

Traits of Spiritual Immaturity

Text: Hebrews 5:11-14

Date: 6-2-24

I. The trait of dullness towards God's Word (Heb. 5:11)

These were believers mature in physical number of years but immature in the spiritual things of Jesus Christ.

They had failed to dig deeper. For whatever reason, "their original eagerness to hear and respond to the Word of God had cooled. Now they were no longer ready listeners. Other interests had captured their attention" (Kent 102). Where they had started out with great desire to learn, spiritual laziness or other interests had gotten in the way of spiritual growth. Perhaps these people had heard the revealed Word of God, heard and seen Jesus, but they did not heed its truth.

Rather than listening carefully to the truth, we in the church allow our minds mentally and spiritually to slip and become lazy. It is not that we are slow learners; rather, we allow ourselves to become apathetic and then we become spiritually dull of hearing.

No one should be a passive believer. We must continue to guard against spiritual indifference and desire a heart that is carefully directed toward spiritual and eternal truths.

II. The trait of not being a teacher (Heb. 5:12a)

Spiritual dullness leads to a lack of spiritual growth.

"... when we fail to pass on what we know we begin to lose what we know"¹

If you have been a believer and growing in your faith and knowledge of God's word for several months or years, you should look for opportunities to begin teaching the next generation.

III. The trait of needing to be taught (Heb. 5:12b)

They should have been teachers by now, but they actually were the ones who needed to be taught. Where they should have been teaching the basics, they were in need of learning the basics.

Too many believers in the church who have been Christians for a measure of time still do not understand Bible basics and Bible doctrines. Why was it that the Hebrews believers were still in elementary Bible school? Perhaps no one was teaching them. Perhaps they were too busy studying other things. Perhaps family influences pressured these believers to return to Judaism. As a result, the Christ-followers were being persecuted and had to go into hiding. What is causing the church today to stay in elementary school?

IV. The trait of staying spiritually stagnant (Heb. 5:12c-14)

Instead of consuming meat, the Hebrew believers were back in baby stage and in need of milk. To stay in neutral spiritually is to go backwards spiritually. When believers do not progress they regress. Immature believers only consume Bible basics if even that. They cannot grasp the advanced doctrines of God's Word.

We cannot become lazy, to be content just to know the basics of faith. We cannot be spiritually dull to allow others to always be teaching us. We must grow up as believers. And even mature people need to continue to learn. We all must be learners, but many in the church today need to take learning to a new level. We are too apathetic, indifferent, tired, and passive to become spiritual adults. But this needs to change!

The believers would not grow unless they chose to dig into the depth of God's Word. Spiritual growth and maturity depends on using God's Word for our daily life. It is in this and only this that our *senses* can be trained to discern right from wrong.

Conclusion

We all have work to do in maturing to be more like Christ. To those who press forward in reading, hearing, and studying God's Word, your amount of discernment will grow proportionally. The bottom line remains that if a believer wants to grow, they must desire the deeper doctrines associated with the Bible.

¹(https://www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/hebrews/hebrews.htm#_ftn16).