



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Warnings Against Immaturity and Falling Away **SPEAKER** Ps Daniel Foo

THEME Hebrews

DATE 16 & 17 September 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Ps Daniel Foo shares two warnings from Hebrews 5 & 6.

- 1) **Warning against immaturity (Heb 5:11-14)**
Aspire to feed on solid food (Word of God) so that we can grow in discernment.

- 2) **Warning against falling away (Heb 6:4-8)**
Encouraged to persevere so that we do not turn apostate and lose our salvation.

THE TWO WARNINGS

1) Warning Against Immaturity (Hebrews 5:11-14)

The spiritually immature are spiritually stagnant, vulnerable to lies and deception of the evil one, prone to stumble, and fall easily in their faith. They are unable to grasp spiritual truths and are easily offended, living out of an orphan spirit. In order to be spiritually mature, we need to grow in discernment. This means that we need to discern correctly, sense perfectly and perceive accurately. To have discernment is to know what is good (ie. what is of God) versus what is evil (ie. what is of the evil one).

Ps Daniel Foo shares four ways on how to grow in spiritual discernment.

- a) **Partake of the Word (Heb 5:14 - solid food)** – To partake solid food (eg. meat instead of milk or bread), requires us to chew on it. Similarly, we need to read the bible over and over, pondering spiritual truths in order to receive fresh revelation from God. Self-examination is required to determine what we constantly spend time and energy on and what shapes our values-worldviews. Are we influenced more by social media or the 'popular' view instead of biblical truths?

- b) **Regular practice** – Hebrews 5:14 tells us we need to exercise in order to discern good and evil. We need discernment to make wise life choices and understand/differentiate what is cultural, natural and spiritual. We are to cut ties with those who are ungodly, sinners that lure us away from God, and scorners that mock God's Word (Psalm 1:1). Constant practice is needed to sharpen our discernment.

- c) **Check with mentors/mature leaders/competent people.** People who are spiritually matured, experienced and competent can offer wise, sound and godly advice.
- d) **The Word of Truth can only be revealed by the Spirit of Truth.** The KEY is our personal relationship with God.

2) Warning Against Falling Away (Hebrews 6:4-8)

In order to evaluate biblical truths, the whole counsel of God is needed. In other words, we need to interpret based on the bible as a whole.

Ps Daniel Foo shares three principles under the view – *You can Lose your Salvation.*

- a) If we are saved and born again, we must have assurance of salvation. Some examples include - we are children of God (Jn 1:12), have eternal life (Jn 3:16, 5:24, 10:27-29), justified through faith (Rom 5:1, 10:9-10), have no condemnation (Rom 8:1), become the righteousness of God (2Cor 5:21), have the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14).
- b) How we live our lives and serve God are all works. Our lives can be built on the foundation of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw (1Cor 3:11-12). On Judgement Day, each believer's work will go through fire (1 Cor 3:13) and will result in either rewards or losses (1 Cor 3:14-15a). However, if believers did not turn apostate, they are still saved (1 Cor 3:15b)
- c) Apostasy – refers to those once enlightened, but subsequently sin wilfully/deliberately, and ultimately, reject God. These people have hardened hearts and have chosen to fall away from God. They will lose their salvation. (Heb 6:4-6a, 10:26,29, 2Pet 2:20-21, Eze 18)

Our merciful and loving God desires all to repent and live. (Eze 18:23,32). He rejoices with those who accept Him as Lord and Saviour (Luke 10:20). Hence, in order to hold on to our assurance of hope and salvation until the end (Heb 6:11-12), we are to persevere in our walk with God, not to be sluggish but to be diligent to the full assurance of hope until the end (Heb 6:11-12).

CONCLUSION

There are many temptations and influences in the world. In order to stay faithful to God till the end, we need to be spiritually mature and grow in discernment. Ps Daniel Foo shares that we are to hold tightly to God, His Word, and the Holy Spirit, while holding loosely to the things of the world. We need to be plugged into the body-life, repent if we have strayed away, pray for a fresh hunger for the things of God, and guard against falling away by obeying the Word of God.

QUESTIONS

1. Ps Daniel Foo shares four ways on how to grow in spiritual discernment. Share one of the ways that resonated with you and a recent example of how you had applied it in your life.

2. Our lives can be built on the foundation of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw (1Cor 3:11-12). The first three will be purified through fire, while the last three will be burned away. What are you or have you been focused on building your life upon? What is God speaking to you regarding this area?

3. Hebrews 6:4-8 warns against falling away from God as it can cost us our salvation. Share a situation that you are struggling with and pray for one another for repentance / perseverance so that we will be faithful to the end.