



# SUNDAY MORNING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Don't Stay Where You Started

**Passage:** Hebrews 5:11-6:2

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** The author of Hebrews pauses his discussion of Christ as our great High Priest to confront a serious problem, spiritual immaturity. That matters, because it shows us that you can be around deep truth, sound doctrine, and faithful preaching and still be stuck. You can be saved and still be childish, in church and yet not growing. And that is a quiet tragedy. In this passage, we will see three marks of spiritual immaturity, not to shame us, but to wake us up. God loves His people too much to let them stagnate. So let the Word speak, examine, and heal.

### I. Dullness Toward the Word of God (5:11-12)

Dullness toward the Word of God is not a personality trait, it is a spiritual condition.

How does one become dull of hearing?

#### A. When we neglect the hearing of the Word of God

If Satan cannot make you hate the Word, he will make you absent from it. If he cannot make you reject preaching, he will make you avoid preaching. If he cannot make you argue with the Bible, he will make you drift from the Bible.

The church is not your vendor but your family, and the Word is not your preference but your authority.



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B. When we take the Word of God for granted

We can live surrounded by the truth of God's Word, and slowly stop being moved by it. Not because it has lost its power, but because we have lost our attentiveness.

*"The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet." (Proverbs 27:7)*

*"Make it your work with diligence to apply the word as you are hearing it... Cast not all upon the minister, as those that will go no further than they are carried by force... You have work to do as well as the preacher, and should all the time be busy as he... you must open your mouths and digest it, for another cannot digest for you... therefore all the while be at work, and abhor the idle heart in hearing, as well as an idle minister." - Richard Baxter*

God does not bless passive hearing. He blesses believing, obedient, and engaged hearing.

C. When we fail to obey the Word of God

If you want to begin moving forward again in your Christian life, begin with the truth you already know but have not been obeying.

You need to understand that God will give you no further light until you begin to obey the light you already have.

**II. The Inability to Share the Word (5:12a)**

Spiritual maturity is not measured by how many sermons you've heard, it is measured by whether you can pass truth on to others.

There simply is no such thing as remaining where we are spiritually. We are either moving forward or we are falling back. We are either winning or we are losing.

What you can share will always be limited by what you are feeding on.



### III. An Insufficient Diet (5:12b-14)

*“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it...” (1 Corinthians 3:1–2)*

Maturing believers should be moving on in their lives past the basics to the real meat of God’s Word.

*“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)*

God loves His people too much to let them remain spiritual infants.

Seven Rules for Growth:

#### A. Daily Food

Open the Word. Read with prayer. Mark it. Meditate. Don’t just “get through” chapters, ask God to get the chapter through you.

#### B. Fresh Air

If you are dull toward the Word, often it is because your prayer life has become thin. A prayerless believer will always be a powerless believer.

#### C. Regular Exercise

Put into practice what you learn in God’s Word.

#### D. Adequate Rest

Rest means you stop carrying what God never told you to carry.

#### E. Clean Surroundings

Avoid whatever will weaken you spiritually.



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F. Loving Care

Be part of a church where you will benefit from a pastor's teaching and Christian fellowship.

G. Periodic Checkups

Regularly examine your spiritual health.

**Conclusion:** The writer of Hebrews is not being harsh. He is being urgent, because spiritual immaturity is not harmless. Babies are precious, but they are also vulnerable, and a church that never grows is easily deceived and easily stalled. If you feel convicted, hear this clearly: conviction is not condemnation, it is mercy. It is God waking you up in love. And if you are here today and do not know Christ, this passage is not calling you to grow up, but to be born again. You cannot mature until life begins. Jesus lived the life you could not live, died the death you deserved, and rose again so that sinners might be made new. Today, if you repent and trust in Christ alone, God will not shame you, He will save you.

