

Hebrews 4:14 – 6:8

(Challenges to studying Hebrews)

- Old Testament references/background
- Subject matter
- Warnings and commands

“Hold Firmly to the Faith We Profess”

But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:1-4

- **Fear**

4:1 “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”

4:12, 13 “For the word of God is alive and active. (living and powerful NKJ) Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account”.

- **Draw Near**

4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NAS)

2:1 **We must pay the most careful attention**, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

4: 11 **Let us make every effort...**

4:14 ... **let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.**

6:1 **Let us press on to maturity...**

6:11 ...**show this same diligence to the very end...**

10:23 **Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

12:1,2 ...**Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...**

Problems they were having with persevering/enduring/maturing:

5:11 "We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand/you have become dull of hearing"

5:12 "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness."

5:14 "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

6:4-6 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

6:7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned."