

Research Proposal: Passage: 5:11-6:3

Using the exegetical template, I would like to investigate and answer some questions that a reader can ask from reading the passage. Why is the Hebrews writer determined to exhort that we mature beyond the basic tenants of Christianity. In other words, why do we as believers need to grow and mature? Why is God telling and instructing us to mature in faith in Christ? What happens if one decides not to grow and mature in Christ? Are there consequences for choosing to be stagnant and not grow in faith?

In our Christian journey, one must move beyond being a baby Christian and at certain point, one needs to grow up. Without growth, believer will feel stagnant and experience spiritual dryness. However, there is tendency in people to not experience the growing pain. On the contrary, there is determination and expectation from the writer of Hebrews for the reader and believers to grow in Jesus Christ. The illustration is quite simple, just as baby at certain point needs more than milk to experience more fuller physical and emotional growth, Christians need more than basic tenants of Christianity to if they wish to experience God more fully. And it is also what God desires for us as well, as Hebrews 6:1 state, "Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity." However, some believers simply don't want to grow up beyond showing up to church on Sundays. I intend to show that growth and maturity comes from learning and living the life of obedience and seeking joy in Christ. God is a faithful God that will help and guide our maturity, God permitting, that is.

Four Academic resources.

1. Guthrie, George H. NIV Application Commentary: Hebrews. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
2. Hagner, Donald A. Encountering the Book of Hebrews: An Exposition. Edited by Walter A. Elwell. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
3. Thompson, James W. Hebrews. Paideia Commentaries on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
4. Levine, Amy-Jill, and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. The Jewish Annotated New Testament. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2017.