



COMMUNION SERIES ON HEBREWS:
THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST
AND CHRISTIANITY

*When
Familiarity
Must Not
Breed Contempt*

Hebrews 5:11–6:12



Message Guide | October 4, 2020

When Familiarity Must Not Breed Contempt

Today's Message (04 October 2020) / Hebrews 5:11–6:12

Familiarity breeds contempt? When it comes to God and His Word, God forbid! The stakes are too high.

Sometimes familiarity breeds contempt. That's an observation of fallen human nature that even Jesus acknowledged when He said "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household"(Mark 6:4). But one area where such "familiarity" is eternally dangerous is regarding God and His Word. Those who fail to continue with Christ, our passage says, perhaps never started with Him at all, and are eternally lost.

But how shall we know? How can you know for yourself? Our passage gives us guidelines how you can be certain about yourself:

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 HAVE WE BECOME DULL OF HEARING? CRAVE MATURITY

THE SITUATION THEN: Some believers had started to disregard the Word ("dull of hearing") and were not maturing as they should ("you need milk, not solid food").

THE SOLUTION TODAY: Abhor dullness, and crave discernment. Desire both knowledge and application of the deeper doctrines.

Hebrews 6:4-6 ARE YOU TEMPTED TO FALL AWAY? CONSIDER ETERNITY

THE SITUATION THEN: Professing believers were tempted to fall away. They were warned to seriously ponder the genuineness of their faith.

THE SOLUTION TODAY: 2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves". Those who really belong, never leave. Those who permanently leave, never really started. To reiterate: we are not saved because we persist, but we persist because we *are* saved (Colossians 1:21-23).

When Familiarity Must Not Breed Contempt

Today's Message (04 October 2020) / Hebrews 5:11–6:12

Hebrews 6:9-12 ARE YOU PLAGUED BY FEAR? CONTINUE MINISTRY

THE SITUATION THEN: The writer assured them that the proof of a heart changed by salvation is the desire to serve: “God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints”.

THE SOLUTION TODAY: “We desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end... imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises”

Final Thoughts:

Familiarity breeds contempt? When it comes to God and His Word, God forbid! The stakes are too high. “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:7-8).

As we observe Communion today, if this passage assures you of the undeserved salvation we received through Christ, may it lead you to greater love for Him, the very reason for this ordinance. If this passage makes you consider eternity so you turn to Christ in repentance over sin and faith in Him, then we rejoice with God for you, for the gift of eternal life you received today. May you join us in every Communion from hereon! ■

GROUP/FAMILY Discussion Questions

1. How does Hebrews describe the spiritually mature (Heb. 5:14)? Based on this criterion, how would you know you are maturing spiritually? How are you doing personally in this aspect?
2. Can a genuine Christian lose salvation? Can you give just one verse that assures us that you cannot?
3. What is one clear proof of a genuinely saved heart, according to the passage (Heb. 6:10)? What ministry, whether inside the church or outside it, are you personally involved in?
4. Request the head of the family (or facilitator of the group) to pray for each one, that their lives will each show proof of genuine salvation and belonging to Christ. Any mistake in this area is just too fatal to take for granted.

HAVE YOU AWAKENED TO THE WAKEUP CALL?

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself why the pandemic started or why this lockdown goes on and on? It's presumptuous to claim to know the mind of God. Even more presumptuous to say for certain that God "caused" all of this. But it is safe to say that if God permitted this, He has a reason. A reason that covers those who do not belong to him. And a reason relating to his very own children.

If you are reading this you are most likely a believer in Christ. What could be one possible reason God allowed all of this to affect His

children? I'll propose one: God wants believers to awaken to their responsibility of telling people the Good News! Why am I so sure? Because every believer has been commissioned, and there are no exceptions (Matthew 28:18-20). And sadly we must admit that the church globally has been sleeping on the job. Many churches and small groups have become so good at fellowship but have forgotten the urgency of evangelism. So here is the wakeup call: speak about Christ and His salvation without shame or apology to others. Time is running out. For all of us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS MINISTRY

With the addition of BPI we have completed the list of your most requested channels for giving your offerings. When the lockdown started six months ago, many of you gave me a wish list of banks and other channels (GCash, PayMaya). All I did was give this to our hardworking Admin and Finance team headed by Aleks Tan. Praise God they got the job done!

Now there are still some of you hesitant to try these electronic channels. We understand.

There is a locked offering box near the lobby guard that is sealed and opened periodically while witnessed and under CCTV. So if you choose to drop your offering there, it is safe. Again, thank you for your love for God and His ministry.

At a time when many people and businesses are struggling, it is so encouraging to see that your continuing offering is proof of your faith in God's provision and care for you personally.

NOT YET BUT NEARLY THERE

A month ago I expressed the wish that our Communion today would be live at GCF. It still isn't the time. The President extended GCQ till the end of October, so we moved the target date to reopen the church (at 10% of seating capacity as allowed for GCQ) to October 25, because of the strong possibility

of MGCQ by November 1. We initially thought October 1 would be already be MGCQ, but since this was moved to November, the scheduled reopening was shifted accordingly. Please continue to pray with us for wisdom about God's timing for reopening. ■

CHURCH UPDATES

ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Church members can visit election.gcf.org.ph for information and updates, or email election@gcf.org.ph for specific queries

BELONGING (Midweek Series): *Listening As A Gift*

October 7 (Wed), 6:30 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVestream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. on Facebook at [@GCFKidsLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/GCFKidsLIFE)

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. via Zoom

OPEN HEARTS GROWTH GROUP

Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m., via Zoom, with Elder Sherwin and Margie Chua

GCF SMALL GROUP TRAINING AND PRECEPT PHILIPPINES

An Inductive Bible Study on Mark 7-13

October 11 (Sundays), 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **Metrobank** (Ortigas Sapphire Branch)
Savings Account 000661590216 Savings Account 629-3-62919733-9
- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**
Savings Account 1112-02006218 (Scan QR code below)
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
- **Robinsons Bank** (Main Office Branch)
Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**
(Ortigas Emerald Branch)
Peso Savings Account
Account name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.
Account No.: 9823 0217 01



CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL

Please visit www.gcf.org.ph/give for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to finance@gcf.org.ph so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



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