

The Necessity of Discernment and Threat of Deception

Hebrews 5:11-6:1-8

Series: Deception and
Discernment

Text: Hebrews 5:11-14

Date: September 28, 2025

Title: Don't Be Babies

*Hebrews 13:22 But I urge you, **brothers**, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.*

“bear” – put up with, endure.

The Author's Focuses:

- The author is concerned about their _____ (2:1-4).
- The author is concerned about their _____ (13:1-17).
- The author is concerned about their _____ (3:12-19; 6:1-8; 10:26-39).

The context: Christ is the perfect fulfillment of the priesthood, being the perfect offering for all sin for all time for all His people (4:14-5:10).

**1. Their Problem: They've become _____
in hearing (v.11).**

Hebrews 5:11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

“concerning him” – a reference to the previous subject.

“much to say” yet “it is hard to explain” – something was hindering the author’s ability to teach them!

“dull” – sluggish, lazy, slow.

“hearing” – the ability and desire to hear in order to understand, comprehend, and grasp something taught.

To be dull of hearing means to be unable to perceive biblical truth with clarity and understand it effectively because one has become lazy, unmotivated, disinclined to it.

Warning: do not become lazy hearers of the word yourselves.

2. Their Symptoms: Evidence of _____ (v.12).

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Two major symptoms:

A. Inability to explain truth to others and the need to be retaught the _____.

“by this time” – enough time has passed to expect something

“you ought to” – to owe, to be indebted to.

“be teachers” – the author is not describing the official position or gift of teaching, but the ability to explain something in such a way that it can be understood.

“the elementary principles of the oracles of God” – beginner basics of the faith.

B. Regression of _____ the truth.

“milk” - the food of babies; simple/ basic spiritual truths, i.e., the gospel in its simplest form, the most basic ethics, etc..

“solid food” – the food of the mature; deeper and more robust spiritual truths.

3. Their Condition: Spiritual _____ (v.13).

Hebrews 5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

“partakes” - shares in; lives on.

“of milk” – notice the repetition from v.12, the author wants to show the implications of them still needing milk.

“unaccustomed” - to be unacquainted with, have no experience with.

“word of righteousness” - the revealed righteous will of God given for people to do what is right before Him and believe what is right according to Him.

“for he is an infant” - a baby, young child.

4. Their Remedy: Become _____ by the Word in discernment (v.14).

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern both good and evil.

“is for the mature” - those who are grown. One could say adults or those who are developed.

“because of” – through or on account of.

“practice” - the operation of; the full use of. Routine exposure to, consistent using of, living by, dwelling in, etc.

“senses” - the faculties of decision making, judgement, understanding, etc.

“trained” – “gymnazo”; it describes the act of something being disciplined through use; exercised and conditioned through activity.

“to discern” - to distinguish and differentiate; to separate.

“both good and evil” - that which is of good quality and bad quality; right and wrong; true and false; both intellectual and practical.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy—by abhorring what is evil, clinging to what is good,

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 but examine all things; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Conclusion:

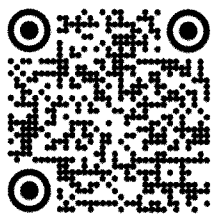
*Ephesians 4:13-14 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ, so that we are no longer to be **children**, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of **doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming**,*

“children” same Gr. word in Heb. 5:13 for “infant.”

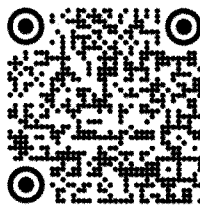
**For the Christian, spiritual maturity _____
faith, but spiritual infancy _____ one's
walk.**

Discussion Questions:

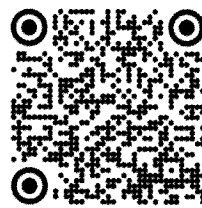
1. Explain what it means for a believer to become “sluggish in hearing.” How does one become “sluggish in hearing?” Why is it a dangerous state to be in?
2. The authors expectation for the Hebrews was that ought to be teachers. What did he mean? Do you think it's right to expect for most believers to be capable of teaching (according to what is meant in v.12)? Why or why not?
3. List the two symptoms of spiritual immaturity found in v.12. What does each symptom say about the person who displays them?
4. What does the author mean by “milk” and “solid food?”
5. According to v.14, what is maturity and how is it developed?
6. How does spiritual infancy affect one's vulnerability to false doctrine and false teachers?



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Blanks: doctrine, obedience, salvation, sluggish, immaturity, basics, understanding, infancy, trained, stabilizes, threatens.