

MESSAGE: BETTER MATURITY

SERIES: Book of Hebrews: Better Than – Living the Upgrade

Text: Hebrews 5:11-6:12 CSB, pew Bible page 1063

Heritage Church, Van Buren, AR

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BIG IDEA: Spiritual maturity isn't OPTIONAL—it's the pathway to stability, discernment, and fruitfulness in the Christian life.

CONFRONTING THE DIFFICULTIES OF PERSEVERANCE

1. ASSAULTING THE PROBLEM OF IGNORANCE

A. Stems from LAZINESS

Hebrews 5:11 ¹¹ *We have a great deal to say about this, and it is difficult to explain, since you **have become too lazy** (sluggish, slothful) **to understand**.*

B. Leads to INEFFECTIVENESS

Hebrews 5:12 ¹² *Although by this time **you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the basic principles of God's revelation again**. You need milk, not solid food.*

C. Results in CARELESSNESS

Hebrews 5:13-14 ¹³ *Now everyone who lives on milk is **inexperienced** with the message about **righteousness**, because he is an infant.* ¹⁴ *But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses **have been trained** (gegymnasmena) to distinguish between good and evil. **Shake-up (Hebrews 6:12)***

2. WALKING THE PATHWAY TO MATURITY

Hebrews 6:1-3 *Therefore, let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and **go on to maturity**, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, ² teaching about ritual washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And we will do this if God permits. See Heb. 9:27*

3. AWAKENING TO THE PERIL OF APOSTASY

A. They despise God's GIFTS

Hebrews 6:4-5 ⁴ *For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were once **enlightened**, who tasted the **heavenly gift**, who **shared in the Holy Spirit**, ⁵ who tasted **God's good word** and the **powers of the coming age**,*

F. F. Bruce says, 'God has pledged Himself to pardon all who truly repent, but Scripture and experience alike suggest that it is possible for human beings to arrive at a state of heart and life where they can no longer repent.'

B. They REJECT God's SON

Hebrews 6:6 ⁶ *and who have fallen away. This is because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding him up to contempt. See Isaiah 53*

C. They forfeit God's BLESSING

Hebrews 6:7-8 ⁷ *For the ground that drinks the rain that often falls on it and that produces vegetation useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and about to be cursed, and at the end will be burned. Deut. 29:18–28, Isaiah 5:1–7, Hebrews 12:29, 2 Cor. 13:5*

NEXT STEP: DEMONSTRATE FAITHFUL DILIGENCE
TO THE END.

Hebrews 6:9-12 ⁹ *Even though we are speaking this way, dearly loved friends, in your case we are **confident of things that are better** and that **pertain to salvation**. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you demonstrated for his name by serving the saints—and by **continuing** to serve them. ¹¹ Now we desire each of you to **demonstrate the same diligence for the full assurance of your hope until the end**, ¹² so that you won't become lazy but will be **imitators of those who inherit the promises** through **faith and perseverance**.*