

The Lifestyle of a Mature Believer

The writer of Hebrews is discussing the High Priesthood of Jesus when he stops and gives a rebuke to the readers in Heb.5:11-13. He makes several comparisons:

- a. **Dull of hearing** who had lost their momentum compared to those moving on to maturity who had become teachers
- b. **Infants who live on milk** compared to the mature who live on meat

Vs 11 **hard to understand** – Priesthood / Jesus for Jews – Levitical Priesthood 2000 yrs.

Vs 11 **have become dull** – **ginomai** (pf.a.ind) – fixed state; dull – **nothros** lazy, sluggish

- Jewish believers in reversionism had lost capacity to hear and understand

Vs 12 **by this time** – saved long enough to have grown to a mature state

- Most of Christianity in the USA today remain babies all of their lives

Vs 12 **you need again** – having been taught once but now needing to be taught again

- Reversionism causes us to lose our security & basic functions – revert/human logic

Vs 12 **first principles of the word of God** – milk doctrines

- Foundation they had built eroded and had to be built again – Gal 4:19 travail again

Vs 13 **infants are unaccustomed** – **apeiros** – w/out experience, unskilled

- The built security/salvation, privileges/union w Christ, 50 things – foundation
- They didn't use the doctrine **α** reverted to human logic **α** lost their growth

c. **The infant believer needs to grow** in the understanding of their salvation

d. **Milk doctrines relate to salvation** (1Pet 2:2) – faith / gospel, eternal security, 50 things FREE

e. **Foundation produces security**, confidence and positive view of self in Christ

f. **Transition** from infancy to maturity **is a time of vulnerability** – change of logic

- Change from using human logic to operating using spiritual logic – walk/ H/Sp
- Adversity in this transition can tempt the infant to revert to human logic – fear

g. **When in transition** if a new spiritual logic is not used, it erodes and is lost.

h. **When believer returns to God's will**, he / she must rebuild their spiritual foundation

i. **This time of growth** is related to the depth and consistency of teaching – CBD

Vs 14 **solid food is** – **stereos trophe** – meat doctrines – spiritual function, HS, motivation, inner man, belief systems: OM-NM, ministry, service, spiritual gifts, etc.

- 6:1 leaving the first principles move on toward maturity – decision to keep growing

- is – **eimi** – main verb in the sentence – eating and exercise must go together

Vs 14 **mature** – **teleios** – full grown, complete – adult stages of spiritual life

- Distinction between fully formed adult (21) and a mature adult (40)

Vs 14 **because of use** – **exis** – habit, repeated action, practice, ability acquired / practice

- Consistency from perseverance to continue perception / application of meat doctrines

Vs 14 **their faculties** – **aistheterion** – mental faculties of perception; mental organs that process information and cycle it into belief system for application to life

- Plato, Aristotle saw distinctions about the inner functions of the soul - Alexander

- Jesus and biblical writers used the psychology of the Greeks to explain the soul

Vs 14 **exercised** – **gumnazo** (pf.p.ptc) – exercise naked, vigorously exercise / train the body or mind, train in gymnastic exercise, physical or mental discipline of professional athlete

- Pf tense – state or condition one reaches after consistent, intense exercise

- Passive – believer acts upon his own faculties by consistently exercising them

Vs 14 **have** – **echo** (p.a.ptc) – to have / hold, to have capacity, and have a developed ability

- Constant exercise of perceptive faculties creates a state of developed capacity

VS 14 **discern – diakrisis** – evaluate carefully, ability to distinguish, make distinctions, and make separations between issues, differentiation

- Believer develops the ability to separate out the issues and therefore make distinctions
- Separate issues, establish priorities, eliminate peripheries, see root causes/solutions

Vs 14 **good from bad – kalos; kakos** – desirable and undesirable; good & bad decisions

- Good / bad – that which is good for you & bad for you based on spiritual truths

Life Experience of the Mature, Advancing Believer

1. Writer uses the Present tense of (eimi) + (pf.p.ptc) + (pf.a.ptc) to show the life of an adult believer

The Mature Believer keeps eating meat having habitually exercised his mental faculties to a state of conditioning, while having the ability to make spiritual distinctions about good and bad.

- Three things occur:
 - a. Bel keeps eating meat
 - b. habitually exercises his faculties to a complete state
 - c. keeps using his/her faculties to distinguish spiritual issues
- Lk 2:40 child kept growing, kept being made strong, while continually being filled with wisdom and the grace of God was continually upon Him – continuous action
- A breakdown in any of these three areas causes the believer to revert back to using human logic

2. Both body and soul metabolize food while exercising to build strength

Writer uses a body / athletic analogy to teach about the soul – milk/meat; habitual exercise

- The image is of a professional athlete eating nutritious and devoting himself to training
- Stress of mature spiritual functioning requires consistent inhale of meat doctrine
- Mature strength & discernment requires consistent exercise of faculties – application

3. The focus of the food and the exercise is the believer's faculties of perception

Food – explains God, His plan, H/Sp, faith, belief systems, sin, good, evil, life, death, time, eternity, marriage, family, government, economics, history – everything need to know

- Faculties have sufficient information to evaluate God's will in every part of life
Exercise – faith cycle under pressure/adversity, learn to endure/wait on God's completion
- Faculties build strength & momentum to stand firm under any pressure in life.

4. Awareness of the exercising of your faculties enhances capacity to use them properly.

Gumnazo – every area / stage of life, learning, thinking applying exercises your faculties

- 1Tim 4:7 – exercise – discipline yourself to godliness – guide faculties toward God
- Heb 12:11 – exercised – trained by divine discipline – peaceful fruit of +R living
- 2Pet 2:14 – hearts exercised – habituated by greed – habituate faculties toward greed

5. Mature, advancing believer uses his trained faculties to evaluate life experiences.

1Cor 2:12-16 – natural man (unbeliever) does not receive spiritual things, not able because they are spiritually discerned; spiritual man discerns all things yet is not discerned by the unbeliever.

- View life experiences using divine viewpoint – able to see God's perspective
- Discern between good/bad within issues – look & listen to H/Sp.

6. The Mature believer is able to discern God's will in the complexities of life.

- Walk / H/Sp, influenced by HS/truth, make decisions compatible with His will.

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As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 1,024 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 5,840 (approx.)