



July 5, 2020
Pastor Eric Wakeling

Hope for Better Growth Hebrews 5:11 - 6:3

You can't handle the truth! Hebrews 5:11-12

Hebrews 5:11 – *"...it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing."*

- "Dull of hearing" - to have no push, lazy or sluggish in hearing
- "Have become" - they weren't always this way, this is a regression

Don't just hear it, do it! Hebrews 5:13-14

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

- "Word of righteousness" - advanced theological teaching that stresses the cost and responsibilities of discipleship
- James 1:22 – *"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."*
- James 2:14-26 – *"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."* (v. 26)

It's time to graduate! Hebrews 6:1-3

Hebrews 6:1 – *"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity..."*

- What are you doing to mature in your ability to interpret scripture?
Visit calvarylife.org/podcast to hear from [Craig Hill on "How to Read the Bible"](#)
- Has the length of time you have followed Jesus resulted in maturity?
- According to this passage, what are the basics?
 - Repentance from dead works – the dead works are the system of sacrifice with the Levitical priests, that system was good but temporary and now Jesus has brought a better way. "Dead works" is only used here and in 9:14 in whole bible
 - Faith toward God – turning towards God rather than dead works
 - Instruction about washings – specifically baptism and ceremonial cleansing, different than the doctrine of baptism but more regular ritual cleansing involved in first century Judaism
 - Laying on of hands – In the OT, this is how you would impart a blessing, appoint someone to a certain office or work, or identify the sacrifice. In NT, the elders and deacons are appointed by laying on of hands. This also could include prayer but more likely it's the other things.
 - Resurrection of the dead – that this is possible. Job 19:25; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:12
 - Eternal judgment – a final judgment at the end of days at the Great White Throne and the Lake of Fire. Hebrews 9:27; 10:26-31

Response: Take one step this week towards doing something instead of only learning new information.



DIGGING DEEPER

HEBREWS 5:11 - 6:3

1 Preparation

If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him. *"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."*

2 Read the Text: Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Read the text a few times until you have a clear understanding of what the passage is saying.

3 Contemplate + Journal

Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- How vital is our growth as followers of Jesus? Take some time and reflect on how you have grown in your walk with Jesus. Thank the Lord for His work in your life.
- The spiritual life is not about us becoming virtuous, but allowing the fruit of the Spirit, His virtue, to be formed in us. Open to the Lord and ask Him to show you areas of your life that you need to grow in and that His Spirit needs to transform.
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

4 Praise + Worship

Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time.

Song Recommendation: ["Something New"](#) by For All Seasons

5 Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart in this time.

6 Blessing *"May you be filled with gratitude for the ways the Lord has grown you and worked in your life. May you not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* **Romans 12:2**

NEXT STEPS

Your Response Today: Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting “**Card**” to **970-00**

Connect in a LifeGroup: Grow in community together this summer with others from Calvary. There will be some groups meeting online throughout the summer, as well as smaller off-campus groups meeting in-person. Browse groups to join, or consider helping to start a new group using a Bible Study resource on Sabbath, The Lord’s Prayer, Psalm 23, or Digging Deeper in Hebrews at calvarylife.org/groups

Discover More: Learn about ways you can connect to life at Calvary including weekly pastoral updates and online events, find resources to receive care and help through this season, and discover how we are reaching out with the good news of Jesus locally and globally at CalvaryLife.org

RESOURCES

Worship Service Live-Stream: Calvary will not be having in-person, on-campus groups or services until further notice. The Worship Service will be streamed live online each Sunday at 9:30am. Find ways to watch and resources for you and your family on our website at calvarylife.org/live

Family Activities: Find ways to help “do church” with your kids and fun activities to build their faith each Sunday and throughout the week with great resources provided by Calvary Town at calvarylife.org/town

Find Help or Give Help: Do you need assistance or encouragement in this season? Or, do you want to get involved and be available to help others in need? Find ways to receive help or give help at calvarylife.org/help

Ways to Give: Please pray for those who are affected economically by this virus and for our church finances as well, that God would sustain and provide through this challenging season. Please consider mailing a donation to the church or you can give online simply and securely this week at calvarylife.org/give



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