

BIBLE STUDY

HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

¹¹We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

^{6:1} Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, ^a and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites, ^b the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.

⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. ⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. ¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

In this passage, what do you find to be

INSPIRING?

What makes you say, "YES! AWESOME! I LOVE THIS!"

In this passage, what do you find to be

CONVICTING?

What makes you say, "Ohh, that stings a little. I need to be/do more of this."

In this passage, what do you find to be

CONFUSING?

What makes you say, "What the whatty what does this mean?"

After reflecting on this passage, ask yourself,

How now shall I live?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Read the passage twice, make a note of anything that is inspiring, convicting, or confusing.

In 5:11, what is the “this” referring to?

Re-read 5:12. Does this mean teachers don't need teachers? ...That the mature don't need to hear elementary teachings?

According to this passage, what are the elementary teachings? How do you feel about this list? If you were to make your own list of elementary teachings, how would it compare?

How does this passage describe spiritual maturity?

What teaching(s) are “advanced” / not elementary?

Re-read 6:1. Why is the author moving past elementary teachings if they aren't ready for it.

Re-read 6:12 and 5:11. Isn't the original audience already lazy since they are no longer trying to understand?

Create a “profile” of the original readers/hearers of this letter. How does this passage describe them?

What is the righteous life? Is this different or the same as spiritual maturity? If different, how so?

Summarize and describe the flow of the thought in this passage in your own words.