

Failure To Launch!
Hebrews 5:12-14
Develop Self-Awareness

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first 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 unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
NKJV

In the first century church there were many disciples in the church that were not growing up in their faith. They had been in the church for a significant amount of time but they were still immature in their faith. By the time this letter was written, they had been in the church long enough so that they should have grown up to be teachers sharing with others the truths that they had learned. But instead they were immature and they still needed someone to teach them the basic doctrines about Jesus and that Jesus taught others.

As a result, they were not personally participating in the great commission that Jesus gave His followers.

The apostle calls them babes in verse 13!

What are the characteristics of a baby?

1. They covet the things of this world
2. They struggle with self-doubt
3. They are self-centered
4. They are uneducated(ignorant)
5. They are unaware of their personal faults

These things that characterize a baby also characterized these babes in the church. In order to mature these babes in the church needed to discover their faults these and overcome them.

This morning we are going to examine the 5th characteristic of these babes in Christ; they were unaware of their personal faults.

Children have to become aware of their faults in order to grow up. In the same way, as children of God we must become aware of our faults in order to mature spiritually.

Some of our most embarrassing moments in life occur as a result of not knowing that something is wrong with us until someone tells us about it.

- Your zipper's not zipped
- Your button's not buttoned
- You have something is on your face
- You are in the wrong rest room
- You are going in the wrong direction
- You are calling them by the wrong name
- You have bad breath

Just as we can be wrong socially and not know it, we can have faults in our moral character and not know it.

God's children being unaware of their faults is a common theme in the bible.
 The disciples arguing over who is the greatest (Luke 9:46; Luke 22:24)
 James and John's desire to rule over the other disciples (Mark 10:35-37)
 Peter's denial of Jesus (Matthew 26:33-35)

As disciples of Jesus there is a lot to learn about our faults in order for us to mature and grow spiritually.

How do we discover our faults?

- The Holy Spirit

John 16:7-9

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
 NKJV

John 14:15-17

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
 NKJV

Without divine revelation from the Spirit of God, we will never know the truth about God or ourselves.

- The Word of God

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
 NKJV

2 Tim. 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NKJV

Psalms 119:11-12

11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

12 Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

KJV

The Holy Spirit uses the scripture to teach us the truth about God and ourselves.

- The Church

Matthew 18:15-17

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

NKJV

Galatians 2:11-13

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

NKJV

Galatians 6:1-2

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

KJV

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

NKJV

The Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of God's Word through His church to reveal to us the truth about God and ourselves.

If we do not discover our faults, we will continue to experience the consequences of our faults.

Colossians 3:25

25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

NASB

- We dishonor Christ.

Our personal faults effect our influence on other people.

- We hurt other people.

This damages relationships.

- We injure our self.

What is the one-character quality we must possess in order for us to discover our faults and grow spiritually?

1 Peter 5:5-7

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

NKJV



- A humble person seeks Godly counsel.
- A humble person is transparent.
- A humble person is teachable.
- A humble person is accountable to others.
- A humble person gives credit to others for their success.
- A humble person shows more interest in others then they do about themselves.
- A humble person serves others before they serve themselves.
- A humble person trusts in God.

Before you will discover your faults and grow spiritually, you must become a humble person.

How do you become a humble person?

God will use the circumstances of life to disclose to us our faults and what needs to change in us.

We can resist or we can humble our self.

How do you humble yourself?

- Compare your moral character with God's. (2 Cor. 10:12; Luke 18:9-14)
- Admit you are powerless to change your moral character. (Romans 8:1-4)
- Submit yourself to God. (James 4:7-10)

If you have not received Jesus, you have not taken the first step toward spiritual growth.

Why should you receive Jesus? (Share Gospel)

Will you receive Him?