

What Am I Eating? (For Spiritual Nourishment)

Series: The Supremacy of Jesus

July 11, 2010 Pastor Bill Bump

God takes very seriously our need to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NLT) There is so much more we would like to say about this. But you don't seem to listen, so it's hard to make you understand. You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food. And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right.

The writer of Hebrews says a lack of growth is caused by an unwillingness to listen, which leads to a lack of understanding.

Sadly, some individuals are content to remain spiritual infants.

Our spiritual senses grow dull if we do not practice what we have learned.

The problem with continuing immaturity is an unwillingness to obey what has been learned.

What is the solution?

Hebrews 6:1-3 (NLT) So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start all over again with the importance of turning away from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

At LFMC this is the purpose of life groups.

We need to get past the entry point of our faith and learn to distinguish between biblical thinking and our old way of life.

Next, the writer of Hebrews fears that something tragic is indicated by this unnatural refusal to grow, and he writes a difficult passage:

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NLT) For it is impossible to restore to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people to repentance again because they are nailing the Son of God to the cross again by rejecting him, holding him up to public shame.

The writer of Hebrews ends this section by reminding us that God's promises bring hope.

Hebrews 6:9, 11, 17, 18 (NLT) Dear friends, even though we are talking like this, we really don't believe that it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation...Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true...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 us 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 take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.

We were meant for better things. The better things are doing what is right, referred to in Hebrews 5:14 as solid food. And doing what is right is loving others, we are told in Hebrews 6:11.

John 13:35 (NLT) Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

CONCLUSION:

Let us be enthusiastic to grow, as it is natural for living things to grow.