



It's All About Faith: The Book of Hebrews

I remember when my children were newborns. I would awaken every four hours to feed them milk formula. In their early days, they could drink only a few ounces. As time went by, the amount of milk increased, until finally mushy cereal was introduced and sleeping the night became a reality. Gradually, the infants became toddlers and food was introduced. Starting with soft food, then finally meat. The child was maturing.

The book of Hebrews is a call for us to mature in our faith from milk to the meat of the gospel.

There are various views as to who wrote Hebrews. Some theologians believe it was the evangelist Paul, others think possibly a man named Apollos. What we do know is that it was written to Jews (Hebrews) who had adopted the teachings of Jesus. In the early church, there was conflict as to how this newfound religion, called “The Way”, meshed with ancient Judaism. Even the original disciples were in a quandary as to whether the age old Jewish traditions were still important when compared to the new covenant established by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Many theologians believe the book of Hebrews is the best explanation of who Jesus is. It answers the questions of why Jesus had to die, why bad things happen to good people, and how we should live as followers of Christ in an evil world. The first 8 chapters reveal the majesty and power of Jesus, His incomparable person and what that means in our everyday life.

Some theologians think this book is the answer to guilt, shame, anxiety and fear. By having faith in the resurrection power that is available to us today; we are able to conquer our fears. We are also freed from the shame of our sins. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” Jesus is “the way, the truth and the life”. Hebrews sets forth the reality of the cross and the truth of His power that is available to each of us.

However, the maturing of our faith is critical to gleaning the benefits of a Christian life. Hebrews invites each of us to go deeper into our faith. Our circumstances may not change, but we change. We find freedom to live our lives in service to a Heavenly Father who “so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have life everlasting”.

Don't we want all there is in life for us? Don't we want to live a life in freedom? Then let's journey together through Hebrews. Let's leave the milk and Pablum of our faith and start to chew on the meat of the gospel. When we taste the mature faith, we'll be enthralled with the person of Jesus, and our lives will never be the same.

—Meg Rice