



¹¹ Concerning which 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 have need again for someone to teach you the elementary 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 not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an babe. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of their mature state have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

¹ Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do, if God permits.

⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. ⁷ For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; ⁸ but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

⁹ But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

(Hebrews 5:11-6:12)

Digression (Hebrews 5:11- 6:20)

- the author aims to awaken his readers from complacency (“sluggish”) and direct them to the path of persevering faith
- they had become “dull of hearing” – inexcusable spiritual regression away from the all-sufficiency of Jesus as high priest

Press on to Maturity

Q: What are the “elementary teachings” we are to move on from?

Q: What is the “maturity” we are to move on to?

Press on to Maturity

1. What are the elementary teachings?

- the elementary Christian message in continuity with the God’s Old Testament revelation
- not the basic gospel message revealed in Christ
- these include the basis, the initiation and the ultimate outcome of the Christian life

Press on to Maturity

2. What is the maturity we must move on to?

- grasping and trusting in the all-sufficiency of Christ’s high priesthood
- continually appropriating the benefits of Christ’s high priesthood for perseverance (cf. Heb. 9:14; 10:19-22; 4:16)

Press on to Maturity

Q: Are you mature and maturing?

Q: What are possible hindrances to maturity?