

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net



“ARE YOU ON THE ROAD TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY?”

PART 3

Heb. 5:11-14

March 3, 2013

Heb 5:11-14

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

The 6 Warnings of Hebrews

1. Warning against drifting from “the things we have heard” (2:1–4)
2. Warning against having an evil, unbelieving heart that does not hear the “voice” of God (3:7–14)
3. Warning against the failure to advance from “the elementary principles of Christ” (5:11–6:20)



| Greek Word | | Meaning | Spiritual Level | Characteristics | Need | Scripture |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Positional Eternal | Practical Temporal | | | | | |
| Teknon Huios | | Child Forever Son Forever | Heir of God Adopted | All Positional Truth | Put his Position into practice. | Jn, 1:12; <u>Rom.8:16,17</u> Gal. 3:26; Rom 8:14,15 |
| | Brephos | New-born 0-1 | Infant | Desire for milk | Taught the basics. | <u>1 Pet. 2:2</u> |
| | Nepios | Toddler 1-3 | Baby/ Toddler | Foolish Immature | Discernment | I Cor. 3:1; Heb. 5:13 <u>Eph. 4:14</u> |
| | Paidion | Child 4-12 | Committed Disciple | Teachable Strong | Discipline | 1 Jn. 2:13,14 <u>1 Cor. 14:20</u> |
| | Neaniskos | Young Man 13-21 | Victorious Disciple | Applies the Word Defeats Satan | Consistent victory. | 1 Jn. 2:13,14 |
| | Pater | Father Adult | Mature Disciple | Knowledgeable Teaches others | Reproduction | <u>1 Jn, 2:13.14</u> 1 Cor. 4:15 |

WORD →

①

Those who give
out the Word.

Pastor-Teachers

Bible Teachers

Evangelists



②

Those who
take in the
Word.

Believers

We're Losing Our Youth

- **93%:** will never return to the church 18 months after they graduate.

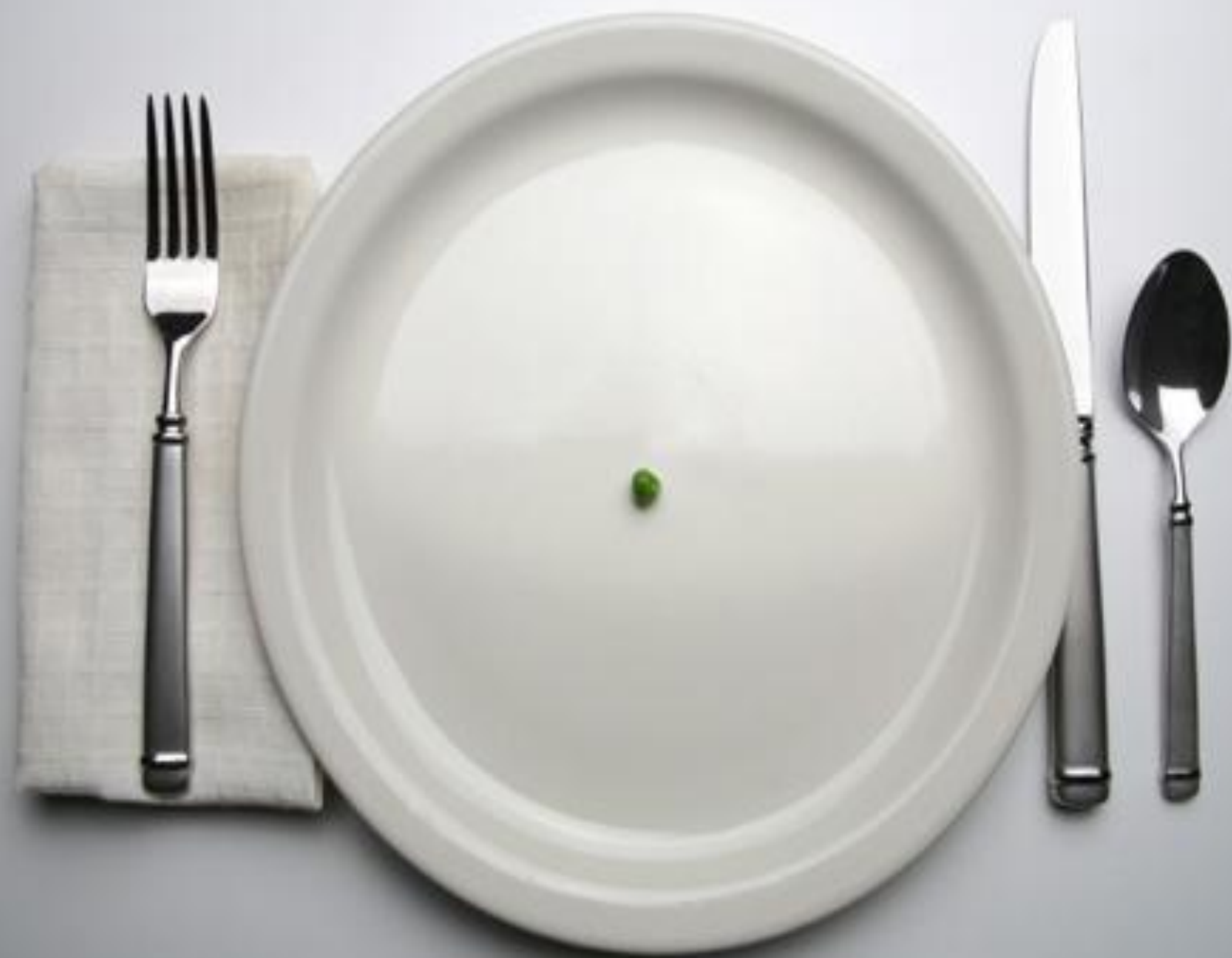
- *“Youth At Risk”* - **Josh McDowell**

- **88%:** of the children raised in evangelical homes leave church at the age of 18, never to return.

-Research study of family life in America by the Southern Baptist Convention's Family Life Council in 2002

- **70%:** LifeWay Research
- **66%:** Assembly of God study
- **61%:** Barna study in 2006
- **20%:** The number of Americans who say they have no religious affiliation - **Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.**

Labeled “nones” because they claim either no religious preference or no religion at all, their ranks have hit 46 million people. Much of the growth is among young people — one in three U.S. adults under 30 are now considered “nones”.





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10 ways the Church is failing to teach believers the Word:

1. By being relevant.
2. By being “politically correct” and political.
3. By dumbing down the truth.
4. By catering to the flesh.
5. By appealing to emotion.
6. By being pragmatic.
7. By being entertaining.
8. By presenting “another” Jesus.
9. By counting heads.
10. By compromise.

10 reasons why believer's fail to receive the Word:

1. *By not really being a believer after all.*

1 Cor 2:14-15

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

2. *By being "worldly".*

1 John 2:15

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Mark 4:18-19

18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Ps 119:37

37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,
And revive me in Your ways.

3. *By “hardening of the viewpoint”.*

Heb 3:13

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb 5:11

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

4. *By drifting backward.*

Heb 2:1

1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

5. *By allowing your emotion and feelings to direct your life.*

2 Cor 6:11-12

11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.

Mark 4:16-17

16 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

6. By putting their fleshly wants and needs above their spiritual needs.

Jer 5:30-31

30 "An appalling and horrible thing

Has happened in the land:

31 The prophets prophesy falsely,

And the priests rule on their own authority;

And My people love it so!

1 Cor 3:1-3

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

2 Tim 4:3,4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

7. By filling their lives with sin.

James 1:21-22

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

Ps 119:11

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You.

8. By downgrading the Word of God.

1 Thess 2:13

13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

9. By failing to separate and leave a godless lifestyle.

Ps 1:1-2

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

10. By failing to separate and leave a false religious belief system.

Matt 13:15

15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL,

WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR,

AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES,

OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES,

HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,

AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN,

AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

Application

1. Growing in Christ is the most exciting adventure the believer can experience here on earth.
2. However Satan will do all he can to prevent you from growing. Don't underestimate him. If he can't keep you from getting in the nursery, then he wants to keep you a baby in the nursery. Why?
 - Babies are not discerning.
 - Babies do foolish things.
 - Babies are disruptive.
 - Babies need constant attention.
 - Babies do not reproduce.

3. Spiritual growth is dependent on the intake and digestion (application) of spiritual food which is the Word of God.
4. Those who give out the Word and those who take in the Word both share the responsibility to do their part in the growth process.

Eph 4:11-16

- 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
- 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,
- 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

5. Therefore –

“Are you on the road to spiritual maturity?”