

All In: The Mark of Maturity

Hebrews 5:11–14 NLT

There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Salvation is a personal experience between God and me, but the resulting effect of salvation is an outward expression of the love of God flowing through me!

Hebrews 5:14 NLT

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NT Wright says it this way, *"What the writer here longs for is that people should become proficient in understanding and using the entire message of God's healing, restoring, saving justice. He wants them to know their way around the whole message of scripture and of the gospel, to be able to handle this message in relation to their own lives, their communities and the wider world, and to see how all the different parts of God's revelation fit together, apply to different situations and have the power to transform lives and situations."*¹

¹ Wright, T. (2004). [*Hebrews for Everyone*](#) (p. 54). Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Hebrews 6:9–12 NLT

Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

Spiritual maturity: *Loving others with faith and endurance, motivating us to acts of service.*

Five Keys to Maturing in Love

1. Refuse spiritual passivity.

2. Let love, expressed in service to others, be the measure of your spiritual maturity.

John 3:16 NLT

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

3. Keep pressing forward instead of living on spiritual leftovers.

4. Evaluate your receiving / reproducing ratio in your life.

5. Hold onto the hope that is before us.

Hebrews 6:17–20 NLT

God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us.

Small Group Guide: The Mark of Maturity

Opening Question

In what area of your faith do you feel most tempted to stay comfortable instead of growing?

Growing Into Maturity

Hebrews 5:11–14 gives a sobering but loving picture of what spiritual maturity is supposed to look like. The author is speaking to believers who should have grown beyond the basics by now, but instead are still needing milk when they should be ready for solid food. That sounds sharp, but the goal is not shame. The goal is growth.

Spiritual maturity goes beyond how long you have been a Christian or how many Bible verses you can quote. It is about whether your life is becoming useful in the hands of God. Mature believers do not just receive truth; they begin to carry it, live it, and share it. They grow into people who can recognize what is right and wrong, not only for themselves, but in the world around them.

That is where Hebrews gets very practical. The writer is not talking about private self-improvement as much as public responsibility. Maturity means you start asking different questions. Not just, “What do I need?” but also, “Who needs help?” Not just, “What am I getting?” but also, “What am I giving?” Not just, “How can I stay comfortable?” but, “How can I love well and take responsibility?” That is a huge shift, and it is one of the clearest marks of growing up in Christ.

Salvation is personal, but it is never meant to stay private. God has not just rescued us **from** something; He has saved us **for** something. Maturity shows up when we stop living like the road ends with our own blessing and begin seeing ourselves as someone sent to serve, encourage, strengthen, and help carry the love of God into the lives of others.

Hebrews 6 continues that same thought by encouraging believers to keep loving others, keep working for the Lord, and keep moving forward. The warning is clear: if you stop growing, you can become spiritually dull and indifferent. But if you keep loving, keep serving, and keep pressing on, you stay awake and alive in the things of God. This is about responding to His love with an active, outward life.

Another key part of maturity is hope. Hebrews 6:17–20 reminds us that God’s promise is sure because He cannot lie. That means your future is not hanging by a thread. Your hope is not built on changing feelings or circumstances. It is anchored in the character

of God and in the finished work of Jesus. When life feels unstable, hope keeps you from drifting. It reminds you that God is still faithful, still present, and still working.

Maturity, then, is not just knowing the right things. It is growing in love, responsibility, endurance, and hope. It is letting God shape you into someone who sees people, serves faithfully, and keeps moving forward with Jesus.

For Discussion

1. What do you think it means to move from “milk” to “solid food” in your spiritual life? Where do you feel God calling you to grow right now?
2. Why do you think the author of Hebrews connects maturity with responsibility and teaching others?
3. What are some signs that someone is becoming spiritually dull or indifferent?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for calling us to grow in You. Help us not to settle for shallow faith or spiritual passivity. Give us hearts that love others well, eyes to see what is right, and courage to take responsibility for the people and opportunities You place in front of us. Teach us to keep pressing forward, to keep serving faithfully, and to stay anchored in the hope we have in Jesus. In His name, Amen.