Introduction:

We continue in our look at the Book of Hebrews – this week we visit Chapter 5. Last week in Chapter 4, we looked at the promise of REST. We saw in Chapter 4 that Israel, because of their disobedience & poor decision, never experienced the rest of the Promised Land.

The writer of Hebrews is issuing a parallel warning to Jewish believers in the first century AD who, because of persecution/peer pressure, are about to follow suit by making a poor decision to go back to the Law of Moses, rather than continue to follow the more superior Law of the Messiah under which they have been saved by grace through faith.

The preceding Chapters in Hebrews show us that they are true believers in Jesus Christ. But here we find them attempting to make a decision to go back to the old ways of Judaism (the rules, festivals etc.) in order to ‘stay alive’.

We already discovered that Jesus, as the Messiah, is more superior to Moses, more superior to angels, and now the writer is saying that Jesus is far more superior to the Law of Moses to which they want to return. Why would you want to go back to an inferior system or an inferior state? It doesn’t make sense. That’s why the writer of Hebrews is showing them the error of their impending decision. And if they make
that decision, they will certainly suffer physical death in the catastrophe that is coming in AD70 with the total destruction of the Temple and its systems.

So, the Homework this week was to read Chapter 5 of Hebrews. Let’s read it together and discover with the readers of Hebrews that Jesus is simply the best!

Don’t forget, if you missed any of the messages on Hebrews and would like to catch up, you can download the sermon and/or the notes from the Laidley Baptist Church website.

**If you have your Bibles, we’re going to read through Hebrews Chapter 5 together**

**Let’s pray …**

*Gracious God & our Heavenly Father,*

*Thank you for Jesus. Our High Priest – One who has made the perfect sacrifice for our sin. May you speak into our hearts and affirm again that your Son Jesus, sent to this earth to be our Redeemer, is simply the best. We thank you for the grace You have shown to us. I pray that we will love you more & more.*

*In Jesus’ name,*

*Amen*

**JESUS - A BETTER PRIEST**

Last week, I mentioned that Jesus is better than the third pillar of Judaism – which is the Levitical System … the Law. We touched briefly on the fact that Jesus as a heavenly High Priest when compared to Aaron in his duties as an earthly High Priest, is more superior in 5 contrasting ways:

- Jesus has a better position; *(we looked at this last week)*
- Jesus is a better priest;
- The New Priesthood is based on a better covenant;
- The New Priesthood functions in a better sanctuary;
- The New Priesthood is based on a better sacrifice.

Last week we looked at the first of these contrasts between Jesus & Aaron - **Jesus has a better position.** The place of this (i.e. Jesus’) High Priest’s ministry is in Heaven, not on earth. Being in heaven is a superior position. Because the place of his ministry is
in Heaven, He is able to bring the ones He represents directly into the presence of God.

The second of the contrasts is that Jesus is a better priest. Believers have a better priest. The Priesthood of Jesus us after the Order of Melchizedek, which is superior to the Order of Aaron.

**There are 4 Prerequisites for Priesthood (Verses 1-4):**

1. **A priest must be human (v1a).** To be humane, he had to be human. As I said last week a priest represents man to God, therefore he himself must be a man & must be human. Every priest must fulfill this. No angel could function in this role. To be a High Priest, God had to become a man.

2. **A priest must function in an order that offers both gifts & sacrifices for sin (v1b).** Blood offerings and meal offerings were offered with sacrifices. This was done in an order – the Levitical Order. Throughout the Old Testament we see this principle that sacrifice must be made for sins. Later in Hebrews 9:22 we learn that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

3. **A priest must be compassionate & sympathetic (v2-3).** He has to have experienced some of the things that the people he represents have experienced. But there was a problem – the priest still had to offer sacrifices for his own sin. And he had to do this before he could offer sacrifices on behalf of the people he represented. He had to obtain purity first. Whereas Jesus had no sin, and therefore, always had purity.

The high priest was obligated to offer sacrifices not only for others, but also for himself. If you are a Christian leader you must be careful never to neglect your own walk with God in order to help others. We will not be able to serve others as effectively unless we have a thriving relationship with God ourselves. Every sermon I preach should be a sermon preached to myself first and foremost. Every prayer offered for wisdom, forgiveness, and grace for others should be offered for ourselves as we need the wisdom, forgiveness, and grace as much or more than they do. Every principle we ask others to follow, we should do ourselves. This attitude will not only sharpen our walk with the Lord and help us grow, but it will also humble us and help us become both more dependent on God and more merciful to others.

4. **The High Priest had to be appointed by God (v4).** No priest could take the office for himself. God had to call him (like Aaron in Exodus 16:33) to be a priest. If you tried to be a priest without God’s appointment you would be rejected by God.
(e.g. Korah who led a rebellion against Aaron – the earth swallowed him up in Numbers 16). Other examples are King Saul – rejected by God because he offered his own sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel (1 Samuel 13:5-14); and King Uzziah who was struck with leprosy (II Chronicles 26:16-33) when trying to burn incense, which was a priestly task.

**How Jesus meets the 4 Prerequisites to be Priest** (Verses 5-10):

So in order for Jesus to become a priest, He had to fulfill all of these 4 prerequisites. In verses 5-10 it shows how Jesus fulfills each of these 4 conditions.

**God appointed him to the role.** It is tied to His resurrection (Psalm 2:7). It’s a divine appointment, but He wasn’t appointed to the Levitical Priesthood (like Aaron) ... He was appointed to the Melchizidekian Order (Psalm 110:4) – which was an appointment as a priest AND a king. More about this in a minute.

**Jesus was human.** Every high priest had to be human. It says in verse 7, ‘During the days of Jesus’ life on earth’ (or in the days of the flesh), ‘he offered up prayers with fervent cries and tears’. This is summarizing Jesus’ experience in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:44) – the intensity of suffering as he sweated great drops of blood, praying to the Father to deliver Him from death, both physical & spiritual. His prayer was answered ... because of his fear of God. All of these things – tears, cries, fear, agony, prayers – show His humanity.

**Jesus was compassionate (v8).** He learned this by being obedient, He also suffered; He partook of discipline. The office of priest for Jesus meant suffering and death. These things made him compassionate.

This is a reminder that the normal high priest was one of the people. He was not set apart as being above the people. He came from among them and he was like them. His own weaknesses and sins and mistakes enabled him to treat others with mercy. A priest would often listen to people tell their sins. After all, they may say why they brought an animal and why they needed to offer a sacrifice. He surely would hear about many terrible things that people had done. One part of him would be tempted to pridefully look down on the people he was serving. He may be tempted to harshly rebuke the people for their sins. Yet a good high priest should remember that he too is a sinner. He too makes many mistakes and has done many foolish things. Remembering that would help him to show mercy and forgiveness to others who had erred.
The principle is like the parable of the slave (Matthew 18:21-35) who was forgiven the huge debt by the master and then went and refused to forgive. The application for us is to remember that we are all sinners. We are not better than any of the people we share the gospel with. We are not better than any of the people we go to church with. We are not better than our unsaved or saved family members. All of us are sinners and all of us need God’s forgiveness. Next time you are tempted to climb up onto your throne and judge others take a moment and look at yourself.

Looking at our weaknesses will help us be more patient and kind to others when they make mistakes. This is the lesson Jesus sought to teach the mob who was going to stone the lady caught in adultery. “He among you who is without sin, let him cast the first stone.” (John 8:1-11)

At the same time this is a reminder that we have no excuse for not obeying God and serving Him in the area He has called us to. We might be tempted to make the excuse that we are sinful and therefore not fit to serve God. But even the high priests were sinful and they were still appointed.

**Jesus does function is a priestly order (v9-10).** ‘Once made perfect’ means the completion of a process/goal. His sufferings were completed on the cross. The Greek word used here for ‘perfect’ is the same root word used on the cross, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30). Jesus, through the cross and the end of his sufferings for sin, could cry ‘It is finished’. Jesus was perfected by means of His suffering. This brought him to the goal – Jesus became to all that obey Him (by faith, not works, because salvation is never by works. It is an obedience of faith) the author of eternal salvation. He was the final effectual sacrifice.

The specific priestly order in which Jesus functions (v10) is the order of Melchizedek. This was the official call by God to the office of High Priest. This occurred after His death and Resurrection, at His Ascension. Jesus was called to the Order of Melchizedek. The writer doesn’t elaborate here about Melchizedek. Because of the reader’s spiritual immaturity they will not understand what he is talking about. After mentioning it, he drops the subject. We will pick it up again in Chapter 7.

*For now it is enough to note that Melchizedek was a priest-king. Aaron’s line were priests, but they were not kings. David’s line were kings, but not priests. The two roles were distinct and separate. Melchizedek performed both roles in his office of priest-king. This is the type of high priest that Jesus was, re-affirming once again His supremacy.*
APPLICATION OF VERSES 1-10:
Here we see that a high priest fulfills his duties on behalf of men. His position of leadership is used not for himself. It is not used for his own benefit, career, or finances. His job is truly “for the people.”

The job of the high priest was a spiritual position. When Jesus came to earth, at various times the people sought to make Him king. He didn’t let them. Pilate asked if Jesus was a king (John 18:33-36) and Jesus responded that His kingdom is not of this world. In the same way, a high priest doesn’t focus on the affairs of the world. His focus is on the things of God. His focus is on helping God’s people grow closer to God. There is a subtle reminder here that believers are first and foremost citizens of and ambassadors of heaven. John gives the warning in 1 John 2:15-17 about not loving the world and Paul expresses the same thought in Colossians 3:2.

Sometimes we may have a hard time balancing these two thoughts. Like in many areas of life it is easy to go too far to one side or too far to the other. Some may pay a lot of attention to the earthly needs of man such as visiting people, dispensing medical help, feeding the poor, helping the sick, etc. All of these things are worthy goals. Yet some Christians who focus on them may forget about the “things of God.” Helping the physical issues is a means to an end of helping these people spiritually.

There is a Chinese parable – ‘Give a man a fish and he will not be hungry for a day. Teach him how to fish and he can feed a village’.

You could add a line on to that, “Teach him about God who made the fish and he need never be hungry (spiritually) again.” So this is the job of the high priest. He teaches people the things of God so that their relationship to God can be restored.

The Third Warning – STAGNATION (Verses 11-14):
All four verses (verses 11-14) are rich in content & each verse carries a specific obligation. One of the problems is the ever-present danger of resting in previous attainments.

What has happened here is that the readers have attained a certain level and they are resting on past attainments. They have failed to progress to spiritual maturity. This next 4 verses deal with stagnation and the writer spells out specific problems that these believers have.
The words ‘about this’, refers to the previous verse where he mentions Melchizedek. He has a lot he wants to teach them about Melchizedek, but that all belongs to the ‘meat’ category, not milk. What the writer is afraid of is that his readers, because of their stagnation and failure to progress, will not be able to understand what he is about to teach them about the Melchizedekian Order. This is why he temporarily drops the subject ... to scold them!

Because of their spiritual dullness/laziness, it would be too difficult to teach them about Melchizedek. They haven't always been this way. But now they have become sluggish in hearing. The Melchizedekian Order is a hard interpretation, difficult to explain & difficult to understand. He is afraid he will lose them because they won't understand it.

The implication is that after a period of time every believer should become a teacher in at least some capacity. The writer says that at this point they should be teachers. They should be passing on what they have learned and demo-ing it for others. Yet instead they are stuck in first gear and need to keep learning and re-learning the same basic points. Although there are certain people who have been blessed with the gift of teaching, it doesn’t mean that those without the gift of teaching are not supposed/required to teach. Deuteronomy 6 & Colossians 3:16 show that every believer should be teaching others.

What can you teach? You can start off by teaching others what Christ has done for you (Mark 5:19). This is a reminder that as believers we are not just to be pew-warmers. We are not to think that there are super-teachers who do all the teaching while everyone else listens. Our job is not just to bring people to the church to listen to others teach them. It is our responsibility to teach others what we have learned about Christ. The world is reached by training people (or you could say teaching people) to train others to train others to train others.

Jesus followed this model when He taught the disciples and told them that the Holy Spirit would remind them of the things Jesus had taught them so that they could teach these things to others (John 14:26). It’s the model of apprenticeship. Each apprentice learns from his master. After a while he starts his own shop/business and takes on his own apprentice.

Are you doing this? Are you teaching others from what you have learned? Are you a HOT Christian (Hearing, Obeying, and Telling)?
We should make the habit to tell others about what we are learning in our daily life. Tell a friend, schoolmate or family members about what you have learned in study today. Share your quiet times with others.
The obligation in verse 11 is that every believer must mature in order to handle the deeper things of the Scriptures.

In verse 12 he gives the reason. They are not new believers. If they were baby believers, their inability to understand could be used as an excuse. Everyone starts out on milk when they are new to the faith. But these believers have been saved for some time now. By now, they should be teachers of the Word. They need to be re-taught the basics/first principles (MILK). Melchizedek has to do with MEAT.

Instead of pushing forward by obeying and passing on what they had learned, they needed constant reviewing, constant reminding. The image is something like that of a piano student, who goes to lessons regularly and sits through “listening” to his teacher. She gives him homework and asks him to practice during the week. The next week she finds that he hasn’t improved at all. Not only has he not improved, but he doesn’t even seem to remember the previous week’s lesson. This happens over and over and over. Eventually the teacher feels like she is just banging her head against the wall repeatedly because no matter how hard she tries, he is not paying close attention and he is not practicing and he is not improving. In this case it was necessary to teach them the basic principles (milk) again because they weren’t doing it. Maybe after hearing these principles they thought it was good to do and even planned to do it. But they didn’t obey.

Milk has to do with the A-B-C’s (basics) of Scripture. The meat of the Word of God has to do with advanced doctrinal truth & its application in the issues of your life. They were not always this way – they have become this way. They have regressed. This is the danger to believers. Without advancing spiritually, they will go backwards.

The obligation of verse 12 is they need to develop spiritually in order to show ability in teaching instead of being re-taught the same things over & over again.

Verse 13 – the writer spells out what constitutes ‘babyhood’ in the spiritual life. It is failing to make practical use of the knowledge they possess. As long as a believer fails to apply what he learns, he will remain a baby! Principle → ‘use it or lose it’.

Babies are supposed to grow up. This is a natural part of life, a natural progression. Not to grow would be abnormal or have a problem. Spiritually speaking, it is also abnormal, to be stuck as a spiritual baby. There is no shame in being a baby spiritually. Everyone is after they just receive Christ. However, no one should be a baby forever. If a thirty year old man is still dependent on his parents and behaving
childishly, people might call him a “big baby” or “immature.” The one point we can get from this passage is that God wants all believers to grow to maturity in Christ.

In this case, these believers knew the Messiah was the final sacrifice (simply the best etc.), and yet they thought there was nothing wrong with returning to the old sacrifices and symbols. There problem was not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of exercising/applying that knowledge in real life situations. They needed to learn how to apply the Word of God to discern right from wrong.

The obligation of verse 13 is they must use skill in applying the Word to resolve the major problems in biblical doctrine.

Verse 14 – the writer spells out what maturity means. A mature believer has an unrestricted diet and can eat solid food. A mature believer is one who has attained the goal of his spiritual life, because he applied what he knew, and was therefore open to learning more. A mature believer is one who is exercising spiritually. A mature believer has the ability to make responsible decisions.

God wants us to grow up to maturity and partake of solid food. This basically means we need to obey the things we know we should do while digging deeper and deeper into God’s Word. This can enable us to understand more of His character and apply the principles we learn from Him to every aspect of our life, sometimes parts of our life or principles we wouldn’t have thought of when we first came to Christ. Salvation (coming to Christ) is great … but what comes after that? What are the deeper things of the Christian life that we need to ‘feed’ on?

Practice makes perfect. We have to train ourselves to chew on the meat of the Word. A baby is not born knowing how to chew meat. The first time it is a bit difficult, but after doing it several times it becomes second nature. When we are adults we don’t even think about how to chew (do you?), we just do it. Almost every learned ability is like this including: learning how to speak a language, walking, riding a bike, learning maths, etc.

We can challenge ourselves mentally. Listen to sermons. Read books. Meditate on Scriptures (even ones that seem tough to understand.) Engage in each of the five ways we can use to understand the Bible (hear, read, study, memorize, meditate). The Bible can be very hard to understand, particularly if you are lazy or don’t want to grow. Some people give up trying soon after starting to read it. Yet most Christians who have been saved for several years find very little problems in understanding it. Why? Practice.

The obligation of verse 14 is for all believers to make proper use of what they know.
SUMMARY OF THE SPIRITUAL STATE OF THESE BELIEVERS

- They have been believers for a long time.
- They have been taught sound doctrine in the past, because by now they should be teachers.
- However, they have not retained it, or used the truth they have been taught.
- They need to relearn the basics of the things of God.
- They have reverted from adulthood back to infancy in spiritual things.
- They have lapsed from maturity to immaturity.
- They have gone from meat (solid food) to milk.
- Both spiritual adult & spiritual babe have the Word of God, only one knows how to use it.
- Usage/application of the Word causes believers to progress from immaturity to maturity, whereas ...
- A lack of application indicates a regression from maturity into immaturity.

APPLICATION OF VERSES 11-14

Let me share some questions that might help us begin to understand the application of this passage – verses 11-14

- Are you growing in Christ as much as you would like?
- Do you sometimes get “stuck” at a certain spiritual level?
- What are some of the causes why you don't grow as much as you should?
- What can we learn from this passage that is essential for growth in Christ?
- How can you begin to partake of more solid food instead of milk?
- How can you train your spiritual senses and sharpen your spiritual discernment?
- What can you do to “chew” on the meat of the Word?

Mature –v- Immature Christian

What are the signs of an immature Christian? Maybe I'm an immature Christian and I just don’t know it. Here are just a couple of them. You may be able to think of more.
Signs of spiritual immaturity

- **Impatient** - Spiritual infants are impatient. The crying baby cannot be told that the milk is warming and should be ready in a few minutes. He wants what he wants and he wants it five minutes ago. “Why did you leave that church?” “We were not having our needs met.” Ever heard that? This is the customer/provider approach to Kingdom work. The church is there to provide services which members pay for with their offerings; if the services are inferior, they withhold their money or even leave.

- **Self centred-ness.** You want everyone to think/look and be like you in the Church. You want to control people. You want them to like what you like, and dislike what you dislike. They arrive at church thinking, “What can I get out of this?” Then, they sometimes leave saying, “I didn’t get a thing out of that today.” Church is all about them. Unfortunately, we see it all too often. This makes it easy not to rock the boat, and to remain in a comfort zone. But what if we were all like that? We’d end up with very small Church gatherings.

- **Pride in how much Bible knowledge you know.** Since when was it a good thing to be proud of how much Bible you know, and to look down on people who didn’t know? As Paul points out, knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Clearly he knew what he was talking about. Some Christians strut their biblical knowledge like it was an accomplishment. That’s so wrong - it is never about what you know or don’t know, but about what God knows and who God loves.

- **Truth without Grace** – you just call it like it is (You’re just a jerk!) – the Truth! “I’m a truth person”, we tell people. However, the truth is always designed to lead toward grace. Whenever we are tempted to speak truth, we always have to come before God to ensure it is equally motivated by grace. Could you imagine if we all did?

- **Grace without Truth** - The opposite of course is also true. In the same way truth isn’t truth without grace, grace isn’t grace when separated from truth. Some tend to avoid the truth side of the equation as though love floats with no backbone. You cannot separate grace from truth anymore than you can separate truth from grace.

- **A tendency to be easily misled and an inability to tell right from wrong.** 2 Timothy 4:3-4 puts it this way: "For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look
for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. They will reject the truth and follow strange myths” (NLT).

The answer to advancing spiritually lies in God's Word, in prayer, and in action. They work together and compliment each other. For example, when we ask God to help us understand His Word, we may learn something that

- **Telling people you’re mature.** This one is puzzling. The conversation goes something like this, “So what do you do for spiritually mature people like me?” Telling people you’re mature is like telling people you’re wise…it’s kind of proof you’re not. The most mature people, in my view, also tend to be the most humble. If you’re strutting your maturity, it’s pretty clear you’ve got some growing to do. If you have spiritual maturity, others around will probably see it & know it without having to be told.

- **Spiritual infants are defined by what they cannot do.** They cannot cooperate, cannot submit to others, and cannot understand deep things. They are unable to apologize and mean it, and resist sharing. They cannot see far away. Suggest the church send money to overseas missions, and they respond, “Why? What does it do for us?”

- **Spiritual infants are explosive and can “go off” at anything.** They were in the hospital and the pastor did not visit them, so they drop out of church. They worked hard on that project and got no recognition from the pulpit so they are ready to quit.

- **Spiritual infants are irresponsible.** They’re great at expecting a lot from others and nothing from themselves. They always know who is to blame for all that’s wrong in the church. But do nothing to help.

**CONCLUSION:**

It’s the nature of the immature to be childish. It’s the natural order of things for babies to be infantile. We’re not saying otherwise. We love babies.

Babies can love and laugh and add a great deal to any gathering. But we don’t want to keep our children as toddlers forever. They should grow. They need to grow.

We’re not against spiritual babies; we just say don’t turn over the Church to them and that everyone goes through that developmental stage.

But to remain a baby forever is unnatural. Growing into maturity is the natural order of things. “By this time you ought to be teachers,” the writer of Hebrews said.
“But you need to return to the first grade and start over with the basic truths of the kingdom” (Hebrews 5:12; my paraphrase).

We don’t tell our babies to grow. It’s the natural order. If we feed and nurture them, protect and care for them, they will grow.

Spiritual growth is a choice. We grow spiritually into Christlikeness by the choices we make—whether to read the Bible and pray, to obey the Lord in a particularly difficult situation, to be generous even when our finances are tight, to share our faith when doing so might be uncomfortable, to resist temptation when its pull was so strong.

We choose to grow by making right choices. And, when we make the wrong choices we choose not to grow. We feel lazy on Sunday mornings and decide to sleep in; we are deciding not to grow. We decide to spend God’s money on ourselves rather than give it in church; we decide not to grow. We go a week without serious attention to the Word of God; we are sentencing ourselves not to grow.

To use Eugene Peterson’s phrase, spiritual growth takes place as a result of “a long obedience in the same direction.”

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”.
(2 Peter 3:18)

Athletes get in trouble for taking growth hormones, artificially created chemicals designed to speed up the growth of new tissues, bones, and muscle. They can muscle/bulk up—sometimes to the detriment of their health. However, there is a way for God’s children to speed up the maturity process, to grow at a much faster clip than is normally the case. Discovered: a human growth hormone for Christians! But you won’t like it.

It’s called persecution!

When believers are persecuted for the faith, when they are harassed and tormented, and some even killed, when being identified as a follower of Jesus Christ subjects one to all kinds of opposition and humiliation, the Lord’s people decide in a hurry to what extent they believe Him and believe in Him, and how important He is to them.

The faithful who persevere in difficult times grow much faster than those who live in safe societies where serving Christ costs them little or nothing. They have to. But I wouldn’t want to volunteer for persecution. There are easier ways—not to say more survivable ways!—to grow in the Lord.
That’s what is happening here in the Book of Hebrews. The writer is urging them to press on to Spiritual maturity despite their persecution.

**So what does a spiritually mature believer look like?** Well, apart from being exactly the opposite of the immature things we mentioned earlier, the Apostle Paul gives this description of a healthy, mature believer in Colossians 1:9-12:

> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

We all want to grow into healthy spiritually mature believers.

Next week - **Hebrews Chapter 6 – ‘Warnings & Promises’**

Your homework for the next week is to read Hebrews 6 – only 20 verses!

**Let’s pray …**

*Loving and Mighty Father God,*

*Our prayer today is that you would help us to grow up out of our immature, impatient behaviours, and into people of purpose and power, bearing fruit and pleasing to you. Strengthen us now, give us endurance in times of persecution. Help us to give thanks in all circumstances, so that we may be your holy people, bringing about your kingdom of light in this place.*

*Forgive us for our childish ways. May we allow you to fashion us, purify us into healthy people so that we can find fulfilment in our lives through Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*

**Closing Song ~ Purify my heart (Refiner’s fire)**
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<td>Children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:13-14</td>
<td>Rooted and grounded in the knowledge of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable to the enemy</td>
<td>Ephesians 6:10-17</td>
<td>Protected by God's armour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self absorbed, Proud</td>
<td>Philippians 3:3-5</td>
<td>Absorbed with Christ and with the needs of others, Humble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied with where he is, content with his sub-par spiritual state. [Remember, when swimming upstream, to do nothing is to actually go backwards]</td>
<td>Philippians 3:12-13</td>
<td>Regardless of the level of maturity reached, he presses on to higher ground, never being content with his present level of attainment or spiritual accomplishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Do as I say but not as I do&quot;</td>
<td>Philippians 4:9</td>
<td>&quot;Follow me as I follow Christ.&quot; Able to be a model for others (compare 1 Cor. 11:1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorant of God's will and ways due to neglect of the Bible</td>
<td>1 John 2:14</td>
<td>Knowing God and living in His Word (compare 2 Pet. 3:18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hebrews 5  (New International Version)

1 Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. 4 And no one takes this honour on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father.”

6 And he says in another place,

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

7 During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 & was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Warning Against Falling Away

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.