
God Revealed

Part 6 - Constant Practice

Airline Safety Briefings.

Getting Back Into Hebrews

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Dull of Hearing

Hebrews 5:11

The hearers are 'dull of hearing': literally 'your ears have become sluggish'.

Question 1: When it comes to God, have you become dull of hearing?
Do you ignore what God is saying to you?

Milk or Solid Food?

Hebrews 5:12-14

The hearers are still learning the basics of the faith, the 'ABC's'.

It's like a fully-grown adult sitting at the dinner table, but instead of eating with everyone else, they are still breastfeeding. Makes you feel uncomfortable? Good, that's the author's intention!

Elementary Doctrine

Hebrews 6:1-3

Things of salvation (repentance and faith); of sanctification and living (baptisms and ministry), and the ultimate glorification of the believer (resurrection and judgement).

Question #2: Do you know the basics of what you believe?

Question #3: If you know the basics, are you just staying there, or are you using them as the foundation that they are, to grow deeper in your knowledge of God?

Tasted and Shared

Hebrews 6:4-8

What is being rejected? This is where the sobering moment comes for us: 'enlightened', tasted', shared' – all experiential language.

Like the Israelites became like the ten spies in their hearts, the author is basically suggesting that by rejecting Jesus and turning to old or alternative ways of living, we're standing with the religious leaders, Judas and the Romans who crucified Jesus.

Echoes of Matthew 13's parables, and Jesus' words to the Pharisees in Mark 3:23-30.

The phrase "shared in the Holy Spirit": the literal translation means basically "companions of the Holy Spirit".

Question #4: Are you a companion of the Holy Spirit, so you can stay in close step, keeping fruit that comes from His presence in your life?

Beloved

Hebrews 6:9-12

The author speaks to their identity; it's not by accident so they use this phrase only here.

The hearers are each individually challenged to keep going and keep growing. Remember: the one who has moved from milk to solid food has their spiritual senses trained by constant practice (5:14).

Question #5: Are you constantly practicing, constantly seeking to grow in your relationship with God, to experience the life of the Spirit in conjunction with the understanding of the teachings of the 'oracles of God' (the Scriptures). Do you intentionally practice living in the Spirit in the light of His word?

A Hopeful Invitation

Ephesians 2:8-10

Hebrews 11:6

Isaiah 60:1-3

Discussion Questions

1. When it comes to God, how do you hear His voice? Have you become dull of hearing like the hearers of Hebrews? Do you ignore what God is saying to you, or do you quickly respond?
2. Do you know the basics of what you believe?
3. If you know the basics, are you just staying there, or are you using them as the foundation that they are, to grow deeper in your knowledge of God? What does that look like for you?
4. Are you a companion of the Holy Spirit, so you can stay in close step, keeping fruit that comes from His presence in your life? How do you personally stay close to Holy Spirit?
5. How do you constantly practice walking with Holy Spirit, constantly seek to grow in your relationship with God, experience the life of the Spirit in conjunction with the understanding of the teachings of the 'oracles of God' (the Scriptures)?
6. Do you intentionally practice living in the Spirit in the light of His word?
7. What does the encouragement and warning of this passage in Hebrews mean for your daily living? What can you put in place to keep yourself growing in understanding and intimacy with God?