

You Still Need Baby Food?!

Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-3

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I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

Through the history of time, the pages of God's Word reveal the patience, faithfulness, and love of God.

First century Jewish Christians were involved in a traumatic identify struggle. Persecuted by both the Romans and fellow jews.

Some of them were considering leaving Christianity and going back to Judaism. This is what their persecutors wanted them to do. The writer of Hebrews let the people know how foolish it would be to go back to Judaism because the priests of the Old Covenant has been surpassed by Jesus, the Great Priest of the New Covenant.

The author is trying to encourage them not to abandon their faith but to remain strong in it. They were warned what could happen to them if they were to leave Christianity and return to their old way of living as Jews. Jesus died for our sins and reconciled us back to God once and for all, there no longer a need to have human priests offer animal sacrifices. All our sins were paid for in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Jesus paid it all and all to Him we owe.

They were encouraged to stand strong during their suffering and persecution. To remain steadfast in their trials.

They were taught how Christianity is far superior to Judaism and what could happen if they revert to Judaism.

Jesus is our only hope in getting through the trials, tribulations, and persecutions of this life. He has done what no priest, prophet, judge nor man could ever do. He has provided eternal life.

As children of God, we are in spiritual battles every day. God has given us everything that we need to victorious.

On one occasion in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

II. You Still Need Baby Food?!

1. Hebrews 5:11 & 12.

The writer of Hebrews had to pause in his presentation of the things concerning Melchizedek to rebuke the people. He realized that they were not ready for such teaching at that time. He wanted to show them more glory of Christ as our Great and Perfect High Priest, but sadly he could not. He said he could not because they were dull hearing. It was not an ear problem but a heart problem. Not in any of the previous chapters was it mentioned what was wrong with the Hebrews until we get to this chapter.

In chapter 2, he gave them instructions to pay attention to the gospel, so they don't drift away.

In chapter 3, he warned against unbelief and to do all they can to enter the rest of God's salvation.

In chapter 4, he warned them that everything laid bare before the eyes of God to whom we must give an account.

The word, “dull,” means slow, sluggish, or lazy. They had not always been that way, because the writer states that they no longer understand. How do we become dull to the Word of God? When we stop putting in the effort to grow in Christ by not consistently reading, studying, applying, and sharing God's Word. Because they had stopped making effort to grow in Christ, they were regressing in spiritual maturity. He stated that by now, they should be teaching others but instead they need to be taught again the elementary truths of God's Word. They were not ready for the meat of God's Word because they still needed milk (basic teachings).

2. **Hebrews 5: 13 & 14.**

It takes time to be holy. It takes time to grow from immaturity to maturity. Growth in Christ is ongoing process for a lifetime. The more we submit to the Holy Spirit to develop us as children of God and invest ourselves in the Word of God, it is then that we will be able to examine all things and discern good from evil.

3. **Hebrews 6:1-3.**

The writer is not contended to allow the Hebrew Christians to remain in their immaturity state. This chapter starts off encouraging them to move forward in the growth in Christ. He admonishes them to grow up. Let us move along. Maturity will not be attained by personal effort as much as personal surrender to God. He encourages them to move beyond the elementary teachings to grow more in maturity of God's Word. The principles of the doctrine of Christ stated in this chapter involve the same elementary principles were mentioned in Chapter 5:12.

These principles are as follows:

- a. repentance from acts that lead to death
- b. and of faith in God
- c. instructions about cleansing rites
- d. the laying of hands
- e. the resurrection of the dead
- f. eternal judgment

We are called to know what He wants us to know, and to do what He wants us to do.

III. **Conclusion in growing in Christ:**

1. Read, study, and meditate daily on God's Word.
2. Be attentive to the teaching and preaching God's Word.
3. Pray for Godly wisdom and understanding in the application of God's Word in your daily life.
4. Spend time praying for yourself and interceding for others.
5. Share the gospel and witness to everyone as you go and grow.

