



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

How is your spiritual growth?

Greater Than Priests & Kings, 1 of 3, March 10th, 2024

"Jesus' gentle sympathy with us grows our faith to enrich our neighbors."

Hebrews 5:11-6:12 by Michael Lockstampfor (@miklocks)

[\[https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/greater-than-priests-and-kings-1-how-is-your-spiritual-growth\]](https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/greater-than-priests-and-kings-1-how-is-your-spiritual-growth)

PLEASE NOTE: transcript is generated automatically and may not be completely accurate.

[Music]

We'll see if I can remember how to do this the last a few if you want to sign up for the newsletter It's on the back of your prayer card. You don't need that. All right It's been four weeks since we've been together,

so we'll see if I remember how this goes Such a blessing for y'all to be able to hear Pastor Ryan share. When we started 10 years ago,

he was regularly teaching all the time. And we had shifted, and now I was good for the first time, for many of you to get to hear him give kind of an extended teaching,

and Malachi is just so rich. So really excited to be that we were blessed by that. that we're gonna dip back into some of y'all remember we had set up a long-term project where we're gonna work through the book of Hebrews over a year and a half or so and it's been three months since we've talked about Hebrews so we're gonna step back into that series but if this is your first time or your it's been a minute

since you've been around we're gonna catch you up this will all make sense so have you ever had the experience where you're having difficulty listening because you already know what somebody is going to say?

I used to do a lot of irrigation work. I was in a landscaping company and do some irrigation work and I had done just enough installations to know what my boss was going to say about the installation I had to work on,

right? And so he's taught me a lot about irrigation work and he's taught me a lot about and I've already figured, I'm toned out, I'm just getting the parts out of the, yeah, boss, whatever, yeah, mm-hmm, cool. And he's like, all right, if you're good, I'm good. And then he leaves.

And he calls me about two hours later, he says, how's it going? I'm like, what do you mean, how's it going? This is impossible, blah, blah, blah, he said, well, did you X? No, why would I do that? He's like, that's exactly what I told you when you were putting parts together on the chart.

I'm like, but that's not what I'm talking about. Like how we've ever done it before. He's like, yeah, that's why I told you to do it differently. He's like, well, I thought this was just like every other job. I thought this was easy. He's like, that's why I told you that this was a little bit more complicated and you should do it this way.

And if you do it this way, it'll actually save you about an hour's worth of work. And he's like, I was like, oh, I guess, I guess maybe I didn't know what it was that you were going to say.

And I think sometimes, I mean, mean, I could pick on teenagers, I'm not going to do that. I think all of us have that tendency where we tune out because we already think we know what somebody's going to say.

And the danger is when we get into that kind of a relationship with God, where we come in and we are pretty sure when we open up our Bible and we're pretty sure what God's going to say to us,

or we flip open our Bible and we're pretty sure what God's going to say to us, or we flip open our Bible that passage we are in our Bible reading plan and we get to John chapter 3. I'm like, I get it. God loves the world. Got it. All right, and and like we just move past it because because we think we already know what it is. That God's gonna say to us,

which is okay. Like it's okay to be familiar with the word. However. This is gonna bother me the whole day. I can tell already. Hmm. However. However,

where we get into danger is when we get tired. When we're feeling a little bit discouraged. When we've been in church off and on for decades and basically the same thing happens every week and the last time I had a life changing Sunday was like 20 years ago and so I'm like I'm here it's day like savings time I made it on time now we're coming around to 11 so you guys you guys need to be kind to the folks who

come in at 11 like be just give them a smile they'll figure it out don't be mean you're saying I got here on time on daylight savings time and that's that's what I got the when we come back into Hebrews we need to remember that these were a discouraged people the author is writing to a people who were discouraged.

They had started following Jesus, they had started going to church, they had started doing the right things, but as they did that, it actually increased criticism from their neighbors. The more that they got right with God,

the more hostility they got from the people that they were living around. They had lost their jobs over it. Some of them had lost their property, it had been confiscated in some way,

and so they're just out of place where they're just growing up. Weary. They're like, Jesus, I was trying to follow you, but it didn't work out the way the guy on TV said it was gonna work out. Like I bought in,

I called the toll free number and it seems like things have gotten harder. And so I'm not saying you're not real, I'm not saying I'm against you, I'm just saying I'm real tired. And when we get tired,

we just kind of drift back into the way that we've always done things. We go back to that natural way that we grew up. Operating within our family they come they

come to church and they know that Jesus is supposed to be their comfort like you know the question that any any preacher asks you a question you can pretty much get away with saying Jesus Jesus is almost always the answer right and they're like Jesus is

the end well how do you get encouragement Jesus how do you get comfort Jesus I get it okay but they they they know but they cannot hear hear. They know what he's gonna say,

and they cannot hear the life-giving comfort that Jesus is trying to offer to them, because they've already decided that they know what he's gonna say. And so that's where we open up again.

But before we do that, I'll invite you to pray together with me one more time. Well, not one more time, but another time. So our habit together to pray the disciples prayer, the words are on the screen. screen if you'd like to pray out loud and I'd love it if you do that but at the very least let's bow our hearts and let's pray together the way that Jesus taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

We're going to pick up this day today in Hebrews chapter 5 verse 11, and I'm gonna turn there to Hebrews chapter 5 verse 11 But before we do that like this is this is real simple like we're starting in chapter 5 Which which should tell you that there were four chapters of content before that and so rather than just jump in I'm gonna try and give you a summary a summary of the big ideas,

one little paragraph to cover four chapters worth of material. So I'm not going to hit everything, but I think I'm going to hit some of the main ideas. And if you have the app and you've got the sermon notes in the app,

it's already there in there for you. You can take it home with you. If you don't have that, I can give you my paper after I'm done with it. So, Hebrews 1 through 5 says something like this. "There are so many places to look for spiritual guidance.

There are so many places to look for spiritual guidance. Even the Bible is difficult to completely master. But the good news is that God has definitively shown us what he is like by sending Jesus.

Jesus is completely sympathetic to with all the challenges and difficulties of human life because he became fully human. Incredibly,

though, he's more than just a great guy. He's the single greatest authority in all of creation. It may not always seem like it, but every spiritual entity,

angelic, demonic, human, every spiritual entity answers to Jesus. Jesus. He then uses His power and His authority to care for the greatest needs of people who trust Him.

So we should continue to surrender our lives to Him even when we feel like life only gets harder when we follow Him. He is worthy and He will help. So that's 1-3-4 five,



and then we pick up in verse 11, okay? This is going to be a little bit heavy, but hang with me. Verse 11, "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.

You need milk." milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have, by their powers of discernment, trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity.

Not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works. and of faith towards God and of instruction about washing the laying on of hands the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment and this we will do if God permits.

We'll pause there. There's a lot in this passage in this group of verses to kind of unpack and we're gonna spend most of our time together this morning looking at some principles from from this section of the text we're gonna continue reading,

but we're going to focus in here. So if I get to the end, I'm like, "All right, one more point." You're like, "Oh my gosh, we got to do all of this three times more?" Like the other points are shorter, so it'll be fine. You'll love it.

I promise you'll love it. So first, he's given a correction of folks that have become hard of hearing, dull of hearing. They already know what it is that God's going to say,

and so they're not willing to listen to any encouragement that he might give them. Jesus's gentle sympathy with us grows our faith to enrich our neighbors.

So these guys these guys have heard it all and they're pretty sure they know what it is that God's gonna do. Now there's something that's really really beautiful here and I just want to show it to you real quick.

There's actually six basic principles of Christianity. If six principles here. So in verse 12, 512, it says,

"You need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the Oracles of God." But then in chapter 6 verse 2, he gives a list. Like this list is like the basics of Christianity.

If you want to know Christianity 101, these are six things that everything else grows out of. And this would be a great, each of these things could be a whole sermon. Are we excited about that? And and and maybe they will be.

I'm height, but can either confirm nor deny that in September I might go through all six of these things, but for the time being I just want to show you that they're there. The first is repentance, repentance from dead works.

Like the first thing we got to realize is the thing that we're doing ain't working. If I'm going through life and everything's going great I've got no need for Jesus, but the day that I realized that the works that I'm doing,

the life that I'm living is actually making me miserable and it's not giving me community and fellowship with life, then I need to stop that and turn and do something different.

I need to, the Bible word is repent, turn around, repent from dead works. The works I'm doing now are dead and they're not making me closer with God, so I'm gonna stop doing those and I'm gonna turn and do something different.

Repentance from dead works and... faith. I trust in Jesus. Jesus is the only way to salvation. He's really clear about that. And so when we turn and stop striving to make God love us and we just realize he already has fully through his son,

we say, I trust that. More than I trust my ability to do it right on Monday. Right? And then you've got the instructions of washings. Now, I'm just,

there's a lot of... of debate on the instructions of washings I'm just gonna I'm gonna lean in to two things and point out two things Basic Christianity like the way that you get in is by baptism Which could be described as a washing and and the other like basic washing that I think we celebrate and we will celebrate as part of our communion celebration on Good Friday is is foot washing so you've got the instructions

about washing, a baptism of following the ceremony, and then you've got the one that's re -upt or continued, which is foot washing. Now I'm reading in between the lines, all it says is washing,

but if you've got a better idea, I'd be glad to hear it. So, okay, so faith, repentance from dead works, faith in Jesus, instructions in washing, and then prayer,

and not just prayer for me, but prayer for others. the laying on of hands. I'm not just praying for my own needs, I'm not just asking God to heal me, I'm laying on hands and I'm praying for other people,

I'm interceding for other people as a basic tenet of Christianity. And then resurrection, the hope of resurrection, the hope that this is not all there is and that there's something to look forward to and there's something to celebrate.

We have the hope of resurrection. to eternal judgment. It's there.

And you could take that one of two ways. Eternal judgment is like, oh, you're being so judgy, everything I do is wrong. But judgments don't have to be bad.

I could judge you and say, "Yeah, you're a pretty good dude. You got it all together." And if we've done the other steps, and God does what He says He's gonna do, which is He's gonna look at those who have repented from dead works and put their faith in Jesus and look at them and go,

"You look a whole lot like my son. He's perfect. You can come on with me." That's a good judgment. So I said eternal judgment, but it's an eternal judgment. binding judgment.

There's a point where a decision is made and that's eternally binding for good or for bad. These are six basic principles that define and shape somebody who has surrendered to Christ.

This is your preschool. You want your ABCs? Here's six ABCs. We got it. Let me pause. this is not my nose. If that's new, if any of that is new or confusing to you,



I would love to have a deeper conversation. Please don't wait until September. Come and ask me, hey, what is this thing that you're talking about? Because I would love to introduce you to Jesus if those things are new to you.

So that's the basics, that's there. (audio cuts out) First, before I forget, okay? Because there's some hard things. Because it's about this, we have much... to say and it's hard to explain Since you have become dull of hearing you stopped up your ears.

You're not listening anymore For by this time you want to be teachers You need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God you need milk not solid food for everyone Who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness since he is a child But solid food is for the mature for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

So here's spiritual maturity, like these are the basics. What are we trying to push onto? What's the next step? What's 201, what's 301,

what's 401? Spiritual maturity corresponds with a mastery of the word. He says if we're not just talking about the basics, he's saying if you have a power of discernment, a mastery of the word Everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness If if we want if we want to have a faithful and a full and complete understanding We're not going to find it anywhere other than the word We we can go to

God with sincere hearts and we can beg him God Will you reveal yourself to me? Would you show me something new? Would you give me revelation?" And that's a good prayer to have as long as you realize He's already said a whole lot of stuff.

And maybe He's already answered the prayer that you have. And maybe He's already given you some wisdom. In fact, maybe there's whole books of this Bible that are just devoted to God's wisdom.

And you're just like, "God, would you give me wisdom?" He's like, "Read it!" Spiritual maturity corresponds with mastery of the word. However, academics is not the key.

What does he say? Solid food is for the mature. Those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to discern good from evil. Mastery of the word is evidenced by practice of the word.

I'm afraid we might have too many Christians in the world who can explain the doctrine of sanctification and not show Jesus's compassion to somebody who's just starting out.

Master the word, evidence by practice of the word. Word. I want you to know about Jesus, but if your understanding of doctrine doesn't lead you to live a life like Jesus,

then you've wasted your time. Mastery of the Word is evidenced by practice of the Word. I want you to know that you want to love your neighbor.

More than that, I want you to love your neighbor. It's not enough for us to just know the stuff and we gotta start with knowing the stuff.



You're not gonna do anything you don't know. Like I can probably count on one hand the number of times that I did the right thing without knowing it was the right thing. But if I know it, then I practice it.

If Jesus is washing Judas' feet, feet and then giving him a kiss while he runs out to betray him, then maybe I could have just a little bit more patience for those people that just don't quite get it.

Mastery of the Word is evidenced by practice of the Word. So first, where do we look for spiritual growth? We're like, "I really want to grow. I want to grow." Where do we look for spiritual growth?

Do we look to the Word of righteousness? Because... Because spiritual maturity corresponds with a mastery of the word, but then are we reading to practice? I'm not good at cooking.

Jesse will disagree. She says I'm great. She's so kind. I love her so much. I can cook. I need a recipe. I need a recipe and I need all the ingredients into the house to correspond precisely to the ingredients on the recipe.

I cannot substitute. If you wanted something different there, put that on the list. And I can follow a recipe step by step. However,

I will read the whole recipe every time I take a step. Because I read differently. I read differently for information than I read for practice.

If it doesn't... If it doesn't matter what it tastes like, then I can read it once and wing it. And some of us are gifted, and they can wing it,

and it tastes fine. And some of us are challenged, and we wing it, and it's all a mess. So are we reading for practice,

are we reading for obedience, are we are we building a life out of the instruction? and the wisdom that God is giving to us? Because Jesus's gentle sympathy grows our faith to enrich our neighbors.

Jesus's gentle sympathy grows our faith. He's able to sympathize with our weakness because he has been human. Yeah, I'll tell you that.

Because he has been just as fully human as we are. However, it doesn't stop there, like scroll back up. up. So verse 11, "About this we have much to say,

it is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing for by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God." The criticism is it's not that you don't have the information,

you have the information, but you can't listen to anything. And the way that I know that you're not listening is you're not sharing. You ought to be a teacher, you ought to be a teacher. teaching. You ought to,

and not teaching in a, like I'm just gonna give people information, but you ought to be teaching by the way that you're living. Like if you're practicing, you're taking people along and saying, I don't know how this thing works,

but I'm gonna try it and you can practice with me. Our spiritual growth, our spiritual growth, my personal spiritual growth, I'm not the primary beneficiary of.

I'm not the one who benefits the most and I get benefits. I like feeling peace with God, but the people that have to live with me are more beneficiary or more beneficiaries.

Is that the right word? Yeah, this is the same thing. Our spiritual growth should enrich the lives of others. If I'm being reshaped to the image of Jesus, then the people who live in my house with me should feel like they're living more and more with somebody who is...

Jesus. "Our spiritual growth should enrich the lives of others. "We should not just be acquiring more information "and having more practice and being a better person "for the sake of being a better person,

"like it should bless other people. "We ought to be teachers." Here's the thing. thing. Salvation is great,

like faith in Jesus, repentance from dead works, like that is a necessary start of faith. We must, we must surrender our hearts to Jesus. It's essential.

However, I'm afraid that we don't think that if I surrender to an invading army, I'm no longer, I'm not going to be in their captivity. Like,

sometimes the way that we approach Jesus we're like, hey, I surrender, white flag, Jesus, you can have my heart, but then I'm gonna go back over here and I'm gonna take up arms against you again. I'm gonna keep living the way that I was before. Like,

if we come to the front lines and say, Jesus, I surrender, you may have all of me, then we should expect to be taken captive by him. Our lives should look complete completely different from the way they did when we were opposed to God.

We're now friends with God. We're children of God. He calls us His own, His family. Salvation is the starting line of life with Jesus,

but we should expect continuous captivity to the one that we have surrendered to. We should expect for Him to hold us. So how?

are others being blessed by our growing walk with Jesus? Chapter 6,

verse 1, let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity. Chapter 6, verse 3, and this we will do.

if God permits." As I've talked, you've thought, "Man, I just got to try harder. I got to wake up earlier, and I got to pray more,

and I got to read the Word, and I got to know, like, I got to grow, I got to do it, I got to button down, I got to..." Don't miss this. Let us leave aside the un-introduction,

go on to maturity, and this we will do if God permits. permits Like know that you're not just executing a checklist, but you're walking with somebody who is helping you to grow If you can do it by yourself don't Moses is a gifted leader and He had people he had he had people following him for years and years and years and God says I'm not going with you You can have all that of my blessings.

You can have a home. You can have riches. You can have a good life. You can go over there and have a good life. I'm not going with you. He said I don't want it. I don't want it. If you're not going I won't go. And so if I can press on to maturity,

if I can if I can know more about the word and I can practice more about the word by myself, I shouldn't. Unless God goes with me. Unless God is paving the way.

Unless Jesus is drawing me and inviting me, because Philippians, as we read together this morning, Philippians chapter 2 verses 12 through 16 says our spiritual growth is ultimately God's.

He's the one who's growing in us. It is by his will that we grow and we develop. Jesus's gentle sympathy with us grows our faith,

to enrich our neighbors. Let's read some new verses. Hebrews chapter 6,

I'll pick up in verse 4 and read 4 to 8. "For it is impossible.

impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the age to come,

and then have fallen away to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls upon the earth,

on it and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated receives a blessing from God but if it bears thorns and thistles it is worthless and near to being cursed and its end is to be burned.

So there's a strong warning here. Is this impossible for those who have tasted the goodness of God to then be restored? Now Now, I'll invite you to remember that as the author is writing,

he's writing to a community of people. And he's writing to a community of people that as they say, as he writes, those who have fallen away, those who have tasted and rejected, those who have wandered away, they're not thinking of a doctrinal category,

they're thinking of names. And so this guy, caring for these people, caring for this group of people who are trying to rest with, well, the people left,

like they're gone. He says, there may come a time where those people are beyond the reach of your community. Have you had that friend? Have you had that friend that like is dead sad on making a bad decision?

And you're like the one person who's like, hey, that's a bad call. And they're like, yeah, you're toxic. Get out of my life. He's like, no, I'm not toxic. I'm trying to tell you what's good for you. He's like, no, I'm not talking to you anymore.

anymore." And there comes a time where it doesn't matter what you say. If you cursed them, they would justify exactly what they wanted to hear. If you blessed them, they would try to figure out how you're trying to manipulate them and they don't trust that either.

Like there comes a time in a relationship if somebody's dead set on doing something that you no longer can reach them 'cause there's nothing you can say, there's nothing you can do that's actually gonna be received. So he's saying to this community,

"There are some folks that are..." are beyond your reach. He's not saying that any of them are beyond God. Because if we know anything about God, it's that he can reach the dead and he can give them life.

Like, he will do it, but he might not be able to do it through that community anymore. We bless others with our faith,

Galatians 6 will say, we bless others with our faith, but those who have turned from God. Jesus may be beyond our influence. And there are instances where the community of faith can restore those who are wayward,

and there are times when only God alone can reach those who are on the outside. However, if in reading that,

there's a warning flag going off in your heart, you say, "I don't know. Have I believed?" Have I followed this through? Am I walking with Jesus?" I've lost the flame.

I've lost the spark. It's not really a thing that I'm into. I'm not opposed to it, but it's not what I'm all about anymore. One of the principles we see here is that apathy today could be a symptom of unbelief yesterday.

Apathy today today could be a symptom of unbelief yesterday. Now I wish it was easy. I wish that as soon as you trusted in Jesus, you just glowed in the dark,

'cause that would make it real clear to everybody, like who's in and who's out. The fact of the matter is, I don't know. I don't know is between you and your maker. So I cannot give you assurance for some,

I don't know. One of my favorite things to do is to go to the Great Commission Bible Institute and teach Romans. Particularly Romans chapter 12. Well, the parts before that. Because I get to look at a class of students who have devoted 12 months of their life to studying the Bible.

And I get to say, I don't know if any of you are saved. I don't know if any of you actually have a genuine salvation. They're like, what do you mean? What do you mean? We're here! We're doing it! What do you mean? I'm like,

"I don't know." I've only been around that school for three years, but I've been around long enough to see students who were on fire for Jesus and were on the front row of the Great Commission Bible Institute walk away from the faith and want nothing to do with it.

I don't know. And so if you hear that warning, if your ears are not so stopped up that you hear that and go, "Oh, whoa, whoa, whoa, apathy today." could be a symptom of unbelief yesterday." So you can take that however you want to take it,

but if you hear that, then believe today. Make the right choice today. Just because we've wandered away doesn't mean that God's not willing to take us back.

Believe today. Follow Him today. There's one of my favorite stories, and I'm not going to read the whole thing, but Jesus tells me. a parable about soils.

It says there's different kinds of soils, and this guy walks out, he's walking through a field, and there's four different kinds of soils, and he's throwing seed. And some of the soil falls on the path,



and it's hard, and it doesn't take root. Some of the path goes shallow, and it springs up real quick, but then it dries out really quickly. It doesn't have deep roots, it can't get the nourishment, and so it gets burned up.

As soon as there's-- an opposition, it gets burned up. And then there's some that falls among thorns, it can grow deep, deep roots, but it's just so distracted and overwhelmed by other things that it can't actually fruit. And then there's some that falls on good soil and it grows and has a hundredfold.

The difference is the quality of the soil, not the quality of the message. The seed is the kingdom of God. He's planting it. And I love Jesus, man. Like the picture you get here is a guy with a bag of seed. He's just He's not planting it in little rows like trying to keep everything evenly spaced He's like you need the kingdom y'all people need me like come on I'm spreading it out and he doesn't care where

it falls, but the question is what's the soil? There's a group of men one time who pointed out to me. You can change the quality of the soil You can take hard soil and you can till it up And you can weed out a bed and take out the things that are distracting.

Like, it's possible for the things to change. Because I think chapter five or chapter six, verse three,

steers these verses too. This we will do if God permits. Ultimately, our spiritual growth rests in him. hands. So,

what goodness have we tasted from God? What goodness have we tasted from God? What blessings do we enjoy that comes from God? He points to the weather. He says the weather's a blessing. We live in Florida.

Lord, pray for those people who live in Canada. They have this stuff called snow. It gets cold. Like, the air tries to hurt you there. It's, I've heard about it. I haven't been. I'm not, I don't intend to go.

But what wisdom from Him are we unwilling to digest? I tasted it and I'm spitting it out. What wisdom from God are we unwilling to digest?

Because Jesus' gentle sympathy with us grows our faith to enrich our neighbors. Let's continue reading. Though we speak in this way,

yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things, things that belong to us. to salvation. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints as you still do.

And we desire that each one of you show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

So, the author has... given some grave warnings, but he's writing because he is confident that their faith has been genuine and will continue to be genuine.

He writes those warnings, but as he writes, he's saying, "I know that you guys are following. "You guys are in it. "You guys, I watched the fire kindle in your eyes.

"Like, I know I'm confident that your faith is genuine." because I have seen you practice it Work and the love you've shown in his name serving the saints as you still do I've seen you practice the way that you serve in the way that you love other

people I'm confident that your faith is genuine these warnings also are rooted in God's goodness God verse 10 "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work." God is

not unjust. He has seen their faith. He has seen their labor. He has seen their sacrifice. And here's something that maybe maybe we need to hear today. God delights in His children.

God delights in His children. We start with, rightly so, repentance. repentance from dead works. The fallacy that we sometimes carry for far too long is that any work I do is still just "buh." But if God is our Father and he sees our baby steps,

our toddler steps trying to follow him, he doesn't make fun of us because we're not running. He delights that we're growing. He delights every step of the way. God delights in his children.

Repentance from dead works does not mean that all spiritual effort is fruitless. God sees the time where you're reaching for the doughnut and just kind of turn away. Like he knows what the struggle is and he rejoices with you when you surrender to him.

He's not just constantly behind you with a whip trying to beat you in the submission. He's glad when you follow him. He rejoices. And I forget that real quick because I'm real good at sad.

I do sad really good. And I'm pretty good at like beating myself up for all the ways that I'm awful. But sometimes I need to be reminded that God sees the growth and God rejoices in the growth.

And I just wonder how how might our attitude change if we trusted that God delights in our growth? Like going into this week, tomorrow morning, if you woke up with the attitude that God delights in my spiritual growth,

well, how would that change your Monday? Don't forget,

remember that He is able to sympathize with every weakness. He has been tired. He has been overworked.

He has been hungry. He has been thirsty. He has had physical aches, and pains, and wounds, and scars, and people. people. He's had emotional pains of betrayal.

He is able to sympathize and delights in our spiritual growth. And he says too at the end, and this is, I'm going to transition and then I'll close.

So don't get afraid. He says here at the end, so that in verse 12, "So that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promise." so there are those who have gone before us and They have inherited the promise and that is where this series these next couple of weeks is going to go We're going to look at some a priest and a king and talk about how they have inherited

The promises of God through faithful work Let's pray Lord thanks so much Thank you for your word Lord.

I thank you for direct words. I Thank you for telling us things that we could probably deceive ourselves into believing.



And I thank you that your heart for us is not to squash us. But your heart is to give us life, for us to walk with you,

for us to be able to give thanks, not to some vague, force in the world,

but Lord, to you, a person, God, the creator. So Lord, in this time, in these moments, as we're tuned in to you,

Lord, I pray that you would speak. Would you help us to calm the thoughts lay them aside for this time and to hear clearly from you?

It's in your name that we pray amen

[Music]