

### True Believers and Make-Believers Hebrews 6:1-9

Hebrews 6:1-9 (NIV)

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, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, 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. 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. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation.

John 10:27-29 (NIV)

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

#### **I. Those who Tune in, Taste and Turn Away – *Make-Believers***

Verse 4-6 – It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, 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.

I John 2:19 (NIV)

“They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”

John 17:12 (NIV)

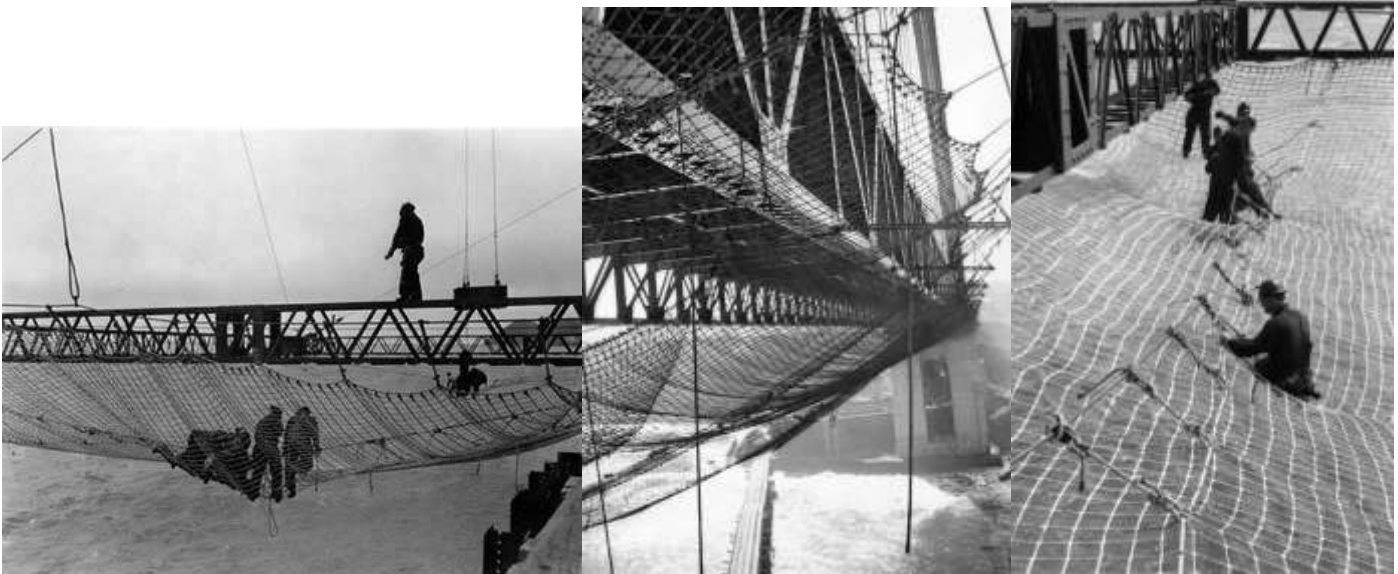
While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

## II. Those who Grow Up, Show Off and Stay Put – *True Believers*

Verse 1, 7, 9 – Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity ... 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. ... Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation.

2 Peter 1:5-9 (NIV)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; knowledge, self-control; perseverance; godliness; brotherly kindness, and love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Building the Golden Gate Bridge