

Title: Let's Go On To ~~Perfection~~ <sup>Maturity</sup>

Text: Hebrews 6:1-3

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 6 and beginning with Vs 1. The book of Hebrews is teaching about the PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. And this passage is teaching some very important principles about Christian <sup>Maturity</sup> growth. And I trust you will take your Bibles and follow along as we study the Word of God.

Now, last Sunday we looked at the REASONS FOR IMMATURITY in the life of a believer. The scripture tells us why many, many Christians never grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Oh, they are saved. They have accepted Christ as their personal saviour, but they never grow beyond the point of salvation. They remain as babies desiring only milk. And the reasons for this condition as explained in Hebrew chapter 5, are (1) One, they are not responding to what is being taught. That is, they are lazy in the application of the principles of God's Word in their lives. (2) Two: they refuse to be teachers of the Word. Wanting only to be taught the elementary principles of the oracles of God. And (3) third: they refuse to practice as a habit of life the principles of righteous living. And because of their refusal to do what God wanted them to do they remained as babies. *Missing out on many Blessing That God has for them.*

Now, starting with chapter 6, we have just the opposite. We have the challenge to maturity. Hebrew chapter 6 beginning with Vs 1.....(READ VS 1-3)

#### PRAYER

Our Father, we thank you again for the tremendous fact that we are opening a book that is your truth to us. We confess that we don't always understand. And because we don't understand we would pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We would claim, your promise, of interpretation <sup>all</sup> truth to the heart of a sincere believer. We thank you for the teaching of the Holy Spirit both to the teacher and to the hearer. May our minds be opened to you. May our commitment to you and to your church be deepened. WE thank you that you are truth and the truth is your Word. We thank you that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. And we ask this in the wonderful name of Jesus.

AMEN

(2D) Verse 1 of chapter 6 is the key verse in this CHALLENGE TO MATURITY.

The whole point is that believers need to go on to maturity. And in Vs 1, Paul is telling the believer to leave the elementary teaching about Christ, and to press on <sup>to</sup> ~~to perfection (KJ)~~ <sup>Spiritual</sup> ~~or as the NAS says:~~ maturity. We are to ~~leave the basic principles of the christian faith, and we are to press on to~~ <sup>spiritual</sup> ~~maturity.~~

(1E) Now, I would like you to notice, <sup>In The first place</sup> first of all, the NATURE OF THESE basic principles. What are they?

(1F) Well, first of all, notice their character. Paul is speaking to Christians. And he is telling us to LEAVE..or literally "TO GO BEYOND." And what are we to GO BEYOND? Answer: The elementary teachings about chris You see, this is dealing with salvation. That is, why Christ came and why we need to be saved.....We are to go beyond this, as believers, and press on to maturity. So,...the character of these principles are christian. They are for the believer. <sup>For you and me</sup>

(2F) Secondly, let us look at the <sup>content</sup> content of these basic principles. The content... <sup>These are in the 1st principle here. Basic principle</sup>

( ) The first two, "repence" and "faith" acturally go together. They are the same in construction. And they deal with the method of salvation. Or, the beginning point in a christian's life.

Two things are involved in the conversion of every person....Two things First is repence....which is a change of mind....a change of attitude.

And basically repentence is a change of attitude about your works. Your works will not save you. ONLY FAITH WILL SAVE YOU. You see, no person is saved because He or she does certain good things. They are dead works in that they cannot accomplish salvation. A person is spiritually dead until the Spirit of God makes him alive. And a person is made alive on the bases of faith, not works..... *that's why you*

So, repentence is changing your attitude about the means of salvation. Salvation is a result of FAITH in what Christ has already accomplished for you. ..This is basic. And it happens in the life of every person whose decision it is to trust Christ. To trust Christ means that you will not trust your own abilities or works and hope they will bring salvation. But to trust what Christ has <sup>done</sup> ~~done~~ for you on the cross. That is faith. That is saving faith.

Now, the next four items are all discribed as being teaching items. Vs 2 says "~~DOCTRINE~~" or as it says in the NAS "instruction"

The point is that they are all a part of the ~~doctrine~~ or instruction of a new believer. They deal with "first things." The first two deal with how you got saved: REPENDENCE AND FAITH. The next four are all related to what a new convert experiences and learns about.....

We have the instruction about baptism and the laying on of hands. These are outward symbols of an inward experience. Baptism and laying on of hands are the two symbols which identify the believer with Jesus Christ. They, also, identify the believer with the Christian church. They show one's death to sin and one's determination to live a christian life...

Romans 6:4 says that we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

(3) Now, the last two have to do with the future. The resurrection of the dead. And, also, eternal judgment. *The Future*

The resurrection of the dead deals with immortality. The Bible teaches that we have two families in which ~~to~~ <sup>We Can</sup> live. We can either be in the family of Satan, or, we can, ~~through~~ <sup>through</sup> accepting Jesus Christ as our saviour, be in the family of God. And if we are in the family of God, one day we will be with the Father in heaven.

Then, there is eternal judgment. The Bible teaches that one day we will face God. And there we will be judged on the basis of what we have done with Jesus Christ. If we have rejected Jesus as our Lord and saviour, we will stand before the Judgment seat and <sup>The Bible says</sup> if anyone's name is not found written in the book of life, he will be thrown into the lake of fire. Eternal judgment for those who reject Jesus as Lord and Saviour. *That is what The Bible Teaches*

Now, dear friends, those six principles are basic. They are <sup>basic</sup> ~~undational~~ principles. In fact, they have nothing to do with spiritual maturity. Not one of the six has anything to do with growing in the Lord, ~~once you become a~~ <sup>once you become</sup> ~~Christian.~~ They all deal with the basic foundation of belief. They are the milk of the gospel and not solid food.

And Paul's point, which is good for us, is: "Once you have had this foundation--LET'S GO ON--"

So, let me ask you a question. Are you still desireing basic things? You see, back in chapter 5 verses 11-14, Paul tells us that some folks who have been saved a long time where always needing the basic principles..WHY?... Because they had not been using the Word of God in their life. They were lazy in the application of the Word of righteousness in their life.

So, the challenge..LET'S GO ON TO MATURITY....

( ) Now, what is the meaning of Vs 3? "And this we shall do, if God permits."

The point, here, is that this is an acknowledgment that only God can produce the change and growth in a persons life. The only way you and I will ever grow to maturity is if we permit God to produce that growth in our lives.

*And again - How does He do that? - Through His Word. Principles found in His Word that we apply to OUR Life*

O.K. -- the first thing we looked at in this challenge to maturity is the nature of these principles. Dealing with their character and their content and the meaning of Vs 3.

(2) Secondly, notice the necessity of leaving them. The necessity of leaving them. In Vs 1 Paul says, "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching." He also say, "not laying again a foundation." Two things which are our responsibility.

First, we are to leave them. That doesn't mean that we are to dispute them, or, do away with them, or, forsake them. These are basic to becoming a new Christian. And we need to know them and share them *and we need to teach them*

But, it does mean to "leave them" in the sense of going on to deeper *Things* ~~principles~~, and deeper understanding in the Word of God. And you will never really grow unless you do that. It is your responsibility.

You see, a lot of christians will set for years and all they know is how to become a Christian. That is important because the World doesn't even know that. But, once you know how to become a Christian and you become one, then, LET' GO ON TO MATURITY. That is the chanllenge.

And God means business. It is a very serious issue. God doesn't treat it lightly when Christians refuse to develop their life in the knowledge of God's Word. *When they refuse to change*

*Secondly* So, don't lay the foundation again. Once it has been laid, build upon it. Go on to deeper things.

(3) Now, HOW DO WE DO THAT? How do we go on to deeper things? Not Laying again the foundation?..HOW? *Let me give you one example.*

Would you turn to 2 Peter, please. 2 Peter chapter 1. I really believe that most Christians want to go on to spiritual maturity. I really believe they want to be fruitful and productive in their Christian life.

So, the question is HOW? According to the Bible there are many ways. In 2 Peter chapter 1 we find one way. I notice, here, that faith is the key. It is the foundation principle of all the virtues that we want in our Christian life. The kind of thing that we would really like to see happen in our life.

2 Peter chapter 1 beginning with Vs 5...(READ Vs 5-8)

*applying all diligence "To what"*

What a great passage. It says "Add to your what"? ...FAITH... Faith is the elementary principle that Paul talks about in Hebrews 6.

Turn over your notes and notice the pyramid. Faith is the foundation. And building on faith we have the other virtues: Moral excellence... Knowledge... self-control... Perseverance or Patience... Godliness... brotherly kindness... Love.

Now, please notice that this is a sequence. One is built on the other. You know, a lot of us want to have love, don't we? WHO DOESN'T... A lot of people are looking for love. Love is the basic need of all people. *UNCONDITIONAL LOVE*

And isn't it interesting that it is the last in the sequence. You see, in order to have love produced in your life, you must first of all leave the foundational principle of FAITH and go on to spiritual maturity.

Let me show you how it works:

FAITH PRODUCES MORAL EXCELLENCE... pure, clean, moral lives. *NOT LIVING IN SIN*

Moral Excellence *Then* produces knowledge... You know, the Bible teaches that you cannot really understand and have true knowledge, spiritually, unless you are morally clean. And you cannot be morally clean, unless you are believing, trusting and having faith in God's Word.

AND KNOWLEDGE THEN PRODUCES SELF-CONTROL.. Once you know the principles of God's Word.. once you know these things.. once you know how to live by your position in Christ and not in your circumstances--- you will have self-control over life situation.. WHY? Because you will have within your life a Bible principle to apply to a life situations as they arise.

*Then*  
 AND SELF-CONTROL PRODUCES PATIENCE..... Have you ever tried to have  
 patience without self-control?.....That is to be patience when you  
 have lost your self-control? It is kind of hard, isn't it?....You  
 must have self-control before you can have patience.....

*Then*  
 AND PATIENCE PRODUCES GODLINESS.....Who doesn't want to have the kind of  
 walk ~~is~~ that is doing what God wants you to do....But, if you have  
 an impatient life, I guarantee you, that you will find it very hard  
 to do what God wants you to do.  
~~the will of God.....~~

*Then*  
 AND GODLINESS PRODUCES BROTHERLY KINDNESS.....You may ask: "Why didn't  
 this attribute come earlier?"....Well, because all your relationships  
 with one another in the body of Christ, are really built upon what is  
 going on in your life. In Ephesians 4, where Paul is talking about  
 the walk of the believer he said that we have to walk worthy or  
 "in balance" with our calling. *EPH 4:32* In other words, we have to practice  
 what we preach. If there is sin in the camp, then our walk breaks  
 down. We do not have brotherly kindness when there is sin in ones'  
 life. Regardless of how many times we try to make believe we do.

*Then*  
 AND BROTHERLY KINDNESS PRODUCES LOVE..... The new commandment....Love  
 is the work of the Holy Spirit. According to Ephesiand 4:16 , the  
 growth of the body takes place in the sphere of love. And dear friends,  
 that is the crown of spiritual maturity.....Love

*out* (Read I Cor 13:1-8)

*spiritual*  
 So, according to 2 Peter, we can go on to maturity.....We can grow  
 up in the Lord....We have here a wonderful possibility of fruitfulness in  
~~your~~ *your* life.

*ITA*

Now, what will be the results in our life and the visible results in the life of this church, if we go on to ~~perfection~~ <sup>maturity</sup>? What will happen?.....

1)....Attitudes will change...<sup>principals</sup> Attitudes towards worship as a priority in your life...This church will be filled each Sunday morning and evening. It will be filled because you desire to be feed God's Word and because you are inviting and bringing new people to church with you. Attitudes will change towards the important of Sunday evening Worship and ~~Wednesday night~~ Prayer time. These activities will be important in your life; and you will desire to be here...and you will also desire that your friends and neighbors, also, experience the love of God through Christian fellowship....**THUS...YOU WILL BE HERE AND YOU WILL START BRINGING NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS....**

2) Secondly....there will be a real hunger for the Knowledge of God's Word....When growth takes place and you go on to maturity...there will be time each day for personl devotion and Bible Study.....

People often say to me, "Pastor, I just haven't got the time to study the Bible each day.....Balloony....Y<sup>U</sup> haven't got time because you are not <sup>growing</sup> ~~growth~~....~~You are disobeying God~~....Y<sub>o</sub>ur priorities are all wrong.....When you priorities are right.....when christ is on the throne of your life....<sup>when you have settled the lordship issue</sup> You will have time.....Christ gives you the time because your heart is right.

And there will be a real desire to know the principles Christ taught. Do you know the 501 commandments Christ taught so that we might have life and life more abundantly?.....If you have never taken the time to find out what they are and apply them to your life, HOW can you ever expect to live a Christian life?.....Answer..YOU can't.....Living the Christian life is obeying Christ....Doing th~~e~~ things he told us to do.....So, when we are going on to maturity we will be applying these commandments to our life and living by them.

*deal*



(3 )Well, many other things will happen.....

Comforting one another

Teaching one another

Showing hospitality one to another

Forgiving one another

Praying for one another

Helping one another

*3) ~~Even~~ A Concern For The Lost - There will be a real concern for people without Christ - a concern to show the Gospel*

When we are growing spiritually, we will stop gossiping about one another. We will stop complaining about every little thing. We will stop judging one another.

(4 )And the beatitudes, which is part of the Sermon on the Mount, will find a place of operation in our life.

We will have an attitude of being poor in spirit

*Humble before the Lord*

We will hunger and thirst after righteousness

We will show mercy and receive mercy

We will be pure in heart

And we will be peacemakers and not troublemakers.

How about it dear friends. Will we leave the elementary teaching and press on to maturity? I believe it is important to remember the past. This is a great day -- a day to celebrate 53 years of ministry. But, as we celebrate let's make a commitment to press on to spiritual maturity.

In our evening service, I will attempt to bring this entire celebration to a conclusion with a sermon entitled: REJOICE IN THE LORD...Vicky and her brother will be singing a duet entitled "THE ROCK".

*Dan*

Let's close in prayer