

# Growing Old vs Growing Up

"No Turning Back" (Study of Hebrews) - part 7

Pastor Bob Johnson, January 19th, 2020

## Maturity Encouraged & Defined:

(Hebrews 5:11-14)

## Basics Defined & Salvation Questioned:

(Hebrews 6:1-8; 9:27-28, Acts 13:2-3, Matthew 7:21-23, Mark 6:20, Romans 2:4, John 12:24-26, Mark 3:22-30)

(Philippians 1:6-7, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Peter 1:3-4, 1 John 5:11-13)

## Assurance Given & Hope Renewed:

(Hebrews 6:9-12)

## Five Foundations of Spiritual Maturity:

### 1. It's not about how much we ... but how much we ...

(Hebrews 5:14, John 13:17, John 14:15)

### 2. It starts with our ...

(Luke 8:4-14)

### 3. It continues with our ...

(Proverbs 4:18)

### 4. It's an ongoing ...

(Philippians 3:12-16)

### 5. It's never too late to ...

(2 Peter 3:9-10)

## This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our second week of this 12 week study of Hebrews 5-11. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in March.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

## Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning, the focus was on maturing in our faith as we looked at Hebrews 5:11 - 6:12. One way to define maturing is continuing to love God and love others. We all tend to show love to others differently. The book, *The 5 Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman, breaks this down very simply into five categories: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time and physical touch or affection.

Which of these five categories is the most natural way for you to show love to others? Which is the least natural for you?

- Words of affirmation: sharing compliments, encouraging someone
- Acts of service: helping someone move, bringing someone dinner
- Receiving gifts: buying or making someone thoughtful for someone
- Quality time: giving undivided attention, planning a thoughtful date
- Physical touch: hugging, holding hands, sitting close to a hurting person

Spiritual maturity has more to do with our actions than our intentions. Who is someone in your life whose actions lead you to believe they are spiritually maturing?

Before we dig a little deeper in other passages that support last Sunday's message, let's re-read Hebrews 5:11 - 6:12.

What stood out for you from last Sunday's message?  
What encouraged you? What raised a question for you?  
What stretched you to consider applying something you heard to your life?

## Digging Deeper:

1. In the Hebrews passage we looked at last Sunday, (Hebrews 5:11- 6:12), the writer talked about what spiritual maturity and spiritual immaturity each look like.

The following verses use symbolism (using an object or word to express an idea) to help explain the same concepts.

What are some ways the symbolism in the following passages helps us understand both spiritual maturity and immaturity?

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- Ephesians 4:11-16

How do these verses explain how spiritual immaturity can hinder our faith?

2. We heard last Sunday that there can be a 'point of no return' when one's heart gets hardened to the point that they no longer care about their lack of faith in Jesus. For those who have a family member or friend who has shown no interest in pursuing God, the thought of a point of no return can touch on some of our greatest fears.

But we also see in Scripture that we have a God who pursues us to our very last breath. How might the following verses bring hope and comfort to those who know someone who has no interest in pursuing God?

- Luke 15:1-10
- Romans 10:1-4, 11-13
- 2 Peter 3:8-9

How does God's pursuit of his children speak to how he feels about us?

What is your response to the above point that you have a God who is pursuing you as we speak?

Can you give an example of how God pursued you before you put your faith in Him?

3. We would all agree the Apostle Paul is someone who understood what it takes to be spiritually mature. He was also very committed to seeing other people grow spiritually, which is something we see in his prayer life.

What do we learn about spiritual maturity from what Paul prays in Ephesians 3:14-19?

Is there anything from Paul's prayer that you would like others to pray for you?

## Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Before we wrap up are sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?