

HEBREWS LESSON NINE QUESTIONS

1. What do you think the author means when he says his hearers have become dull of hearing? How does he describe what he means in v. 12-14?
2. What is the goal of taking in 'solid food' and becoming mature? See v. 14
3. How does the author positively and negatively exhort these saints in 6:1-3? On what does he say their progress to maturity will depend?
4. Why does the author change pronouns and refer to the ones who have fallen away as "those"? What is his purpose in painting this picture of them to his hearers? Who are these people?
5. The author invites his audience into a deeply emotional scene of Christ's consecration for His high priesthood in 5:7-11. How would this reminder of what Jesus suffered affect his readers when he speaks of 'crucifying Christ again and putting Him so open shame' by those who have turned away?
6. Why is it impossible for someone who has turned to the Levitical priesthood and sacrificial system for the atonement of their sins to be brought to repentance? What is true repentance?
7. Why would returning to the sacrificial system essentially leave Christ on the cross and shame Him? Since this system was designed by God as a temporary means of atonement and type of what Christ fulfilled, how is returning to it actually a misuse of it?
8. How does the author conclude that his readers have truly repented and experienced salvation? How are their works different from the dead works done before their salvation?
9. What does the author desire for his hearers? What are the qualities of those he wants them to imitate?

10. How are you feeding your soul? Do you struggle to allow God to stretch you and nourish you with spiritual food that is challenging? What are some ways you could be encouraged?

11. Is God challenging you to greater maturity in some area of your life? Consider growth in taking in His Word, or time management, or use of your gifts/talents/abilities, and whatever other areas He brings to mind. How does idolatry play into your willingness?

12. How do you feel about people who have turned away from the truth and are hostile to the gospel? In what ways could you pray for them? Would you be willing to spend time with someone who is in that situation and listen to their thoughts with the hope that you may someday speak truth to them in love?

13. Do you ever have the dark thought cross your mind, "I haven't done enough?" How would you answer the question, "Enough for what?" How does your response help you to identify a common tendency to think you must add to what Christ has done to earn or keep your salvation? Perhaps you can spend time praising Him that He is enough!

14. Why do you do what you do? Do you have a full assurance of hope in His promises? How can you have such assurance that all you do is done out of love for and gratitude to Christ?