

NO SECOND BEGINNING
(Hebrews 6:4-8)

- I. The CASE (Heb. 6:4*b*-6*a*)
 - A. Describing them as having “ONCE been ENLIGHTENED”
 - 1. Used of ENABLEMENT to BELIEVE (10:32; John 8:12; cf. 1:9)
 - 2. Indicates something COMPLETE (9:7, 26, 27, 28; 10:2; 12:26, 27)
 - B. Describing them as having “TASTED of the HEAVENLY GIFT”
 - 1. A metaphor for EXPERIENCE (2:9; Acts 10:10)
 - 2. Probably CHRIST HIMSELF (John 4:10)
 - C. Describing them as having “been MADE PARTAKERS of the Holy Spirit”
 - 1. Emphasizes God’s INITIATIVE in SALVATION
 - 2. Being REGENERATED by the Spirit’s INDWELLING
 - D. Describing them as having “TASTED the GOOD WORD of God and the POWERS of the AGE to COME”
 - 1. Having EXPERIENCED God’s WORD and found it GOOD
 - 2. A foretaste of powers to CLIMAX at Christ’s RETURN
 - E. Describing them as having “FALLEN AWAY”
- II. The CONSEQUENCE (Heb. 6:4*a*, 6*b*)
 - A. Would require RENEWING them to REPENTANCE
 - B. Stated as an IMPOSSIBILITY (cf. 6:18; 10:4; 11:6)

III. The REASON (Heb. 6:6c)

- A. Would “again CRUCIFY to THEMSELVES the Son of God”
- B. Would “put Him to OPEN SHAME”

IV. The INTERPRETATIONS (in reverse order of their acceptability)

- A. SAVED persons who are subsequently LOST
 - 1. Treats descriptive participles NORMALLY
 - 2. CONTRADICTS NT teaching on PERSEVERANCE as a work of GOD (Rom. 8:28-39; John 10:28-30; Heb. 8:12; etc.)
- B. SAVED persons who BACKSLIDE
 - 1. Treats descriptive participles NORMALLY
 - 2. Undermines SEVERITY of the WARNING
- C. PROFESSED believers who have NEVER been SAVED
 - 1. Retains the TRUTH of a believer’s SECURITY
 - 2. REDEFINES status as less than GENUINE SALVATION
- D. HYPOTHETICAL case showing the FOLLY of APOSTASY
 - 1. Like other NT IMPOSSIBLE hypotheticals (Gal. 3:12; James 2:10; John 9:39)
 - 2. IMPLIED in this CONTEXT (Heb. 6:9)

V. The ILLUSTRATION (Heb. 6:7-8)

- A. Soil that yields a BENEFICIAL CROP represents TRUE BELIEVERS
- B. Soil that yields only “THORNS and THISTLES” represents inevitable JUDGMENT for HARDENED UNBELIEF