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## Training the Power of Discernment (5:11-6:20)

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### Growth (5:11-6:3)

1. Until this section, he has warned the audience of potential dangers (“pay much closer attention” 2:1; “consider Jesus” 3:1; “do not harden your hearts” 3:8; “take care” 3:12; “let us fear” 4:1; “strive to enter that rest” 4:11; “hold fast to our confession” 4:14). The author interrupts his main argument, that Jesus is the great high priest, to directly address a specific, past failure. How do you know if you are “dull of hearing” (2 Tim. 3; 4:1-4; Isa. 5:20)?
  
2. What are some practical ways we can train the power of discernment to distinguish good from evil?
  
3. What are the 6 basic principles or “elementary doctrine of Christ”? In your own words, explain these principles.
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
  - iv.
  - v.
  - vi.

### Impossibility (6:4-8)

4. The author describes that he is speaking about someone who was once “enlightened”, “tasted the heavenly gift”, “shared in the Holy Spirit”, “tasted the goodness of the word of God”, and “tasted the powers of the age to come”. Of whom is the preacher speaking about?
  
5. What does the preacher mean by those who have “fallen away”? Is the preacher convinced this is the situation that the audience has reached in their spiritual lives (Heb. 3:12; 4:11; 10:26-27)?

6. In the immediate context, what does the author mean by “impossible” (Heb. 6:18; 10:4; 11:6)? Why is it impossible to restore those who have fallen away again to repentance (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12)?

#### Better Things (6:9-12)

7. Although it was necessary to warn the audience of spiritual consequences they faced if they continued down the path of spiritual immaturity, he commends their participation in “better things”. What things were they involved with that belonged to salvation (Heb. 6:10; 10:32-34)?
8. How do we develop and possess “the full assurance of hope until the end”?

#### Certain Promises (6:13-20)

9. Compare and contrast the example of the Israelites in the wilderness in Ch. 4-5 versus Abraham in Ch. 6. What do we know about the oath made to Abraham (Gen. 15:7-21)? What does this tell us about the faithfulness of God?
10. What do we know about the faithfulness of Abraham (Rom. 4:18-25; Heb. 11:8-19; James 2:21-23)? Did he ever fully experience the promises?
11. Swearing by an oath is a prominent point in this sermon (Heb. 3:11; 5:6,10, Ps. 110:4; 6:13-14). Why did God need to swear by an oath?
12. The author argues that the Christian’s refuge is in “two unchangeable things”. What are those two unchangeable things?
13. What are some characteristics of an anchor? How does an anchor compare to our hope set before us? Who are we anchoring up to?