

021824

## Keep Faithful and Carry On

*Hebrews 6:4-8*

Bernard Bell



### Background

We return to Hebrews for the next four weeks, continuing our series *Christ Before Us*. We begin with one of the most difficult texts in the entire New Testament. Is it possible to lose your salvation? Many bring their theological convictions to this text, be they Calvinist or Arminian. But how might we read it in the context of the book of Hebrews, which is presented as a “word of exhortation”?

### Sermon Text: *Heb 6:4-8 (NIV)*

*4 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 age 6 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. 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.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

### 2. Sunday questions

- a. Sunday was the first Sunday of Lent. Are you doing anything special for Lent this year? Why or why not?
- b. The writer of Hebrews *first* defines a follower of Jesus as someone who has *“been enlightened”* (v 4). Following Bernard’s lead, tell your faith story with *“being enlightened”* as the main theme, either as a movement from dark to light or from death to life.
- c. Secondly, the writer of Hebrews defines a follower of Jesus as someone who has *“tasted [God’s] heavenly gift”* (v 4). Bernard explained this as living *“the life of the new age right now.”* How do you live the life of the new age right now?
- d. *“God will not cast away one who looks to him, however weak the gaze... He sees you... He knows that you love him however low you feel... These people [in Hebrews] have cast God away.”* Respond to this statement.
- e. Bernard gave a brief explanation of salvation. He made a point that it is not transactional, but a pilgrimage (as is any relationship).
  - How do you typically view salvation? Is it *“transactional”* or is it a *“pilgrimage”*?
  - Within your faith, would you say that you are moving forward or not (ie. a pilgrimage)?
- f. Bernard gave us two ways to stay faithful and keep moving forward: Fix our eyes on Jesus and keep meeting together. Are you doing these things?