

Doubtless Living!

THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE

That you may have certainty!





AUTHENTIC FAITH

The Parable of the Soils (Revisited)

Luke 8:11-15
Hebrew 6:4-6

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Parable of the Soils

Luke 8:11-15

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the seed on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy. Having no root, these believe for a while and fall away in a time of testing. ¹⁴ As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit. ¹⁵ But the seed in the good ground—these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, produce fruit.

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TYPES OF RESPONSE

Luke 8:4-15

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FOUR DIFFERENT RESULTS



Hard

Hear,
do not believe,
are not saved



Shallow

Hear,
"believe"
for a while
but fall
away when
tested



Crowded

Hear,
"sprout,"
choked out
and fail to
produce
mature
fruit



Good

Hear,
receive,
hold fast,
endure &
reproduce

True Believers?

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-6

For many people, that very question calls to mind this perplexing passage from Hebrews.

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⁴ For **it is impossible to renew to repentance those** who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who tasted God's good word and the powers of the coming age, ⁶ and **who have fallen away**. This is because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding him up to contempt.

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

Readers often focus on the underlined words to the exclusion of the very important words in between.

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⁴ For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were **once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who tasted God's good word and the powers of the coming age, ⁶ and who have fallen away. This is because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding him up to contempt.**

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

Does this passage teach that you can lose your salvation?

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When is Repentance Impossible?

1. Once enlightened
2. Tasted the heavenly gift
3. Shared in the Holy Spirit
4. Tasted God's good word
5. Tasted the powers of the coming age

Despite all these things, this person falls away and cannot be renewed to repentance.

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

When is Repentance Impossible?

1. Once enlightened
2. Tasted the heavenly gift
3. Shared in the Holy Spirit
4. Tasted God's good word
5. Tasted the powers of the coming age

Is it possible to have all these blessings and all these experiences and not be saved?

WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

CONSIDER JUDAS ISCARIOT

- Called by Jesus and accompanied Him for over 3-years
- Witnessed countless miracles, heard innumerable sermons
- Empowered by Jesus to heal and cast out demons
- Shared in the benefits of the Holy Spirit's presence
- Tasted the heavenly gift, tasted God's good word, and tasted the powers of the coming age.
- Never believed it, never appropriated it, never made it his own – he tasted but never partook of salvation.
- Never called Jesus "Lord," only master, rabbi or teacher.
- Rejected Jesus, fell away and as a result it was impossible to restore him unto repentance.

Judas was enlightened but not saved.

WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

Enlightenment
vs.
Enlivenment

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⁷ For **the ground that drinks the rain** that often falls on it and that produces vegetation useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and about to be cursed, and at the end will be burned.

What do both fields have in common?

Two different kinds of fields, both exposed to the same "rain"

1. One is faithful and blessed
2. The other is barren and cursed

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

A key characteristic of authentic faith

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HEBREWS 3:14

¹⁴ For **we have become** participants in Christ if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start.

What do you notice about the verb tense, what does that tell us?

Perseverance gives evidence of salvation, the lack of it signifies that it was never there to begin with.

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

The end-result of authentic faith

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HEBREWS 10:14

¹⁴ For by one offering **he has perfected forever** those who are sanctified.

If our faith is authentic, who protects and perfects it and for how long?

If Hebrews 6:6 meant that you could lose your salvation, then why would the same author say this?

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

The guarantor of authentic faith

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HEBREWS 13:20-21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus — the great Shepherd of the sheep — **through the blood of the everlasting covenant,** ²¹ equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

How long does the covenant last?

The eternal covenant, sealed by the blood of Jesus, is not dependent upon us, it is securely dependent upon God.

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

Jesus affirms that covenant promise.

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JOHN 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. **No one will snatch them out of my hand.** ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. **No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**

Who holds our salvation in His hands?

Who can take away our salvation?

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WHAT IS AUTHENTIC FAITH?

Hebrews 6:4-8

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ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES

- I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that **he is able to guard what has been entrusted** to me until that day. (2 Tim 1:12)
- I am sure of this, that **he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:6)
- For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is **not from yourselves; it is God's gift** — not from works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Many people “believe” about Jesus but do not believe in Him – they have been enlightened but not enlivened and transformed.
- True believers have genuinely accepted Christ and have been transformed by His grace making them eager to follow Him.
- All true believers endure to the end – perseverance is evidence that we are truly saved, the lack of it signifies one never was.
- Endurance – preserved by the power of God – is demonstrative of salvation and the hallmark of authenticity.
- The heart of a true believer is fertile soil, having received the Spirit it then reproduces Spiritual fruit with perseverance and endurance.