







**How does building a friendship with someone look different from earning their approval?**

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**What sorts of practices could help you build your relationship with Jesus?**

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Derwin noted that God is the one who does the heavy lifting in our spiritual growth. All he asks is that we be willing and eager to know him. **How might you express your willingness to God?**

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Maybe you want to grow but are struggling to feel motivated to pursue Christ. **In what ways could you pursue Christ even when you feel unmotivated?**

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In verse 14, we read that spiritual maturity helps us discern good from evil. In other words, Jesus, being near, helps us recognize our sin and gives us wisdom for practical decision-making. **When have you trusted God’s wisdom to make a decision? What was the outcome?**

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Spiritual maturity is far more than simply knowing theology. Your relationship with God should change the way you think, make decisions, and interact with the people around you. Read Hebrews 6:1–3.

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Derwin said, “If what is in my mind does not move through my heart to move my hands, it is a waste of time.” God wants our relationship with him to affect the way we treat others. **In what ways does your theology change the way you view and interact with people?**

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Derwin repeatedly said the people around us need us to be mature Christians. They need us to make godly decisions, lead with godly wisdom, and love others with the kind of love God has shown to us. No matter whom you are around, they should clearly see God’s influence in your life. **Why do you think the world needs mature Christians?**

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**In what ways could your spiritual maturity serve your family? Your workplace? Your neighbors?**

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No matter where you are in your walk with Jesus, you can serve him and the people around you. You don’t have to wait to be useful to God. **In what ways could you let God use you to bring goodness to the world around you?**

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Christians can get caught up in secondary purposes like politics or cultural change. But our primary purpose as ambassadors is to call people to be reconciled to God. Verse 21 reminds us of the good news that reconciled us to God and offers reconciliation to the people around us. **In what ways can you share 2 Corinthians 5:21 with the people who don't know Jesus in your own life?**

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**4. The Third Warning of Hebrews: Falling Away**

The third spiritual warning of Hebrews is the most difficult and fearful warning to consider. There are some people who experience the goodness of God only to then turn away from him. Read Hebrews 6:1–12.

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**According to verses 4–5, what benefits is an apostate, or a person who has fallen away, walking away from?**

Sluggishness in our faith is a warning sign of an unhealthy spiritual life. If we don't want to grow in our faith, we should consider why. Those who have fallen away from their faith first became complacent before rejecting Jesus. If you are afraid of losing your own faith, consider verses 10–12.

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**Why is the author of Hebrews not worried about his readers falling away from their faith?**

If God has saved us, is securing us, is just, and remembers our good works as Christians, then there is little chance that we could wriggle out of his grasp. Ultimately, this passage should comfort those who are afraid of losing their faith and help us turn spiritual apathy into eagerness.

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If you are afraid that you might lose your faith or that you already have, it shows that you care for Christ and are wanting to be near to him. It is a sign, however uncomfortable, that you have not lost your faith. If you are anxious or afraid, read John 10:28–29 and Romans 8:31–39.

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**What specific comfort do these verses give you?**

Sometimes, we can be apathetic in our faith. Hebrews 6 helps us see the danger of disregarding our relationship with God.

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**In what ways, if any, have seasons of spiritual apathy marked your life?**

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**How would you describe your seasons of spiritual eagerness? What practices helped you know Jesus more and grow in your faith?**

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**What habits of eagerness could help you grow in your faith today, even if you feel spiritually unenthused?**

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The main concern many of us have with this passage is not the state of our own faith, but what this means for friends or loved ones who have turned their backs on Jesus.

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Some believe that anyone who has rejected Jesus was never a true believer to begin with, since God will cause all true believers to persevere in their faith (1 John 2:19). Others believe that apostasy is possible, but the person who has fallen away cannot choose to return by their own free will alone. Like the prodigal son of Luke 15:11–32, those who return can only be welcomed home by the gracious decision of the Father. Until that time, sin has hardened them against God.

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**What does your church believe about apostasy?**

This is a difficult passage, but one that should encourage us to pray more fervently for those who don't know or who have rejected Jesus. One of the main themes in the Bible is God's people falling away into sin and God calling them to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). He is our good Shepherd who chases the lost sheep (Luke 15:3–7). Even more, he calls us to faithfully go after those who have walked away from him. Read James 5:19–20.

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**What practical and spiritual things can you do chase after those who have fallen away?**

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**In what ways can you regularly pray for their repentance and restoration?**

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