

I. The New Testament emphasizes spiritual maturity as a _____ set before all believers.

II. It also emphasizes spiritual immaturity as a negative aspect, which can bring _____ and _____ to a believers life.

A. Four warning signs, of _____, found in the book of Hebrews:

1. _____

- a) Hebrews 2:1 - *We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.*
- b) Hebrews 12:1-3

2. _____

- a) Hebrews 5:12-14

- b) Two causes that lead to the Hebrews loss of appetite:

- (1) They _____ in things that did not _____ them.

- (a) Hebrews 12:1 - "...let us also lay aside every encumbrance..."

- (b) (cf 1 Cor. 6:12, 10:23)

- (2) They became _____ in _____.

- (a) Hebrews 12:1 - "...let us also lay aside ... the sin which so easily entangles us..."

3. _____

- a) Some of the early believers lacked spiritual discernment and were in danger of being deceived.
 - (1) cf Hebrews 13:9
- b) Followers of Jesus need to grow into spiritual maturity to better discern: what is wicked in the eyes of the Lord, false teachers, being lead astray, the intentions of our heart, what God's perfect and pleasing will is, etc...

4. _____

- a) Some are warned of neglecting the fellowship which gathered to meet for encouragement in the faith and for communal worship.
 - (1) Hebrews 10:25 the author instructs the believers to not "give up meeting together" as a church, as some of them have done.
- b) As the book of Hebrews unfolds, a theme that is emphasized, is greater faithfulness as worshiper of God.
 - (1) Hebrews 12:28-29 - "*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."*"
 - (2) Hebrews 13:15 - "*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.*"

III. Why does the author of Hebrews place such an _____ for the believers to "go on to maturity"?

1. cf. Hebrews 6:1
2. The concern is that if they continue on in these areas, that it may become evidence not of spiritual infancy but of _____.
 - a) Hebrews 6:4-8

Looking Ahead:

1. What from this weeks message, stood out to you?

2. Read Hebrews 2:1.
 - Have you seen or experienced fellowship with someone who ended up 'drifting away'?
 - What were the circumstances?
 - How did/does this impact the body of Christ?

3. Read Hebrews 12:1-3.
 - What are the negative aspects and positive aspects of this scripture?
 - What do you think the authors purpose and hope, in writing this may be?

4. Read Hebrews 5:12-13.
 - How might believers who read this scripture feel, respond, or critique the instruction?
 - In general, how would you describe the spiritual appetite of the western church? How might this impact other believers?
 - How would you describe your spiritual appetite? How might this might impact others?

5. In general, how would you describe the discernment of most believers? How does this practically effect their lives, spiritual growth, and others?

6. It is often difficult to discern the difference between ongoing immaturity, apostasy, and false conversion.

A. Consider Hebrews 6:4-6

- What does this scripture teach about salvation?
- What practical lessons does the imagery of land teach us?
- Can you think of an example that may apply to this passage?

B. How does Peter's denial and Judas' betrayal, illustrate Hebrews 6:4-6?

- Peter who denied Jesus three times (see Matthew 26:75)
- Judas who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (see Matthew 27:3)
- What questions are you left with?

This weeks scripture reading:			
Oct. 12 - Monday	Proverbs 7	Psalm 19-20	
Oct. 13 - Tuesday	Proverbs 8	Psalm 21-22	
Oct. 14 - Wednesday	Proverbs 9	Psalm 23-26	
Oct. 15 - Thursday	Proverbs 10	Psalm 27-28	
Oct. 16 - Friday	Proverbs 11	Psalm 29-30	
Oct. 17 - Saturday	Proverbs 12	Psalm 31	
Oct. 18 - Sunday	10:15a Worship Gathering		

When you journal remember SOAP:

Scripture - One verse that spoke to me. (write it out & its reference)

Observeration - General observations concerning my verse.

Application - What God might be saying to me, through this verse?

Prayer - My prayer, concerning the application of this verse (summarize it)

Please share with Pastor Jacob what God has been saying to you, teaching you, or a testimony that you may have during this season.

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ANSWER KEY:

- I. positive goal
- II. disfunction...disarray
 - A. spiritual decay
 - 1. Concentration Loss
 - 2. Poor Spiritual Appetite
 - 1. indulged...edify
 - 2. entangled...sin
 - 3. Discernment Deficit
 - 4. Worship Weakness
 - III. urgency
 - 2. false conversion