity – we need to train our spiritual senses to be able to differentiate between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). The end goal is to know God and be able to discern what is of God and what is not.

Some ways in which we can train our spiritual senses include:

1. Word intake – Is the Word of God written on your heart? This involves more than surface, superficial reading. Are you able to use it as a tool to discern/dissect the words of others and the information you receive?

2. Prayer– When you pray, are you able to connect with and hear God’s response to your prayer?
3. Altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship – Is there a connection with God?

AVOID COMPROMISE: BE HOLY FOR GOD

The writer was warning the Hebrew believers in Hebrews 6:1–2 not to digress and return to certain Jewish practices as a compromise to avoid persecution from religious and secular authorities. In today’s context, as believers we contend with societal culture where certain beliefs appear to overlap with Christian beliefs – e.g. “Love is Love”, “Freedom to be”, etc.

However, in this common space, Jesus is missing. Here, believers face two types of temptations – firstly, to retreat to this common space to be accepted by society, and secondly to reject the common space to make a statement. Neither of these is ideal – instead, we should try to bring Jesus into that space, to our workplaces and social spaces as well. We need to define common ground against God’s holy standards and benchmarks, not the world’s.

ABIDE IN HIM: BE HUMBLE IN GOD

Hebrews 6:3 contains a caveat that may be confusing to some – “... if God permits”. It might seem strange to think that God may not allow us to grow in maturity or avoid compromise. However, this phrase is not about permission; the writer’s point is to give us a sober reminder about the sovereignty of God and our need for grace.

While we may work to do our part, we need to recognise that it is God who works in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:12). We need to reflect and humble ourselves to seek God, ask for his grace and acknowledge that we cannot achieve anything without Him.

CONCLUSION

Our human nature causes us to fall away from God time and time again. It is a constant battle not to fall away. We cannot become complacent – the writer of Hebrews makes it abundantly clear that everyone is vulnerable without exception. Let’s press in to ensure that we guard our hearts and minds, and follow the three ways outlined in this week’s sermon to avoid falling away.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some examples that you can think of to help you grow in spiritual maturity? How are you training your spiritual senses?

2. Have you faced a situation where your faith was compromised, or you were tempted to compromise to be accepted? How did you deal with it or how did you avoid it?

3. Think about an area in your life where you need God's grace. In the coming week, how can you apply any of the three steps to avoid falling away? What can the cell group do to support you in this effort?