



Do You Have the Virus?

Lesson Fourteen • Hebrews 5:11-14

Are You Ready to Learn More About Melchizedek, the Mysterious King-Priest, and Jesus' Eternal Priesthood?

*"Concerning **him** we have much to say!" NAS | "About **this** we have much to say!" ESV (5:11a; 7:1–10:18)*

The Prognosis of the Virus Is Clear: Eternal DEATH!

The result of beating the virus is equally clear: Eternal Rest!

The Cure for the Virus Has Been Introduced

Hold Fast to the eternal PRIESTHOOD of the Son of God like Melchizedek!

Do You Have the Virus of Spiritual Apathy?

Hebrews 5:11-14

1. The Diagnosis: **You've Become Spiritual SLUGGARDS Who Are Hard of Hearing.**

"Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing." (v. 11)

NET *"On this topic we have much to say and it is difficult to explain, since you have become sluggish in hearing."*

NIV11 *"We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand."*

*The problem is not information but **APPLICATION** of what they already know!*

*The problem is not mental but **MORAL**, because the heart of the problem is always the heart!*

The Diagnosis: You Have Become Hearers of the Word and NOT Doers!

You are slow to hear and slow to obey from the heart whenever you hear God speak!

Do You Have the Virus?

Have you become a spiritual sluggard who is hard of hearing?

This Virus Is Spiritually and Physically Deadly!

Those who are hard of hearing are in danger of becoming hard of heart due to disobedient unbelief!

Spiritual Sluggards Who Have This Virus

- Fail to listen with the ear of the **HEART**. (3:7-8, 12, 19)
- Fail to listen with an **OBEDIENT** faith. (5:9; 3:10, 18; 4:2, 6, 11)

*"Listening and obeying are related aspects of faith. Refusal to listen and disobedience are related aspects of unbelief."
– William Lane*

2. The Symptoms: **You No Longer APPLY God's Word Like Mature Believers Do.**

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles...you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature," (vv. 12-14)

- Saved long enough to be **TEACHERS** of gospel basics but need to be **TAUGHT** them again.

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God," (v. 12a)

"A community of 'teachers' means a community of individual members reinforcing one another's hold on the minority culture's values and goals, precisely the sort of community the author must shape if they are to persist in their journey against the current (and frequently the blasts) of the dominant culture and arrive at their divinely appointed goal." – David deSilva

- Saved long enough to digest **MEAT** for yourself but have gone back to needing **MILK**.

"and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness," (vv. 12b-13)

- Saved long enough to live like **MATURE** adults but reverting to **IMMATURE** infants.

"For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature," (vv. 13-14a)

3. The Cure: Learn to Discern by **DILIGENTLY Applying What You Hear God Saying.**

"the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. (v. 14)

Mature believers are able to discern between good and evil choices in life because they have made it a regular habit to apply what they hear from God with His people!

Am I putting into practice the basics of the Christian life in my worship, my walk, and my witness!
Have allowed my pride to excuse my lack of applying a biblical worldview to my life and circumstances?
Do I react like the world around me to the pressures of life and conform to their way of thinking and living?
Under pressure do I clam up and shrink back not willing to pay the price for being a Christ follower?

"The world out there is not waiting for a new definition of Christianity; it's waiting for a new demonstration of Christianity." – Leonard Ravenhill

Do You Have the Virus?

*Are you becoming a spiritual sluggard that is hard of hearing and in danger of becoming hard of heart?
Become a mature believer who makes godly decisions in life by actively applying God's Word
to your own heart and the hearts of others – especially as a congregation.*