



Remain Loyal | Part Two

Lesson Seven • Hebrews 10:26-31

Confidence to Enter into God's Holy Presence Is Shown by Taking Bold Action to REMAIN LOYAL as New Covenant Believer-Priests!

What's the Big Idea?

The person who **FALLS AWAY** from the faith is sure to **FALL INTO** the fiery judgment of the living God!

Two Initial Questions that Must Be Answered to Remain Loyal

- **What Is the Sin in This Warning?** *It is the deliberate, persistent sin of APOSTASY.*
- **How Does This Persistent, Deliberate Sin of Apostasy Happen?** *Apostasy is a SLOW FADE.*

THE PROGRESSION, PUNISHMENT, AND PATTERN OF A "SLOW FADE" INTO APOSTASY IN THE WARNING PASSAGES IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

The PROGRESSION of the Warning Passages **INCREASES**

Apostasy is a **slow fade** that is **fueled by a variety of obstacles** we face in the race to the finish of our faith!

The Five Warning Passages Follow the Progression of a "Slow Fade" into Apostasy				
NEGLECTING <i>The Danger of DRIFTING</i> Hebrews 2:1-4	HARDENING <i>The Danger of DISTRUSTING</i> Hebrews 3:1-4:13	STAGNATING <i>The Danger of DELAYING</i> Hebrews 5:11-6:20	FORSAKING <i>The Danger of DEPARTING</i> Hebrews 10:19-39	REFUSING <i>The Danger of DEFYING</i> Hebrews 12:1-29
APOSTATIZING – The Danger of DENYING FAITH in the THREE-IN-ONE GOD				

The PUNISHMENT of the Warnings **INTENSIFIES**

In **4th Warning Passage** it is the frightening certainty of the fierce fire that comes from falling into the hands of the living God and in the **5th Warning Passage** it is the frightening shaking of heaven and earth so that all that is left is the eternal, unshakable kingdom of God and His Son!

The PATTERN of the Warnings Is **INSTRUCTIVE**

The Five Warning Passages Provide a Pattern for Pastoral Exhortation of Potential Apostates				
DESCRIPTION of Those Who Fall Away Potential Apostates	NATURE of This Falling Away The Apostasy	CONSEQUENCES of This Falling Away God's Judgment on the Apostates and Their Apostasy	EXHORTATION to Persevering Faith The Response of Perseverance and Refusal to Apostatize	REASSURANCE of Their Persevering Faith and God's Faithfulness The Proof of True Believers Is God's Faithfulness to Preserve Them with a Persevering Faith

Two Critical Questions that Must Be Answered to Remain Loyal

1. Who Is Being Warned Not to **COMMIT** This Apostasy?

"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth...But we are not those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul." Hebrews 10:26, 39

- Who has **already committed** the sin of apostasy in the Book of Hebrews?
NO ONE yet...except—perhaps—those who have already made it a habit of forsaking the assembling of themselves (10:24-25)!
- Who is **being warned** to **not commit** the sin of apostasy in the Book of Hebrews?

FOUR BASIC VIEWS: WHO IS BEING WARNED About WHAT and WHY?

BASIC VIEW	WHO IS BEING ADDRESSED?	WHAT IS the SIN WARNED AGAINST?	WHAT IS the JUDGMENT ADMINISTERED?
View #1 LOSS of SALVATION	True Believers	Apostasy <i>Falling Away from the Salvation They Once Possessed</i>	Loss of the Salvation They Once Had <i>Eternal Judgment</i>
View #2 LOSS of REWARDS	True Believers	Immaturity Even to "Apostasy" <i>Falling Away from Fruitfulness and Even the Faith Yet Still Saved</i> <i>Allows for...</i> <i>Followers Who Don't Follow and Forsake the Faith</i> <i>Believers Who Don't Believe and Blaspheme the Lord</i> <i>Disciples Who Defy Their Master and Deny the Gospel ...Yet Are Still Saved</i>	Loss of Temporal Blessings <i>They Could Have Enjoyed</i> Loss of Eternal Rewards <i>They Could Have Earned</i> Suffering Parental Discipline <i>in This Life or the Millennial Kingdom</i>
View #3 TEST of GENUINENESS/ (SALVATION)	False Believers with Temporary Faith <i>Mixed Audience Emphasized</i>	Apostasy <i>Falling Away from the Salvation They Professed But Never Actually Possessed as Proven by Their Falling Away</i>	Prove to Be Unbelievers <i>Eternal Judgment</i>
View #4 MEANS of SALVATION/ (PERSEVERANCE)	True Believers with Persevering Faith <i>Mixed Audience Recognized</i>	Apostasy <i>Falling Away from the Salvation the Author Believes They Actually Possess, Which Provides the Divine Preservation and Enables the Diligent Perseverance Required to Finish the Race to Final Salvation</i>	Prove to Be Believers <i>Eternal Life</i> <i>Rather Than Eternal Judgment</i>

Observations:

- 1) There are **other views** but these are main ones and are presented here in a **very simplified** way.
- 2) There are **theological systems** that undergird and shape each of these views.
- 3) **Views #1 and #2** are the **simplest to explain and understand** but lack the support of the rest of Scriptures. Yet they have the advantage of taking the descriptions of those being addressed in the warning passages at face value as **being true believers**.
- 4) **Views #3** is **harder to prove** from the Book of Hebrews, because it does **not** take the descriptions of those being addressed in the warning passages at face value and **sees them as false believers** who fall short of being true believers. But it is **consistent** with the rest of Scripture that clearly teaches **both** eternal security **and** the reality of "temporary" faith.
- 5) **Views #4** is **harder to understand** but it seeks to take the descriptions of those being addressed in the Book of Hebrews at face value and **sees them as true believers**, who are eternally secure but need to persevere by taking the warnings about apostasy seriously and responding with an obedient persevering faith.
- 6) **Views #3 and #4** take seriously **THE TENSION** about salvation being secure, organic, and dynamic (past, present, future) as revealed throughout the New Testament.

"who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:5

View #1 addresses this tension between God's power and our persevering faith by making our salvation ultimately depend on the perseverance of **OUR** faith!

View #2 addresses this tension by **ELIMINATING** the need to persevere in our faith and teaching that faith is a past decision that once made causes God's power to kick in, so that we no longer have to persevere in a faith that obeys the Lord or even a faith in the Lord at all!

Views #3 and #4 address this tension by making our salvation ultimately depend on **GOD'S** power which enables us to persevere in our faith!

- 7) The major difference between **Views #3 and #4** is **HOW they see those being addressed** and **HOW the warning passages are intended to function**.
- 8) Every view has **difficulties that are hard to overcome**, so the issue is which view has the **LEAST** difficulties and **BEST** explains the warning passages in the context of the Book of Hebrews **and** the entire Bible.

View #1 struggles with the **SOVEREIGNTY of God's power** and the **SECURITY** of His promises.

View #2 struggles with the **SEVERITY of God's judgment** as described in the warning passages.

View #3 struggles with the **SALVATION descriptions** of the hearers in the warning passage of Hebrews 6:4-6.

View #4 struggles with the **SERIOUSNESS of the warnings** for true believers who cannot fall into apostasy and will surely persevere in the faith to the end. Why warn them about what will never actually happen?

But **View #4** does a **sufficient job** of **avoiding** the difficulties of the other views, while **answering** the main difficulty with its own interpretation.

- It affirms the **sovereignty of God's power and the security of His promises** throughout the Bible as well as the promises of New Covenant salvation in the Book of Hebrews.
- It affirms the **severity of God's judgment** as described in the warning passages and the logic of the "lesser-to-greater" arguments of the author.
- It affirms the **salvation descriptions** of the hearers as described in the warning passage of Hebrews 6:4-6.
- It addresses the **seriousness of the warnings** for true believers who cannot fall away into apostasy and will surely persevere in the faith to the end by the biblical truth that God is a God of **MEANS AND ENDS**.

As Believer-Priests...OBEY the WARNINGS to REMAIN LOYAL by Persevering in Your Faith in Our Great High Priest and His New Covenant Salvation, Knowing This Is One of the Ways God Uses to Keep Us Eternally Secure by His Power!