

WARNING AND CONFIDENCE

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

BIG IDEA

Christ is the foundation for Christian maturity.

SUMMARY

After discussing the role of Christ as our great high priest, the author turns to firmly warn his audience who have become “dull of hearing” (5:11) and lost their motivation to grow in maturity. Immature Christians are “unskilled in the word of righteousness” and unable to exercise godly discernment. An immature Christian is not an apostate, but they are on a dangerous trajectory. Immature Christians are still walking in repentance but are sluggish and lazy in their approach to their faith. However, an apostate has been enlightened to the wonders of God and has enjoyed the fellowship of the church and has rejected God. We cannot be lazy but must be committed to deepening our maturity in the faith, moving from needing milk to eating solid substantive food. To test the genuineness of our faith, we can look to the fruit of our salvation for assurance because faith always bears fruit. Remember the work that Christ has finished on our behalf and don’t respond with complacency and despondency, respond by growing in maturity to look more like Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 5:11-6:3. According to this text, what are the marks of a mature Christian? Now consider your own faith in light of this warning passage. Is your faith tending towards a lazy and stagnant immaturity or a fruitful maturity? What steps do you need to take to start growing in Christian maturity?
2. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Hebrews 5:11-14. How are these two passages related? What do we learn from these verses about the markers of Christian maturity? According to the commands and exhortations in these passages, would you consider your faith mature? Why or why not?
3. How should the warning of the 6:4-6 shape the way that you view your own sin, particularly habitual sin? How can you ensure that these verses don’t describe you? What precautions do you need to take?
4. Read Hebrews 6:9-12. Think of someone God has placed in your life whose example is worth imitating. How has that person been an example of faith and patience to you? How has that person modeled the hard work of pursuing maturity?