

The Danger of Dull Hearing

Hebrews 5:11-14
December 27, 2015

I. Danger

- The author has been encouraging the Hebrew believers to persevere by reminding them that “Jesus is better.” He is better than angels, Moses, the law, and he is the perfect high priest.
- He has offered numerous exhortations against falling away (Hebrews 2:1; 3:1, 8, 12; 4:1, 11, 14).
- The danger in falling away carries grave consequences (Hebrews 6:4-8; 10:26-31).

II. Dullness

- These people are apathetic to great doctrines of the faith.
- They are content to remain “babies” in their faith and only drink milk.
- They should be able to teach by now, but they are ignorant of the basics (vs. 12).
- Not an ‘ear’ issue, but rather a ‘heart’ issue (3:7-8, 15; 4:7).

III. Diligence

- The opposite of “dullness” is “diligence” (Hebrews 6:11-12; Luke 8:18).
- Diligence involves eating solid food and growing into maturity.
- Discernment is trained by constant practice.
- It is a moral issue—maturity allows us to distinguish good from evil.
- For the author of Hebrews, there is a direct correlation between perseverance and growth.

Know: As believers we are commanded to grow in our faith. The result of stagnation is not mere simplicity, but apostasy.

Do: Commit yourself to doing the hard work of maturity. Study the scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15) with all diligence. It is profitable for “training in righteousness” that we may be equipped and complete (2 Timothy 3:17).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. Why do you think many Christians do not progress in their knowledge of the faith?
2. Give some examples of a time in your life when you were “dull of hearing” and how it cost you.
3. How have you grown spiritually this past year? What has been the greatest impact on your life? Your family? Your worship (etc)?
4. In what ways does being in God’s Word make us more discerning?
5. For those of you who have committed yourselves to growing into maturity, what were the factors that encouraged you to do this?
6. The author mentions “the basic principles of the oracles of God.” What would you say are the basics of the faith? Read Hebrews 6:1-2. What does the author consider them to be?
7. What are some things you can do in 2016 to be “diligent in your hearing” and “grow in maturity” in your faith?