

# Hebrews 6:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

## Analysis

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This begins the most sobering warning passage in Hebrews. 'Once enlightened' (Greek 'hapax photisthentas') refers to initial gospel illumination. 'Tasted of the heavenly gift' and 'partakers of the Holy Ghost' describe genuine experiences of gospel blessing and the Spirit's work. 'Tasted the good word of God' and 'powers of the world to come' indicate exposure to supernatural realities. The description suggests professing believers who experienced much without genuine conversion.

## Historical Context

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First-century churches included both genuine believers and false professors. The visible church has always contained wheat and tares (Matthew 13:24-30). This warning addresses those who taste kingdom blessings without true faith.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. Can you distinguish between experiencing gospel blessings and genuinely trusting Christ for salvation?
2. What evidence beyond external experiences confirms your genuine faith?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀδύνατον	γὰρ	τοὺς	ἅπας	φωτισθέντας		
it is impossible	For	G3588	for those who were once	enlightened		
G102	G1063		G530	G5461		
γευσαμένους	τε	τῆς	δωρεᾶς	τῆς	ἐπουρανίου	καὶ
have tasted	and	G3588	gift	G3588	of the heavenly	and
G1089	G5037		G1431		G2032	G2532
μετόχους	γεννηθέντας	πνεύματος	ἁγίου			
partakers	were made	Ghost	of the Holy			
G3353	G1096	G4151	G40			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 5:13** (Parallel theme): Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**John 15:6** (Parallel theme): If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

**Ephesians 2:8** (Parallel theme): For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

**Matthew 12:45** (Spirit): Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

**John 3:27** (Parallel theme): John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

**Hebrews 10:32** (Parallel theme): But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

**Galatians 3:2** (Spirit): This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

**2 Timothy 2:25** (Parallel theme): In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

**Hebrews 2:4** (Holy): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

**1 John 5:16** (Parallel theme): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.