

Maturity

Maturity means completeness or full age. According to Hebrews 6, the opposite of mature is a babe. The reason for the lack of maturity in the spiritual growth is because of being dull of hearing, or lazy.

Hebrews 5:11-14 says, ¹¹ Of whom (Jesus) we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are **dull of hearing**. ¹² For when for the time ye **ought to be teachers**, ye **have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God**; and are become such as **have need of milk**, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is **unskilful in the word of righteousness**: for he is **a babe**. ¹⁴ But **strong meat belongeth** to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who by reason of use **have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**.¹ It seems that the reason for this to happen is that they do not understand Heb. 5:1-10, which speaks of the human high priest and then of Jesus, our eternal high priest. Can we understand what it cost Jesus to forgive us of our sins and set us free still remain in a babe, not being able to discern between good and evil.

In Hebrews 6:1-3, the writer says that maturity is moving beyond the basics. Therefore **leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ**, let us **go on unto perfection**; not **laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God**, ² **Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and ^hof eternal judgment**. ³ And this **will we do, if God permit**.²

Perfection in 6:1 is the same as full age in 5:14.

The earmark of the babe is they are **not able to discern both good and evil**. The earmark of the mature is that they are **exercised to discern both good and evil**. Heb. 5:14

The big trouble is when those that were once enlightened, go backward and fall away. Heb. 6:6.

It is evident that the “proof of the pudding” comes **after** experiencing the basics. Heb 6:1-2. In Heb. 6:7-8 there are two crops possible, one that brings the blessing of God and the other that is rejected, whose end is to be burned.

It is important that we produce that which **accompany** Salvation (The Basics). Heb. 6:9.

Other scripture says the Christian has passed from death to life, from the old man to the new man, from disobedience to obedience, from unbelief to faith. We are new creations in Christ Jesus. We have been purchased with a price, we are not our own. We are the servants to whom we obey.

This lesson at the least should teach us a something about maturity in our Christian lives.

When someone is a babe in Christ, their commitment should be to the level of their knowledge. As one’s knowledge increases, their ability to discern good and evil grows, their maturity grows, and their responsibility to that knowledge grows.

Sometimes we see older believers who look at the babe in Christ and see them happy with less knowledge and so they justify their low commitment level though they have a mature person’s knowledge. God does not look on this favorably. Jesus said, “To whom much is given, much will be required.” (Luke 12:48)

¹ [The Holy Bible: King James Version](#), Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version. (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2009), Heb 5:11–14.

² [The Holy Bible: King James Version](#), Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version. (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2009), Heb 6:1–3.

Do you think that Jesus cares if you do or do not know how to discern between good or evil? It is a reproach if you somehow think you can receive salvation from sin by the shed blood of Jesus, our great high priest, who came to earth to experience what we experience, and then still live in sin.

Let us all mature into the person Jesus wants us to be, knowing how to discern between good and evil, bringing forth fruit to his glory.

Lee Mummau