

PERMANENT SPIRITUAL BABIES

Hebrews 5:11-14

Introduction: Ever see parents with a physically grown up son or daughter but that son or daughter is still an infant in behavior, understanding and thinking? Their bodies were grown, mature but their minds never developed. A baby in a grown up body. Upon seeing someone like this one feels sorry for the parents for they will have to care for their grown up physically child all of his/her life or as long as they, themselves live. The writer of our text is describing the same thing but in a spiritual condition. Christians who have been Christians long enough to be acting and thinking as mature, spirit filled, active for the Lord people but instead are still immature, inactive and baby-like in Christian behavior. God's Word is food for Christians, yet many never get beyond the "baby" stage, the salvation, the being born into God's Family beginning. They're not feeding upon God's Word as they should.

I. GOD'S WORD IS RICH AND DEEP

1. God's Word is "living" and it brings wisdom, growth and spiritual maturity when ingested regularly.
 - Some of God's Word gives new meaning and direction to one's life.
 - No Christian can ever study God's Word enough.

2. No person can understand, grasp or comprehend certain parts of God's Word upon first reading of it.
 - What a person cannot comprehend of God's Word is to be taken by Faith.
 - As a person grows in the Word of God, non understandable parts of God's Word becomes understandable.
 - The Disciples at one time didn't understand very much about Jesus and His ministry, but as they matured in the Holy Spirit, they came to understand.

3. God's Word will never be understood by a casual approach.
 - Closing one's eyes and opening the Bible to just anywhere is not going to make one wise in God's Word.
 - Some have said that they just flipped open God's Word and God's Word jumped out at them. Beware of such "readers" of God's Word for they will never grasp the depth.
 - Unbelievers do not understand God's Word for it takes the Holy Spirit to help one understand God's Word and the Holy Spirit is not in the unbeliever.
 - God's Word must be approached with the desire to know, understand and apply what is revealed in one's reading/studying of God's Word.

4. God's Word is so deep and rich that it requires continuous reading and study. A word by word approach is a very good approach to the study of God's Word.

II. GOD'S WORD IS DEMANDING

1. To understand God's Word, one must listen with the ears of the heart, not just read a bunch of words.
 - One can read and read and read God's Word and not gain a single thought for that person is "dull of hearing," lazy, numb, useless and has no feeling for God's Word in his/her heart.

- One's total attention is required when studying God's Word and then one must apply what he/she learns immediately to his/her life.
2. God's Word demands that the reader share it with others.
 - Every Christian is in a sense a "teacher" for he/she is to share with others what he/she has learned, gained from his/her study of God's Word.
 - As one receives during the study of God's Word, so he/she is to share it with others.
 - Christians are obligated and have a spiritual and a moral debt to share God's Word.
 - A doctor who passes a sick person and gives no thought to that person's condition and offers no suggestion of help, is a doctor to be pitied. He can help but doesn't.
 3. God's Word demands that Christians grow.
 - It is expected that babies grow, therefore newborn babes in God's Family are to grow also.
 - All have seen retarded mentally, stunted physically people who didn't mature as expected.
 - There is a big difference in being a child and acting childish.
 - It is a tragedy when a Christian refuses to grow and mature.

III. MATURITY IN GOD'S WORD IS DEMONSTRATED BY EVERY CHRISTIAN

1. Every Christian demonstrates his/her growth, maturity in God's Word in some way or other.
 - Some demonstrate that they know very little of God's Word as they lack spiritual growth.
 - Some demonstrate that they are growing and maturing in God's Word as they share, witness, serve, and live as the Lord wants.
2. God's Word is not just to be read, it is to be lived by. It is a way of life. (*1 John 1:6*)
 - Christians who act like children are not maturing in God's Word but are acting abnormal.
3. Because one has been a Christian for many years does not mean he/she is a mature Christian.
 - Most Churches are filled with immature Christians. Members for many years, but still babes.
 - Spiritual growth is not measured by the length of years one has been a Christian.
 - Either one grows and matures or else one remains a babe and acts like a babe, a child.
 - Sadly, the majority of a Church membership are spiritual "runts," immature and ignorant of the deep things of God.
4. "What was good enough for Grandpa is good enough for me..." theology is what immature, babes in the Lord think.
 - Those who refuse to mature in the Lord have temper tantrums, pout, sulk, refuse to attend, etc, when they don't get their way. A sad tragedy.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians who do not study, meditate on God's Word will never mature and will be permanent infants, babes in the Lord.
2. Churches are filled with Christian babies. Are YOU one of them?