

*Hebrews 6:1-12*

The life in which you were birthed long before  
Continues to be life unto this day  
If life lived alivens to living works  
The pulse of one who lives alone by faith<sup>1</sup>

But if enlightened never to mature  
By what means can one expect to repent  
For life as land lain fallow through spring's warmth  
Will not be fruitful in any season<sup>2</sup>

Beloved, God does not deal unjustly  
He knows your works past and continuing  
This knowledge meant to provide surety  
For you, ones whom in Christ are laboring<sup>3</sup>

So let labor of faith and works cohere  
Be not sluggish, patiently persevere<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> If one was truly given a new life in Christ, the evidence of such life is good works. While these works do not of themselves save, they are the pulse we feel – indications of the presence of life. While a pulse may, at times, be faint, or even very temporarily cease, it should constantly be present.

<sup>2</sup> Many find Hebrews 6 a difficult passage when approaching the issue of eternal security, or preservation of the saints. However, in the context of Hebrews, I take this section to be similar to the point James attempted to get across. If an individual has been saturated in the rains of the sweet gospel, and has not moved on beyond such a point, how can we call them to repentance? Barren land after spring's arrival will not all of a sudden produce fruit out of season. If the land is saturated by the season of growth, yet does not produce, in what way can we say this land is not barren? Likewise, if one is saturated in the gospel and does not produce fruit, how can we expect such an individual to come again to repentance? The gospel is the baseline – the simplest starting point of the Christian faith. If is saturated in this and turns it away, what more can be expected to happen?

<sup>3</sup> God knows all of our hearts, our works past, and our works present. He judges accordingly. This is not meant to scare us, but rather to provide us hope. Our maturation is God's acknowledgement and work in our lives, and is intended to provide us with assurance. Here, I use the word "surety" instead of assurance. This was a common word used when dealing with engagements, or significant promises. This is intended to convey the "seal" Paul talks about in reference to the Holy Spirit, which produces fruit in our lives. We see a glimpse of this here in Hebrews. God's assurance is our good works, which we see elsewhere as a testament of his Spirit at work within us.

<sup>4</sup> Faith without works is dead, so works must accompany faith. The way to maturity and assurance is to run the race with perseverance, to move out in good works.