

“Spiritual Maturity” | Hebrews 5:12-6:3

Guest Speaker: Bill Holdridge | February 14, 2021

Hebrews 5:12-14 *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.*

Hebrews 6:1-3 *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **3** And this we will do if God permits.*

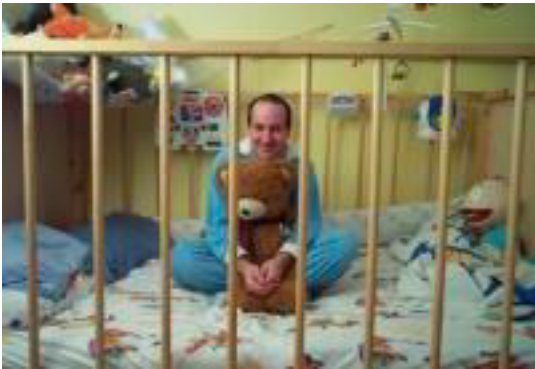
1 John 2:12-14

I am writing to you, dear **children**,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, **fathers**,
because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**,
because you have overcome the evil one.

14 I write to you, dear **children**,
because you know the Father. I write to you, **fathers**,
because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

It's OK to be a child, spiritually ... but not to stay that way.



Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

The Greek Word *Teleios*

Definition: of full age; perfect; complete; mature.

The Marks of Maturity

1 Corinthians 2:4-6 And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **6** However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

-Spiritually mature believers trust in God's wisdom rather than man's wisdom.

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

-Spiritually mature believers cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the way the gifts of the Spirit are exercised.

Ephesians 4:13 ...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

-Spiritually mature believers are focused on becoming like Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

-Spiritually mature believers are never content to rest on their laurels.

Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

-Spiritually mature believers become mature because Christ lives in them.

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

-Spiritually mature believers go through trials by faith and know they are doing much good in them.

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

-Spiritually mature believers have learned how to control their tongues.

The Progression to Solid Food

- “reason of use” — practice; they've taken the tools of the Word to the job site of life and begun to figure out how to do it.
e.g. one of the reasons I never got into carpentry was I was not familiar with the tools, and how to use them.
- So we make it a point to practice the Word of God

Praying: find a promise, and pray that way.

Marriage: learn what the Bible teaches about marriage and your role, and do that.

Finances: look to the Word! Find out what it says about debt, about giving, about stewardship, about God's promise to provide (Matthew 6:33). And then do it.

Child-raising: look to the Scriptures, and do that!

- The result: spiritual maturity.
- One church I know of lamented their discovery about the number of spiritually mature people in their church. Their conclusion: *they'd not taught the people how to be self-feeders.*

- “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

If my treasure is to be more like Jesus, my heart will follow. And year by year, I'll be more like Him than I was the previous year.

If my treasure is to live out the characteristics of spiritual maturity, my heart will follow. And year by year, I'll become more mature.

- Philippians 2:13- I cannot do it on my own!