

How to Grow Up 2021-01-03

Hebrews 5:11-14

11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Yearly children growth chart (height & date). Grow different rates.

- If spiritual life, there will be spiritual growth but growth rates vary.
 - Spiritually grow/mature by increase understanding of Word and obey.

Apparently Hebrews writer concerned audience spiritually immature. Hebrews 5:9-11, 6:12

- Dullness (sluggish, slow, lazy) of hearing was cause of spiritual immaturity.
 - Hearing/reading Word like white noise, hear but don't....grown dull to it.
 - Hearing with ears yet heart unresponsive....no faith/obedience.

Evidence: should be teachers by now not infants needing to be fed. Hebrews 5:12, 1-2

- Not all gifted as teachers but all should know enough to teach younger Christians basics of faith! Call to discipling
 - Elementary doctrine (Greek means, the ABC's) basic truths about Christian faith.
 - List Christian and foundational Old Testament/Jewish truths/practices that probably helped readers understand work of Jesus when converted.
- They not striving for deeper understanding of Jesus and Christian teachings/doctrine.

To grow/mature spiritually, increase understanding of Word Hebrews 5:13-14, 2 Peter 3:17-18a

- Christian growth requires laying foundation of basic doctrine and then building on it.
 - Never time in Christian life where stop being students of word.
 - If Word not getting into heart, not grow/mature in Christian life.
 - Passivity (life on autopilot) produces immature Christians.
- Learn not simply to stir intellectually; Word designed to transform lives.
 - Always study w/aim to obedience & godly living....not dull hearing!
 - This problem of Hebrews audience: lack of fruitfulness in life.

Christian growth directly related to obedience to truth already learned. Hebrews 5:14, Ephesians 5:8a-10

- As study Word become skilled in righteousness....living Christian life.
 - Understand life and how to live holy because of what Word teaches.
 - Life not lived without doctrine and doctrine not understood apart from life. symbiotic relationship.

- Doctrine informs your life and your life reveals your theology
- More know Word, better/greater moral, spiritual discernment.
 - Spiritual truth from Word flows into practical life decisions.
 - verse 14 about decisions not laid down specifically in Word.
- If not “dull of hearing” you grasp truths with heart, obey, transform and mature.
 - As obedience increases ability to understand deeper truth increases.
 - i.e.....Forgiveness

Spiritually grow/mature by increasing understand of Word and obey what learned.

- Mature Christian: Someone growing in knowledge of Word/truth that results in transforming life of obedience/godliness.

Christian growth not auto; takes deliberate effort and God’s enabling. Hebrews 6:3,
Philippians 2:12–13

- God ultimately decides if/how fast mature/grow in holiness.
 - God’s sovereignty in sanctify not remove our obligation. It enables it
- Press on to maturity: ask God for grace to be diligent in study of Word/doctrine, and heart to joyfully receive and obediently apply what learn.