



HEBREWS 5 PART 2

The Danger of Spiritual Stagnation

The book of Hebrews is arguably the most magnificent theological treatise in the New Testament on the absolute superiority of Jesus Christ. But right as the author prepares to dive into the deep, glorious waters of Christ's eternal priesthood in the order of Melchizedek, he slams on the brakes. He looks at his audience—Jewish Christians facing intense persecution—and delivers a stinging rebuke: I have much more to say about Christ, but I can't, because you have become dull of hearing. This was not a sudden rebellion. It was a slow fade. These believers had stopped feeding on the solid meat of the Word, reverting instead to the pre-digested milk of infancy. They had been saved long enough that they should have been teaching others, yet they needed someone to re-teach them the ABCs of the faith. In this study, Pastor Steve walks us through the sobering symptoms of spiritual immaturity. He challenges us to honestly evaluate our own lives: Are we actively exercising the Word of God to develop discernment, or have we grown sluggish, lazy, and spiritually stunted?

Doctrine Definition: Sanctification is the ongoing, progressive, and cooperative work of the Holy Spirit and the believer, wherein the justified Christian is continuously separated from sin, conforms to the image of Christ, and actively grows from spiritual infancy into mature righteousness through obedience to God's Word.

Study Questions:

1. We are commanded to have our spiritual senses exercised to discern both good and evil. What is one practical way you can "exercise" your spiritual sight or hearing this week to better recognize the subtle deceptions of the enemy? (OT: 1 Kings 3:9 | NT: Romans 12:2)
2. To become mature, a believer must become skilled in the "word of righteousness" (Hebrews 5:13). Since true righteousness is found only in Christ, how does a deep, daily immersion in Scripture protect you from the counterfeit "righteousness" of the world and legalism? (OT: Psalm 119:9-11 | NT: 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
3. Spiritual immaturity is rarely intentional; it happens slowly when we stop stoking the fire. What spiritual disciplines have you allowed to cool off recently, and what practical step will you take today to add "wood" back to the fire? (OT: Leviticus 6:12-13 | NT: Revelation 3:15-16)
4. Deuteronomy 6 commands parents to teach God's statutes to their children constantly—when sitting, walking, lying down, and rising up. How can you more naturally integrate conversations about God's Word into the ordinary, daily rhythms of your household? (OT: Deuteronomy 6:6-9 | NT: Ephesians 6:4)
5. Sanctification always results in fruit. The author states that mature believers should, by this time, be teaching others (Hebrews 5:12). Why is the inability or unwillingness to disciple others a primary indicator of stunted sanctification? (OT: Deuteronomy 6:6-7 | NT: Matthew 28:19-20)