

Hebrews 6:1 Again, anytime there is a "Therefore" in a statement (13) it refers back to what was spoken about. So this "therefore" points back to the reprimand, just given, about growing in the faith. These Christians had accepted Christ much earlier but were stuck at the Jesus Christ is Lord phase.

Hebrews 6:1-3 (paraphrasing) "Ok, Jesus is Lord, you have repented of your former life and you are now born again. You understand that you will see the resurrection and will not face the eternal judgement that faces non-believers. So MOVE ON! THERE IS SO MUCH MORE!"

Hebrews 6:4-6 As a matter of fact you are now at crucial point where, if you don't grow, you could fall away. New believers have "tasted" God's grace, "shared" (gotten a taste of) the power of the Holy Spirit, and even "tasted" God's living Word and the glory that awaits believers but that's just the first step. Now it is time to "root" yourself in God's Word / God's truth so that you don't return to being lost. In other words, you have taken the first step of faith now keep stepping (church, Bible study, fellowship with other believers, asking questions of God and strong fellow believers) and the Holy Spirit will start firmly rooting you and securing you in Christ. (handout: Matthew 13:18-23).

Hebrews 6:6 (another note): New believers when they are on fire for the Lord are a beautiful testimony on what Jesus in a person's life can do to transform a person. But, when they slide back in to their old life or worse, actually do more harm to the name of Jesus than if they had never been saved. - Ravi Zacharias, Jimmy Swaggert, Jim Baker, etc.

Hebrews 6:7-8 Think of the "rain" as God's Word and the "land" as our lives. When we absorb God's Word it produces fruit in our lives, when we reject it, it just creates a sloppy mess that is of absolutely no value.

Hebrews 6:9-10 Of course God puts some "safety nets" in our lives so that our salvation is more sure to us by reminding us as we grow that God notices our motivations and pure hearts as we help others both in times of need and especially in our testimony to others of what Christ has done for us.

Hebrews 6:11-12 Don't get lazy, be patient, and have patience! (14)

Hebrews 6:13-15 Abraham is a perfect example of an imperfect person, who actually caused roadblocks in God's plan yet here we are told that Abraham was blessed because he waited patiently. Not according to how I read the Scriptures! But then again my opinion is as worthless as a \$3 bill. Here we are told that Abraham's faith was so beautiful to God that God swore upon Himself to bless Abraham. This is known as an unconditional covenant. And exactly like God sees Abraham, He sees us when we give it our best effort by faith!

The writer of Hebrews is trying to tell us, in the last 14 verses that all that matters is that we don't become complacent or lazy. That we try to walk in faith. That we try to look back only to see how far God has brought us and that we otherwise strive forward seeking His plan for our lives; by faith that He has a plan. It is also comforting to know that God looks at our successes in Christ and seems to not see our failures, why? Because He can not see what has been covered by the blood of Christ!

Rabbit Hole warning: "Sometimes Helping God out, hurts us"

In Abraham's case there were several times when he did things that were unbelief riddled, or just plain lacking in faith. (1) For example when God said, "Get up, leave your family, and leave for a place that I will show you he took Lot. Lot ended up causing Abraham some grief. (2) When God had told Abraham not to go to Egypt Abraham restrained himself until a famine came and then he decided to journey down there which led to him (3) lying about Sarah being his wife and she was quickly taken into the harem of Pharaoh's then God intervened and Sarah was returned to Abraham (4) They left Egypt but not before taking with them Egyptian Goods and a maid for Sarah called Hagar. Of course Sarah thinking that God had forgot His promise told Abraham to go ahead and have a child by Hagar that he could call his heir, this boy was called (5) Ishmael (Ishmael would become the father of the Israel hating Muslim and Arab nations). Of course Sarah's intervening in God's plan caused (6) Hagar and Sarah to have

trouble with one another since Hagar gave him a son (15) and Sarah was barren. God was not happy with Abraham and

Sarah helping him out so he told Abraham to send her and the boy away which (7) hurt Abraham because he loved the boy. At the ripe old age of nearly 100 (99 I believe) Sarah became pregnant with Isaac and to make sure that Abraham's faith had not wavered God asked Abraham to (8) sacrifice Isaac. Isaac would grow up and marry Rebecca and things were going great until Isaac took a page from the old family book and wandered down to Egypt and tried his hand at lying to the people and telling them that Rebecca was his sister. So (9) Rebecca was also introduced to a harem life style. After God's once again undoing the work done by "helping hands" they had two boys, twins, Esau came out first Jacob second. God said the younger (Jacob) would rule over the older (Esau). To insure that was the case (10) Jacob conned the birthright away at the cost of a bowl of stew. When the time came to make good on the birthright, since Isaac was up there in the years and mostly blind, he told Rebecca to get Esau so that he could (11) bless him (Not what God had said!). Rebecca and Jacob (12) + (13) swindled Isaac into blessing Jacob. This caused (14) Esau to hate Jacob and (15) Jacob to flee. Of course (16) Rebecca passed away and would never see Jacob again. Jacob would grow up and when he was of age he found the love of his life and (17) met a man who was his equal in all things that had to do with deception. His name was Laban. Laban promised his daughter Rachel to Jacob in exchange for 7 years labor. After 7 years Laban slipped (18) Leah into his tent and so it would be another 7 years work to get Rachel. (19) Leah and Rachel although sisters had constant strife because Leah was popping out kids like a Pez dispenser and Rachel was barren. When finally Rachel had a boy (Joseph) all things would seem to be finally "all good". But unfortunately (20) Leah's boys hated their younger brother because it was prophesied that he would rule over them so they plotted to kill him or (21) eventually sell him. (22) This grieved Jacob almost to the point of