

THE BOOK OF
HEBREWS

JESUS IS GREATER

The Pitfalls of Stagnation
Hebrews 5:11-6:12

**“Pitfalls” - a hidden, danger, risk,
peril, difficulty, catch, snag,
stumbling block, drawback.**

The Pitfalls of Stagnation

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

I. Stagnation keeps you in the pits. 5:11-6:3

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 (NIV) ^[11] We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. ^[12] In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ^[13] Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ^[14] But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

I. Stagnation keeps you in the pits. 5:11-6:3

[¹] Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, [²] instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. [³] And God permitting, we will do so.

The Pitfalls of Stagnation

A. You stop at the Basics.

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

I. Stagnation keeps you in the pits. 5:11-6:3

[¹] Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, [²] instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. [³] And God permitting, we will do so.

The Pitfalls of Stagnation

B. You avoid tune-ups.

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

I. Stagnation keeps you in the pits. 5:11-6:3

[¹] Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, [²] instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. [³] And God permitting, we will do so.

The Pitfalls of Stagnation

C. You become comfortable in the pits.

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

Hebrews 6:4-6 (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] if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

A. Eventually you run out of gas.

Hebrews 6:7-8 (NIV) ^[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.

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

B. Eventually you justify your sins.

Romans 6:1-4 (NIV) ^[1] What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

^[2] By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

^[3] Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

^[4] We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

B. Eventually you justify your sins.

Romans 6:12-13 (NIV) ^[12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ^[13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

B. Eventually you justify your sins.

Hebrews 10:19-26 (NIV) ^[19] Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ^[20] by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ^[21] and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ^[22] let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ^[23] Let us hold

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

B. Eventually you justify your sins.

unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ^[24] And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ^[25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching. ^[26] If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,

II. Stagnation can lead to a Stalled Engine.

6:4-6

C. Eventually weeds take over.

Matthew 13:22 (NIV) ^[22] The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

[8] But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

III. Stagnation is overcome by leaving the pits. 6:9-12

Hebrews 6:9-12 (NIV) ^[9] Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation. ^[10] God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ^[11] We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. ^[12] We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

III. Stagnation is overcome by leaving the pits. 6:9-12

A. Determine to make some forward progress.

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III. Stagnation is overcome by leaving the pits. 6:9-12

B. Determine to be “Diligent”

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) ^[25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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Hebrews 5:11-6:12

III. Stagnation is overcome by leaving the pits. 6:9-12

C. Determine to increase in “Faith”

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) ^[6] And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

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Hebrews 5:11-6:12

III. Stagnation is overcome by leaving the pits. 6:9-12

D. Determine to move “Patiently”

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