

I ended last weeks study speaking about our spiritual senses.

David said in:

Ps 34:8

8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

What is there to not like about God's word. If people were only willing to taste of His word.

The scriptures also speak of a spiritual sense of hearing as well.

To the churches Jesus said:

- "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Ps 119:18

18 Open my eyes, that I may see  
Wondrous things from Your law.

God gives the believers spiritual eyes and spiritual ears

- to see and to hear His truth

Heb 5:12-14

12 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.

A child eventually begins to eat solid food, and so it is in the life of the believer.

David said

Ps 34:8

8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

We learn to trust God by tasting His word.

Ps 119:103

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

There was a time when Jeremiah was wrestling with deep discouragement,

- he was feeling isolated and persecuted

- and yet the Lord called him to remain steadfast.

### **THEN Jeremiah found comfort in God's word:**

Jer 15:16

16 Your words were found, and I ate them,  
And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;  
For I am called by Your name,  
O Lord God of hosts.

God's word brings us comfort in times of need. He gives us peace.

Isa 26:3

3 You will keep him in perfect peace,  
Whose mind is stayed on You,  
Because he trusts in You.

### **When we exercise God's word in our life**

- our spiritual senses become sharp.

### **However, if a person rejects God's word,**

- that person will not see,
- nor will he understand
- the meaning of God's word.

### **For example:**

### **In the book of Matthew 13, Jesus was asked why He spoke in parables.**

Matt 13:11

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you (followers of Christ) to know the mysteries (things that were once hidden) of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. (speaking of the rejecting crowd)

### **Then Jesus quoted from Isa 6:9-10**

Matt 13:13-16

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,  
And seeing you will see and not perceive;

15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull.  
Their ears are hard of hearing,  
And their eyes they have closed,  
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,  
So that I should heal them.'

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

**God had commissioned Isaiah to preach to**

- the rebellious people of Judah
- who refused to listen to God.

**People can go one of two ways when they hear God's word.**

- They can either harden their heart
- as the people of Judah did thru
- or they can repent and follow God's word.

Heb 5:13-14

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.

**Chapter 6 is what many people call**

- the most controversial and difficult
- verses in the entire bible.

**Keep in mind that the author was writing this letter to Jewish Christians**

- that had left Judaism and were facing pressure
- and persecution and were tempted
- to return to their previous ways.

**However, they'd been believers long enough**

- that the author tells them they should be teachers by now
- but they were still spiritually immature.

**The author warned them earlier about drifting away in Heb 2:1-4,**

**Now in chapter 6 and verse 6**

- he warns them again against falling away
- and in chapter 10:39 he warns them about drawing back.

**As we jump into chapter 6 we'll see another warning**

- of not straying from the path of spiritual growth.

**That warning of course began in chapter 5 and verse 11**

- and will continue thru most of chapter 6.

**One person said of the first 6 verses that**

- they are the knottiest problem passage in Hebrews,
- if not the whole bible.

**William Barclay said,** “This is one of the most terrible passages in Scripture.”

They say this because as we’ll see, the verses speak about falling away.

Some interpret the section as losing your salvation.

Heb 10:23

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

**With that said, we are to run with endurance and persevere to the end.**

Heb 12:1-3

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Heb 6:1

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, (in other words, you all know the basics) let us go on to perfection (don’t be stagnant, let’s move forward in our Christian faith), not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (I’m not going to hash this out again, you all know the foundations of the faith)

**The word perfect as used here speaks of** “maturity or completeness.”

**Kent Hughes describes perfection as follows:**

Perfection is, indeed, the goal toward which the Christian should always be advancing, as our author is about to emphasize (6:1; cf. 12:1f.; Mt. 5:48), but which he will not attain until the appearance of the glorified Redeemer at the end of the age, when, seeing him as he is, the believer will at last be fully conformed to the likeness of his Lord (1 Jn. 3:2). Meanwhile the Christian’s maturity is relative—relative in terms of the degree to which he has advanced from his spiritual infancy on the journey to the perfection of Christ-likeness (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hughes, P.E. (1977) *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament), p. 192.

Heb 6:1-2

1 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.

**The author is saying,** “these are the basics, and we don’t want to remain stuck on these.”

**Then he lists 6 things for us to pay close attention to,**

- Repentance from dead works and Faith toward God
- Doctrine of baptisms and Laying on of hands
- Resurrection of the dead and Eternal judgement

The author is speaking of repentance from dead works.

**Chuck Swindoll says:**

The ambiguous phrase “dead works” could mean our deeds of the flesh that characterize those who are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-2), or they could refer to the useless, dead works of self-righteousness that can never bring salvation (Matt. 5:20)—that is, “man’s futile attempt at self-salvation.”<sup>2</sup>

Isa 5:20

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;  
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;  
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

**Isaiah was writing to the people of Judah**

- who claimed to be God’s people
- but had turned from Him
- by redefining morality
- to justify their sin.

**The world is confusing light and darkness,**

- but God’s word restores the light,
- hence, the Psalmist said,

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Ps 119:105)

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<sup>2</sup> Swindoll, C.R. (2017) *Hebrews*. Tyndale House Publishers (Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary), p. 87.

Acts 20:21

21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

NIV

Our salvation comes solely through the finished work of Jesus on the cross, no other way.

**How does one develop his faith?**

Rom 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**We know of at least 2 baptisms mentioned in the NT.**

- One is baptism by water (Matt 28:19),
- Water baptism is symbolic of a washing or a cleansing.

**The moment you come to repentance according to 1 Cor 12:13,**

- the Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ.

**When you were first saved, the moment you said yes to Christ,**

- the Holy Spirit came into your life and sealed you,
- He placed a down payment in your life
- until the day of redemption.

**The day of redemption is the day that you are either raptured or resurrected**

**After the day of Pentecost,**

- Jesus baptized the believers
- with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**That isn't an act of saving a person for second time, he's already saved.**

- But the Holy Spirit comes upon a person.
- Acts describes this like tongues of fire.
- It was God's power coming upon the people.

**How does this work for us today? It's like this,**

**"Lord, I'm facing some physical trials in my life,**

- I need your help, He shows up."

Josh 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**Eph 5:18 says to be filled with the Spirit.**

- This is a continual daily filling of the Spirit.

Verse 2 of Hebrews also speaks of the laying on of hands.

**This is when we recognize something in a person's life,**

- he/she may have certain gifts that are evident,
- and they're prayed for.

We also hear of the laying of hands on the sick.

**Then we have the resurrection of the dead.**

- Some will be raised to everlasting life,
- others to death.

Jesus is the firstborn from the dead and we will follow.

**There is also eternal judgment.**

It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement.

This is a one and done judgement.

Heb 6:3

3 And this we will do if God permits.

**I believe we are living in a time of urgency,**

- and I believe that God is permitting
- and God will permit us to continue to do His work.

People need Jesus more than ever.

**I believe the author is saying that we will go on to spiritual maturity**

- from the basic teachings of Christianity.

Jesus said we have to be as little children.

Matt 18:3-4

3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**In context, the disciples had just asked** who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

**Jesus was in essence telling them, you don't go up the ladder as a Christian, you go down.**

- You have to be humble and have a humble attitude.

**Are we equipped to do God's work?**

**That requires effort on both those being equipped and those equipping.**

2 Tim 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**Everyone of us should be in God's word.**

- We are to show ourselves approved

**As a Pastor, my job is to make sure you are receiving the truth of God's word,**

Acts 20:26-28

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

**Paul was saying, I didn't hold anything back when sharing the gospel message.**

27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**The NLT put it this way, it says, "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock-His church,**

**Paul was speaking to the leaders, to the Pastors.**

- What's the first thing he said to do, guard yourselves.
- This mean that my walk with Christ is to be right.
- Secondly, he is to guard the flock.
- Sheep need direction, care and protection.

among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

I believe God is permitting each of us to do His work.