

Elder Bobby Willis



Growing In Spiritual Maturity

Kindergarten is an exciting time in the life of a child. A lot of memories have been and are made of seeing some of the grandchildren with their pens and tablets, trying to make their first letters. While I never had the opportunity to go to kindergarten, just watching the younger ones made me know that I had missed something. However, we as adults cannot go back and make up for missed opportunities as a child. It would not be proper for me in my late 60's to try and sit in one of those small desk and go through that experience now.

Due to the immaturity of many of the Hebrew brethren, they were attempting to return to their original beliefs under the Mosaic Law. These immature saints of God were being tempted to walk away from their allegiance to Jesus Christ. A mature follower of Christ would have been better able to stand against these temptations.

Paul was very plain with them. Notice his words in Hebrews 5:11-14, **“...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.”**

Those who had become **“dull of hearing”** were in such a state or condition because they had not matured as they should in the truths of Jesus Christ. They should have been ready for the **“strong meat”** of the gospel but found themselves **“unskilful in the word of righteousness”** and were referred to as still being a **“babe”** rather than being of **“full age”** (strong in knowledge of God's Word).

Many of us can witness to a time in our lives when we “wasted time” in the service of God and did not grow in knowledge as we should. The reasoning behind the necessity of growth (maturity) in gospel knowledge is so we can be in a

condition which Paul speaks of in the 6th chapter of Hebrews. Once you have understood the basic principles of the doctrine of Christ, Paul said, “...**let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptism, and laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit**” (Hebrews 6: 1-3).

If you find yourself in a condition of “**a babe**”, then it might do you well to look up your church’s “Articles of Faith” and study them well. Then, once you have a good grasp of what they mean to the children of God, you will find yourself in a much better condition to move on to the things of “**strong meat**” as is proper from mature followers of Christ. Paul goes on to give a good reason for us not being slothful in knowing more about the things of Christ. He said, “**And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:...**” (Hebrews 6:11). This too should be the desire of all of God’s children. **“Think About It!”**