



LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION (1)

On To Perfection – Hebrews 5:12-6:1

In our text we find the author rebuking his audience because they have not matured as they ought to so that they could grasp the depth of a subject like the priesthood of Jesus. In Hebrews 6:1 he challenges them to go on to perfection. In this study we are going to notice some topics designed to help us reach forward toward perfection. We begin with a study of our text.

I. What is perfection?

- a. In the English language, means without flaws or defect.
- b. In scripture, it can refer to that perfection (God is perfect – Matthew 5:48, His word - 1 Corinthians 13:10, Psalm 19:7), OR a state of absolute maturity or completeness.
- c. As Christians, maturity and completeness is a state we need to believe we can achieve.
A realization that we can accomplish what God desires in us and reach maturity.

II. Qualities of perfection – Hebrews 5:12-14

- a. You ought to be teachers – Hebrews 5:12, “By this time” - enough time had passed that they should have been able to identify the error and teach.
Within reasonable time, we ought to be able to teach. 1 Peter 3:15, Ephesians 4:14.
- b. A good grasp of “first principles” (vs. 12)
The beginning elements of something, fundamentals. NASB “the elementary principles”
We should be maturing to grasp the basics of God’s word in reasonable time.
NOTE: The basics are not always easy to be grasped, but foundational! Cf. Hebrews 6:1-2
- c. He has gone past the need for milk (only) (vs. 12-13)
Milk a reference to these basics – 1 Peter 2:2, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3.
We become concerned when a child is not growing. How about our spiritual growth?
- d. Grown up – (those of full age – vs. 14)
You have matured in your understanding - 1 Peter 2:1-2, Ephesians 4:15
A time when we need to put away childish things (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:11). Cf. 1 Peter 2:1
Able to digest “solid food” - able to eat a complete diet (milk AND meat).
 - i. The mature are “skilled” in the word of righteousness (as opposed to the unskilled who partake only of milk) - 2 Timothy 2:15, 21 – useful for the master.
 - ii. By reason of use have their senses exercised –
By reason of use – we have to practice! “because of practice” (NASB),
NOTE: maturity in anything comes through application of what you have learned.
Senses exercised – the Greek word for exercised (γυμνάζω, gymnazō) - a word that means to train or discipline by training. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
We are “exercising” our mind (senses, perception of spiritual matters, will).
We need to THINK! Philippians 4:8 speaks about “meditating” on these things.
 - iii. Able to discern good and evil – Hebrews 5:14 - We perceive right and wrong. We grasp attitudes and principles with which we can make due application.
Philippians 1:9-11 - approve the things that are excellent. Cf. Ephesians 5:11, Titus 1:9-11 elders and the mature of a congregation are able to identify the false

III. Let us go on to perfection - Hebrews 6:1

- a. **Let** - permit or allow – here, an imperative (necessary or required) expression
- b. **Us** – all of us. **Each one of us** – 2 Cor. 5:10; **All of us together** - Ephesians 4:16, Rom. 12:4-5
- c. **Go on to** – action in a positive direction. 2 Peter 3:18, Colossians 1:10
- d. **Perfection** – As noted, this word can mean either without any defect or flaw OR mature.
BOTH have their place in scripture. Ephesians 4:13, Hebrews 5:14 those “of full age.”
It is not enough to simply profess belief in him, we need to be moving toward perfection.

ARE YOU GOING TOWARD PERFECTION?