
Week 13 Sermon, November 19, 2023

Hebrews 5:11-14 – *Spiritual Maturity, Part 1*

Discussion Questions

1. We don't simply have the privilege of hearing God's word preached each Sunday, we have the responsibility to listen well. As we approach Scripture or sit in the sanctuary, we must lean in and focus on what the Holy Spirit is speaking (*see 4:2*). What might lethargic listening look like in your life? Have you become undisciplined because you are uninterested in His living and active Word? Confess your lack of focus to God and another believer and ask for the discipline to not be "dull of hearing."
 2. There is no standing still in our Christian life. Consider how many metaphors of walking or running, slipping or falling there are in the Bible. If we are not advancing, we are falling back. How is your fervency for Jesus? Have you become out of shape or lethargic in your Christian fitness? How can we better have our "powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil" (v. 14)?
 3. Spurgeon said, "The Christian life is very much like climbing a hill of ice. You cannot slide up. You have to cut every step with an ice axe. Only with incessant labor in cutting and chipping can you make any progress. If you want to know how to backslide, leave off going forward. Cease going upward and you will go downward of necessity. You can never stand still." Read Romans 8:12-13. What steps are you taking to put to death the flesh?
 4. Spiritual maturity is not simply about gaining information but putting into practice what we are learning. We must be actively using new knowledge. What insight does Proverbs 2:1-10 give us? Where are you sharing the truth of Scripture? With whom might you improve your teaching of "the basic principles of the oracles of God" (v. 12)? What are these basic principles?
 5. Be honest and reflect on whether you are living on milk or solid food. What does Paul say in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 that echoes our text here in Hebrews? By this time, you are adequate to teach someone. Commit to making your home as A.W. Pink describes: "Of what avail will it be when we render an account to God for the stewardship of our families to say that we had no time available, working hard from morn till eve? The more pressing be our temporal duties, the greater our need of seeking spiritual succor. Nor may any Christian plead that he is not qualified for such a work: gifts and talents are developed by use and not by neglect" (A.W. Pink, Sermon: *Family Worship*).
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