

ON TO MATURITY 033009

(Hebrews 5:11-14)

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PROTECTION FROM UNBELIEF

Steps to protection from unbelief and the subtle temptation to self-dependence:

1. Maintain an active diet on the written Word.
2. Maintain open fellowship with God.
3. Have constant confession.
4. Develop intimacy with Jesus.

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- I. The Superiority of the Person of Christ (1:1-4:16)
 - A. Christ is Superior to the Prophets (1:1-4)
 - B. Christ is Superior to the Angels (1:5-2:18)
 - C. Christ is Superior to Moses (3:1-6)
 - D. Christ is the Supreme Object of Faith (3:7-4:16)
- II. The Superiority of the Priesthood of Christ (5:1-10:39)
 - A. Christ is Superior in His Qualifications (5:1-10)
 - B. Parenthetical Warning: Don't Degenerate from Christ (5:11-6:20)

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Maturity in Christ

- 1 John 2:13-14 – Our walk will have natural phases.
- Hebrews 6:1,2 – Maturity in our understanding of relationship with and in Christ is our goal!

Hebrews 5:11-14 – Three Steps to our Maturity

Step 1 – Time. (v. 12)

- It will take time.
- Things don't mature without the passing of time, it's what we do with our time that will determine our level of maturity in Christ.
- Who are you teaching right now?
- Are you on milk or solid food?

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Hebrews 5:11-14 – Three Steps to our Maturity

Step 2 – The Word. (v. 13)


- Our move from milk into solid food is vital!
- Milk – basic and simple truths of the faith.
- Often found in devotionals helps and sermons.
- Solid food is found in the written Word (*rhema*) concerning the deeper truths of the *logos*.

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Hebrews 5:11-14 – Three Steps to our Maturity

Step 2 – The Word. (v. 13)


- Using the *rhema* to mature into a deeper understanding of the *logos* (Eph 1:18):
- 1. A steady diet of the Word (Acts 2:42, Acts 17:11)
 - Keeps us from the world's philosophy – (Col 2:8)
 - futility – “void of purpose or appropriateness” pointless.
 - “Do not live as the gentiles live. For they live blindfolded in a world of illusion,” (Eph 4:17b-18a J. B. Phillips)
 - The Written Word is our standard of thought – objective reality
- Get serious about scripture. (2 Timothy 2:15)

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Step 2 – The Word. (v. 13)


- Using the *rhema* to mature into a deeper understanding of the *logos* (Eph 1:18):
- 3. Develop a habit of memorizing key scriptures.
 - Romans 12:2 – transformation of our thinking will lead to transformation of our actions!
 - Psalm 119:9-11 – according to Your Word!
- 4. Learn to let the *rhema* reveal the *logos*.
 - John 5:39,40 – scriptures (*rhema*) reveal Jesus (*logos*)
- 5. Accountability.
 - Timothy 3:14-17

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Hebrews 5:11-14 – Three Steps to our Maturity

Step 3 – Practice. (v. 14)

- Ephesians 6:17 – “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”
 - “word” here is *ρημα* (*rhema*) – specific sayings concerning Jesus
 - *rhēma* – that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, a word; a series of words joined together into a sentence (John 3:24)
 - Romans 10:17 – the foundation of our faith!
- Active use of the sword of the Spirit as the word of God has almost vanished in everyday Christianity.
 - How often do you quote a verse in response to a lie?

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Hebrews 5:11-14 – Three Steps to our Maturity

Step 1 – Time.

Step 2 – The Word.

Step 3 – Practice.

- Over time, the continual practice of using the objective truth of the scriptures will lead us into maturity in our faith.
- Our actions will follow our thinking!
- Matthew 4 – the great example of using the Sword of the Spirit