

Building on the Foundation

Chapter 12

My heart in doing this teaching is not just to relay information but encourage us to walk in the spirit and to grow up because it is clear that just being born again does not bring forth the manifestation of the sons of God. So, Hebrews 5:12, For when for the time you should be teachers, you have need that one teach you again that which be the first principles of the oracles of God. What this is telling us is that just time passing doesn't cause growth. It follows it up and says, And are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For strong meat belongs to them that are of full age. Then in the 13th verse it says, For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness and is a baby. So, that which is a baby is born of God but is unskillful in the word of righteousness. What this means to us is that although we've been born again as a new creation, we have not learned to live in the kingdom of God and take advantage of the forces that shape and govern that kingdom. The book of Galatians was written by Paul to the church and the message of that book is: Do you think having begun in the spirit that you're going to be made mature by the flesh? We must learn the ways of God. We must learn the principles of life in the kingdom of God. They are not the same as the principles of the kingdom of this world.

Here in the 12th verse, it clearly says that just time passing doesn't cause maturity. It says that when there has been time for you to become a teacher, you still need to be taught. In the last portion of the 14th verse, it says why, But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. They have given themselves to the Lord and have been exercised by the kingdom of God; they have allowed the spirit of God to circumcise their hearts. We would say that exercise would be work and we know that work means trust in the kingdom of God. When the disciples asked, How may we work the works of God? Jesus said, You must believe. Paul said to labor to enter into the rest. Without faith it's impossible to please God.

So, when it says that we should be taught the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, the 1st verse of the 6th chapter says, Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to maturity. It doesn't mean that what we have learned in the basic doctrines of the teaching of Christ have no effect anymore, but what it is saying is that the instruction was to lay a foundation that could be built on. The work of the spirit of God to not impute sin and to impute righteousness is so that we can build on that foundation. So, it says, Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God of the doctrine

of baptisms and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. Then, it says, And this will we do if God enables because we know that what causes growth is the working of God. Colossians 2:12 says it is through the faith of the operation of God.

I want to look over now into I Corinthians 10:11 and then Hebrews 2:5. We read this verse earlier in the study, Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come. Now, we have heard for a long time that we're at the end of this age. This verse was written by Paul 2,000 years ago. I don't believe that the end of the age has just to do with the calendar; I think it has to do more with saints finishing the purpose of God in their lives. My idea of the end of the age is today. Today is the only day I have. If the end of the age were to finish and the millennium were to start two months from now, I still have 60 days to invest; I still have 60 days to be exercised in righteousness; I still have 60 days to discern both good and evil. I think it's interesting that that verse in Hebrews 5, does not say discern "the difference between" good and evil; this is not a basis of comparison. The law is a basis of comparison: it's better to not kill than to kill. But, Jesus said if you're going to move into discernment, not just observation, if you're going to have your senses exercised to actually discern, you're going to see that what's in your heart is what the law is really trying to be fulfilled by. Jesus said, I didn't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. We're not trying to keep the law. We are interested in the Holy Spirit discerning our heart, cleansing our heart, growing us up as Christ so that we fulfill the law by life, not keep the law by performance. The best that keeping the law can do is bring forth self-righteousness.

I want to go over to Hebrews the 2nd chapter and the 5th verse now. The author has been comparing prophets to son and angels to son, and I want us to see the opportunity that we have today. We have an opportunity in this age to live by the power of the next age. We have an opportunity by faith to penetrate that which is hidden by obscurity in this age. If we look at the world around us, we recognize that the prince of this world is Satan, but we know that the kingdom of God reigns over this world and that Satan cannot do anything that God has not allowed. We have the opportunity by faith to become subject to the laws of the kingdom of God so that if we sit at his right hand and that which is in us is put under our feet, the work of the Holy Spirit brings a cleansing of our heart. We can come to a place, as did Jesus, whereby we live according to the power of a greater universe, and the laws of this world no longer restrict us. He prayed and he blessed the fish and the bread, and he broke it and fed 5,000; he turned water into wine; he healed the sick; he opened blind eyes; he cleansed the lepers; he raised the dead; he calmed the winds and the waves; he walked on the water; he overcame the temptation of

Satan; and he lived his life consecrated unto God. That's the evidence of living by the power of the world to come.

If we give ourselves by offering to God, when that work has been accomplished, there will come to this world the fulfillment of what Jesus spoke to the church when he said, The same that I do and greater shall you do. The same that he did was that he subjected himself to the work of the spirit for 30 years. He was so subjected to the secret place that he did not know when his day had come. He did not know that the secret time was finished when he went to Cana. He did not know that that was the beginning of his public ministry. He was so completely given to being exercised unto godliness and not being moved by the need that was in front of him and so completely given to the timing of God which he did not know, that it took a clear moving of the spirit to get him to do otherwise. Unfortunately, the mindset of the church today, for the most part, is seeking to do great things. They're seeking the power of gifts, and they don't realize that Jesus never saw a miracle. It was a common thing in Jesus's life for natural to be subject to spirit and result in things not expected by naturally governed experience.

A friend of mine asked me to go to the mission field with him. I had not seen him for 30 years. I was happy to see him and I loved him and we embraced each other. I said, Let's get together and spend some time and catch up. He said, That would be great. Come, go with me to the mission field. I asked, Why do I need to go to the mission field for us to have a conversation? He said to me, Because we see more miracles there than we see in the United States. I said to him, I hope this does not offend you, but I must tell you that seeing a miracle is not going to do anything for my faith. It is beyond question to me that the God who created all things out of nothing can do what the world considers to be miracles, but what I am waiting for is to see God change my heart so that I see things the way that he sees things. I need to be disciplined to God. I need to be so yoked to the Holy Spirit that I do nothing that my father does not do or say. I need to get excellent at humbling myself before God every day. I need to get to the place that I can walk into a hospital that's got 500 sick people and just heal one. The responsibility that we have as saints of God is to do something very similar to what God did between day 6 and day 7 of Genesis. If you remember what we discussed concerning that time, what caused the end of the sixth day was that God finished creation; what caused the beginning of the seventh day is because God began to bless and sanctify the creation that he had made.

In Romans 8, it is very clear that creation has no hope apart from the manifestation of the sons of God. The creation is going to be in bondage to corruption until it sees sons in glorified bodies, and I promise that God is not going to give a glorified body until the soul itself is glorified first. Jesus had a problem with the Pharisees

because they looked good on the outside but the inside was not good. What is going to bring this creation into the seventh day and what is going to bring the creation into the blessing and the sanctification of God is that some sons living in this age will live by the authority of the next age. They will believe what they don't see and they will give themselves in trust by offering themselves to God to finish the work of growing them up, so what Jesus said to the disciples could be fulfilled: that God who is in secret will declare openly that which has been done in secret.

As a member of the church, I exhort myself and you. I beg us by the mercies of God to give ourselves to the discipline of the secret place, to allow God to form fully the life that is Christ in us so that Christ in us as the hope of glory no longer exists just as hope, but that that hope has been realized in the glory of God. That is the only thing that closes out this age and that which will show what Peter spoke of when he said, A new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness. Until we no longer be children, until we learn to be excellent in righteousness rather than unskillful in righteousness, we will not grow up into him who is the head in all things.

Do not be confused. There is only one thing that will bring this creation out of its bondage, and that is not a gospel being preached. It is God being set free to manifest sons who have come to fullness, who have come to full age and have eaten strong meat and have been provisioned by the glory of God because we have learned to live by faith.