

EYES WIDE CLOSED

TEXT: (Hebrews 5:11, NIV)

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.

INTRODUCTION

1. “You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong” (Hebrews 5:12-14, NLT).

I. REFUSING TO UNDERSTAND

1. “There is much we could say about this, but it is hard to make you understand. It is because you do not want to hear well” (Hebrews 5:11, NLT).

A. They Think They Have Grown Enough

1. “Someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right” (Hebrews 5:13, NLT).

B. They Refuse to Allow the Word of God to Change Them

1. “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts” (Ephesians 4:17-18, NIV).

2. “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me. My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times” (Psalm 119:18-20, NIV).

3. “But Jehoshaphat asked, ‘Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?’

The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, ‘There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah’” (1 Kings 22:7-8, NIV).

4. “And who do you think you are to teach us? Who are you to lord it over us? We’re not babies in diapers to be talked down to by such as you—‘Da, da, da, da, blah, blah, blah, blah. That’s a good little girl, that’s a good little boy’” (Isaiah 28:9-10, MSG).

C. The Element of Stubbornness

1. “But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself” (Romans 2:5, NLT).
2. “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18, NIV).

II. PICKING UP BAD SPIRITUAL HABITS

1. "I have a lot more to say about this, but it is hard to get it across to you since you've picked up this bad habit of not listening" (Hebrews 5:11 MSG).

A. Partial Obedience Is Disobedience

1. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30, KJV).
2. "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (1 Samuel 15: 22-23, KJV).
3. "When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him" (Mark 6:20, NIV).
4. "Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, 'Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you.' And he promised her with an oath, 'Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What shall I ask for?' 'The head of John the Baptist,' she answered" (Mark 6:21-24, NIV).

B. Jesus Must Be Lord of All

1. "One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:21-22, KJV).

C. Sins of Omission—Harder to Confront

1. "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21, NIV).

III. LOSING YOUR FIRST LOVE

1. "There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen" (Hebrews 5:11, NLT).
2. "I see what you've done, your hard, hard work, your refusal to quit. I know you can't stomach evil, that you weed out apostolic pretenders. I know your persistence, your courage in my cause, that you never wear out. "But you walked away from your first love—why? What's going on with you, anyway? Do you have any idea how far you've fallen?" (Revelation 2:2-5, MSG).

A. What Man Could See

1. "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary" (Revelation 2:2-3, NIV).

B. What the Lord Saw

1. "Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn" (Isaiah 51:1, NIV).

C. Only One Solution

1. "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first" (Revelation 2:5, NIV).
2. "Turn back! Recover your dear early love. No time to waste, for I'm well on my way to removing your light from the golden circle" (Revelation 2:5, MSG).

CONCLUSION

1. "It is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand" (Hebrews 5:11, NIV).
2. "because you do not want to hear well" (Hebrews 5:11, NLT).
3. "you've picked up this bad habit of not listening" (Hebrews 5:11, MSG).
4. "spiritually dull and don't seem to listen" (Hebrews 5:11, NLT).
5. "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:5-8, NIV).
6. "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:10-11, NIV).
7. "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:23-24, KJV).