

The Danger of Selective Listening

Hebrews 5:11-14

Intentional Slowness

- A gradual decline in spiritual responsiveness

Arrested Development

- Stunted in their internal growth
- Revealed in outward practice
- Limiting capacity for more demanding instruction

The Source of Their Resistance

- The pressure tempted them to seek relief
- Accepting the truth about Jesus came at a cost

When Hearing isn't Listening

- True Hearing = Obedience and faith
- We resist when Scripture threatens the status quo
- The Word always has the right to contradict us

How have I confused familiarity with maturity?

What area of obedience have I been postponing?

What old values am I protecting from Scripture?

For Life Group Discussion

Hebrews 5:11-14

1. Have you ever been accused of selective hearing? In what situations are you most prone to “tune someone out”?
2. Read Heb 5:11 and Heb 6:12. How does the combination of “dull” and “sluggish” help us understand the author’s point? What is indicated by the words “you have become” in 5:11?
3. Read Heb 5:12-14 & 1 Cor 3:1-3. How is this immaturity expressing itself, both inwardly and outwardly? How is it hindering and limiting spiritual growth?
4. Read Heb 10:32-24. How does this help us understand the pressure the original readers were under? What pressures do you face because of your loyalty to Jesus? Can you relate to their temptation to shrink back and seek relief? Have you ever done the same?
5. We considered the truth that resistance often comes when the Word of God threatens the status quo. Has that been true of you? How has the word rearranged your life, and what was that process like?
6. Re-read the 3 application questions on the front. How can questions like these protect us from becoming “dull of hearing”? Which one is most challenging for you?