

Hebrews 5:11-14 It is Time to Grow up!

One thing every one of us had in common as children was the desire to grow up.

A) One day it hits you- You are a little person who has the potential to become a big Person.

B) We all know that Big people get to do cool things!

C) I remember watching with Fascination my dad – shaving – White Gillette foam all over his face – archaic looking blade.

1) That is cool – I want to do that.

D) One day – climbed up on the counter took the cream/ shaver - Cut – came out crying – my mom says what happened – **I cut myself Shaving!**

1) I am sure that you all have a similar experience.

BIG KIDS GET TO DO BIG THINGS!!!!

A) Most of us probably had an older group of kids that we idolized and wanted to be like.

B) Dress the way they did – talk the way they did.

C) Utopia cars – Disneyland - I can't wait to be big enough to drive that car by myself.

D) The desire to grow up is a normal part of any kids life!

Growth is so important to us that arrested growth is universally regarded as a tragedy – Physically, emotionally – intellectually.

A) The worst though – might be when you see it **spiritually** – arrested spiritual growth, perpetual infancy, never becoming a “big person” spiritually. This is a tragedy of incalculable proportions.

B) ONE REASON IS? - it **SHOULD be so avoided!**

C) Unfortunately this was the problem with these Jewish believers living in the first century – that this letter to the Hebrews is written to.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The writer of Hebrews here in ch. 5 has begun to unwrap the priestly ministry of Jesus

Comparing him to this mysterious character in the OT Melchizedek

A) Melchizedek held the unique role of being both **King and Priest** – and He has started to tell his readers – Jesus is also King and priest.

B) But then he pauses in his explanation of Jesus and Melchizedek as he remembers that many of his hearers have not grown enough spiritually to grasp his explanation.

C) Thus in verse 11 he turns aside to issue a warning to the spiritually immature, saying, **“of whom we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”**

This is a powerful indictment because it indicates a spiritual regression. “You have become dull of hearing.”

A) Meaning – they were not always that way – but they had become that way.

B) Understand - Being **dull of hearing is not a problem with the ears**, but a problem with the heart

C) **Dull** comes from the Greek *nōthros*, which is made up of the words for “no” and “push.”

1) Literally, therefore, it means **“no push”**—slow, sluggish.

D) When a person is spiritually dull, he is difficult to teach.

Most pp are not that way when they first come to Christ!

A) First saved – Bible comes alive – learning new things – taught things they have never heard before. Hunger.

B) Some experience a resurgence of this again in their spiritual lives when they are baptized in the Spirit.
1) Heightened sense of awareness and interest in eternal things.

C) My life – Baptized in the Spirit – Huge hunger for the word – went from spending 20min to 4hrs a day studying the Bible.

D) During the Great Awakening – Dr. F.B. Webber noted *A History of Preaching in Britain and America* that there was a sudden interest in shorthand.

“Men and women studied shorthand in order that they might take down the sermons that were stirring the English-speaking countries. This had happened once before in Scotland, and it made its appearance once more in all countries where the influence of the Awakening was felt.”

E) Unfortunately as the newness of it all died down, so did the listening—just as with the Hebrews centuries before.

We see that same problem in our day and age – Many churches if the sermon pushes past 30 min – the people start to squirm.

A) So thankful that most of you are not that way-

B) You love to study the Bible and dig into the word. Your capacity to take it in has grown.

C) Myself and the other men who teach here – greatly appreciate that – makes what we do fun.

D) But with this first century group of believers – that was not the case – they had become dull of hearing.

The writer goes on to deepen his indictment in the following sentence v.12 **though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again**

A) Here the author is most graphic because the Greek translated “the elementary truths” actually means something like, “**the ABC's** of the beginning of the words of God.”

B) The Fundamental truths

C) Don't get me wrong the fundamental truths are very important –

1) we need to always remind ourselves of them –

D) But understand, the Lord wants us to grow – move forward!

B) V.12b He adds **and you have come to need milk and not solid food.**

1) By now you should be ready for some steak - - Double Double – but you are still sucking on a Bottle.

C) A baby in diapers eating gerbers is so cute
A 30 year old in diapers eating gerbers IS NOT CUTE, repulsive.

A babe in Christ is SO SWEAT – Zealous –passionate – doesn't know a lot – make mistakes.

A) Pray cussing - He didn't know any better.

B) Someone who has been a believer 20yrs in the church, week in and week out – still doing those things – making those mistakes – that is REALLY SAD!!!!!!

C) The long term result of that is sad too!

V.13 “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled {inexperienced} in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.”

The phrase “**the word of righteousness**” has been understood in two ways—one doctrinal and the other practical.

A) There are those who think the emphasis is *doctrinal* argue that being “unskilled in the word or teaching about righteousness” has reference to a solid grasp of the **doctrine of imputed righteousness.**

B) Christ righteousness is transferred on us at conversion

C) Those who take this view say one must clearly understand this doctrine before it is possible to eat further food.

D)But others understand “the word of righteousness” to be *practical*.

1)They argue that what the writer says next in v.14 about *exercising and using what we know* – to say this talking about *righteous conduct*.

Which is it? Either or? No, I personally believe it is both/and.

A)Those who would move beyond the milk stage and feed on the meat of God’s Word must first have a clear *doctrinal* understanding of the radical righteousness of God.

B)They must understand they are so radically sinful that their own works of righteousness can never save them,

C)See, that fits the argument of the whole book – These Hebrew believers were thinking of going back and putting their trust in the works of Judaism.....

D)It is essential to Christian health – that we realize – poor in Spirit – **NOTHING TO OFFER**.

1)No righteousness in me

E)Saved – Made righteous in Christ – Glorious

But once a person realizes that they have been made righteous by Christ – Justification.

A)They also begin to realize that the HS is working in their lives now to encourage them to walk in righteousness. **SANCTIFICATION**

B)So it is both – but the person who is still feeding on the basics is going to be one who is going to struggle in both.

C)Because they really don’t understand who they are in Christ – **struggle in their relationship with God.**

1)Earn His favor thru works and effort

D)They will be prone to fall into legalism – trying to **monitor their Christian life – thru abstinence**

1)Reduce the Christian life to a series of Do’s and Don’ts -

E)Happy and Joyful when Doing – condemned defeated and discouraged when they Don’t.

1)Not the way the Lord wants us to live.

That was the problem these Hebrew believers were up against. –

A)They hadn’t progressed – they were not moving forward.

B)They didn’t understand grace – and how it affects your passion for righteousness

1)All started with their hearts becoming Dull.

C)How does this regression happen? How does someone who was once alive BURNING Bright, become – dull. **4 REASONS**

#1 Spiritual pride: Rev 3 - Church of Laodecia they said *we are rich and have it together!*

A) But Jesus' perception of them was quite different ***Poor, miserable, blind, and naked!*** **LUKE WARM**
– No Fire / No Passion / Stuffy

C)This can happen to a person who because they have a certain degree of Knowledge or have been in the Church a significant period of time.

1)I have it all together

#2 - Cares of the World! - Parable of Sower! Matthew 13

A.)Seed sown among thorns **Word choked** out - become unresponsive to it by getting focused on cares of world!/ Pursuit of Riches

B) People just get distracted from the things of the Lord – can't make it to Bible study – have to work too Late To much to do[**Wrong Priorities**

C)Guys, if your wife is dragging you to church all the time – Problem- You are supposed to be the leader

#3 Sin & compromise Hypocrisy: Resisting the voice of the Holy Spirit – Conscience becomes Dull.

2 Samuel 12:7 / 1 Timothy 4:2

A)David after Bathsheba incident “You are the man.”

B)In reference to the Hypocrite{ Acting} in 1 Timothy 4:2 Paul referred to it has having your conscience seared or dead as NLT put it.

1)– no longer feel conviction anymore. – Scary place to be.

C)Things that once moved you – no longer do! – Guys that is usually not a sign of growth- usually a sign of Compromise. – Dead to it.

#4 A lack of spiritual exercise Hebrews 5:14 – This is the most subtle.

A.)This was the problem with the pp the book of Hebrews was written to. –

B)This is a problem in our day and age as well.

1)On the one hand in the church today – we have a problem with Biblical Illiteracy.

C)Too many churches don't teach the Bible – Christians don't study the Bible.

1)Spoon fed – Once a week – how healthy would you be only ate physically once a week?

D)Problem in the Church & it is evidenced ...

A New England teacher quizzed a group of college-bound high-school juniors and seniors on the Bible. Prior to a "Bible as Literature" class .

Among the most unusual answers from his students were: *"Sodom and Gomorrah were lovers" and "Jezebel was Ahab's donkey."*

Other students thought that the four horsemen appeared "on the Acropolis," that the New Testament Gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, **"Luther,"** and John, that Eve was created "from an apple," and that Jesus was "baptized by Moses."

The answer that took the misinformation prize was given by a fellow **who was academically in the top 5%** of the graduating class. The question: "What was Golgotha?" *The answer: "Golgotha was the name of the giant who slew the apostle David."*

So yes Biblical illiteracy is a problem in the church today - at large.

A)But another problem and one that – we who are in CC are more susceptible to is – Lack of exercise.

B)There is the great deception in the Church today – Knowledge = maturity.

C)We go to a lot of Bible studies – listen – radio – internet – podcast

Thank God for technology

D)We think – intake = maturity and health.

Think Physically – how healthy would you be if you ate and ate and ate – and never exercised - - never walked, moved around.

A)Get fat- lethargic!

B)There has to be an outflow !

1)Red Sea vs the Dead Sea – Out flow is the Key

C)Point he finishes up with here in V.14

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Maturity comes when we take God's word and put it to use.

A)That is **whom solid food is for** – the ones who put word into practice

B)Person who says - **how can I apply this?/ Pray it in right then**

C)The person who says Lord how does this apply to my **life – marriage/ friendship/ work place.** Kids

The phrase that Paul uses to illustrate this makes this even more Clear.

A)The phrase **"by reason of use"** is very interesting.

B)At that time the same phrase was used to describe the way that athletes trained for the Olympic Games.

C) It refers to Training by repetition.

1)Doing the same technique over and over again until it is perfected to the highest degree possible.

D) It is a known fact that humans learn and perfect skills by repetition.

1) In judo a student will repeat a technique at least 1,000 times before it is judged technically correct.

When I was playing baseball in high school – every practice – we did these 2 same drills for the Pitchers – Past Ball – Cover Home.

A) **Ball hit to the right side – Cover first** - Every practice over and over again.

B) See our coach wanted our **natural instinct** to be in the heat of the moment –

1) **Ball hit right side** – covering first –

2) **Past ball covering home.**

C) We did it over and over again – sometimes complaining – but guess what – heat of the moment

1) Game time – Past ball – boom –

D) Didn't have to think about it!

That is very much the idea here- spiritual maturity happens *by reason of use* -

A) Taking God's word and applying it to our daily lives – by repetition – How does it apply here.

B) Allowing Who Jesus is – God in human flesh – only way – Savior – redeemer – rescuer

C) Allowing who Jesus is to shape my approach to God

1) Not do's and don'ts, it is **DONE** – New natural instinct is resting in His work -

D) New Natural instinct – Appreciation and worship.

1) **Radical sinner saved by Grace – not going to hell** –

It is Allowing Who Christ wants to be in my life to shape the way I deal with life, other pp.

A) **Christ in my marriage** –

pick up the cross – die to bless someone else.

B) Parenting – Christ to my kids

C) Business – Integrity and honor -

D) Repetition – Taking God's word – praying it in – seeking to apply it to my life- until it becomes the **natural instinct** of the way I approach life.

Have you grown up? – God's word alive in your heart?

A) Seeking to apply it – live it or is it dull?

B) Pride – You know a lot. / Cares distracted/ Sin and compromise – dropped guard

1) Lack of application - Repent today -