

AN EPISTLE TO THE IMMATURE **(Hebrews 5:11-14)**

Just because one has been a believer for many years does not mean they are spiritually mature. The lack of spiritual maturity is a dangerous thing. There are blessings to be enjoyed that only the mature in Christ can grasp and appropriate. There is a great danger in being spiritually immature (**Eph. 6:10-11**).

Hebrews 5:11 The author of this book had much to say about Christ but the spiritual immaturity of those he was writing to made it difficult for him to communicate the deeper doctrines of the faith.

Dullness Of Hearing

Hebrews 5:11 Notice that the people had “become” dull of hearing. This tells us that perhaps at one time they were eager to grow and grasp the greater things of Christianity much like the Bereans in **Acts 17:11**. Most new converts are more than willing to hear and grow initially when first saved but it is not uncommon for repetition and time to bring apathy and boredom thus regressing instead of progressing.

II Timothy 4:3-4 Is the bible becoming dull, is bible teaching and preaching boring? This is one reason millions of believers flock to preaching that teaches experience, excitement, conversation vs. preaching, peppy music, general acceptance, and lack of absolutes from the bible.

Unable To Teach Others

Hebrews 5:12-13 These believers had been saved for some time. The time had come for them to show signs of maturity by helping and teaching others about Christ but they were found as 'babies'. Are we familiar with the “first principles” or do we need to be taught basics over and over again?

Hebrews 6:1-2; I Corinthians 3:1-3 Notice that the spiritually immature need the basic 'milk diet' taught repeatedly due to an inability to understand spiritual truth. Also, immature believers are said to be carnal in that they look and act like lost people not showing a difference between saved and lost.

John 15:1 A natural progression and maturing in the Lord is that we become 'fruitful' by teaching others about salvation and helping to grow others in spiritual things.

Ephesians 4:11-13; I Corinthians 12:1, 4-7 One way to bear fruit is to help teach others. There are many ways and open doors within the church to begin communicating to others God's teachings.

Acts 1:8; I Peter 3:15 We can all help others by simply giving out a tract or telling those close to us how we received Christ as savior. If we know how we got saved we know how to tell others.

Lack Of Spiritual Discernment

Hebrews 5:14 The admonition is telling in that the writer exposes the lack of understanding of these people due to their total lack of bible study. He shows why they are carnal and lack discernment.

Ephesians 4:14 A babe in Christ has trouble discerning truthful teaching from error, and does not discern good conduct (righteousness) from bad conduct (sin) thus is subject to being tricked by Satan.

James 1:5-8 The immature believer is not able to have the trust (faith) that is needed in their prayer life. A 'baby' Christian is unstable and untrustworthy in that they cannot be counted on to serve.

The Need To Progressing

II Timothy 2:15; II Peter 1:3-8 The only way to go thru the needed stages of Christian growth is to move forward from the basic principles of the Word of God in humility and much prayer. Only by prayer and faith can we at some point grow in Christ and in the virtues He wants all of us to have.

