

## **Hebrews 5.13**

### **Babies and Babies**

There are 2 kinds of spiritual babies, natural and unnatural. Those who are babes because they are new, and those who are babes because they chased after the world instead of chasing after Christ. One is a beautiful thing, full of power and new life, overflowing with love and seeking after holiness with everything in them... the other is an unnatural perversion of life, scarred with sins marks and desiring to return to land of slavery for the sake of the leeks and onions.

#### **I. SAME TRUTHS, DIFFERENT EARS**

a. There is not a set of truths that are only for the mature, and a set of truths that are only for the babes. This is not the substance of the difference between meat and milk. It is about the depth of understanding of the same set of truths, the same law of God, the same promises, the same hope, the same Lord, the same life. But the mature Christian has walked in power and submission with their whole heart. They have

known what it is to forsake self and follow Christ. They have some understanding of the cost. Consider what the Apostle John had to say

### **1 John 2:12–14**

The commendation is very circular, full orbbed and complete. The same truth, examined from many angles. Applied according to the maturity and understanding of the hearer...

- b. Those who are newly made cannot have the wisdom and experience of the elder, those who have walked long and through many difficult days with the Lord... they do not have the nuanced sense of understanding that will allow them to see the schemes of the evil one... this is why the leaders of the church are not to be chosen from the among newly converted...

### **1Timothy 3.6**

- c. But the things that are learned and things that are taught are the same things that saved us in

the beginning... it is the same truth. Just more of it, taken deeper, and lived out fuller...

- d. This is not an exclusive club; it is the aim of every single one of us. –

### **2Timothy 3.16-17**

e. It is not an imaginary, higher, second faith

## **II. NATURAL BABES**

- a. In one sense we are born whole and mature, like Adam who came into the world fully formed and with the wisdom to fulfill his God-appointed task.
- b. The newly converted is born with all his senses alive and attuned.
  - i. He sees and knows Christ
  - ii. He has the Holy Spirit living inside of him –

### **Romans 8.9**

iii. He has the mind of Christ –

### **1Corinthians 2.6-16**

iv. He understands spiritual things

v. He is full of love for Christ

### **1John 5.1-5**

vi. He sees and understands the power and significance of spiritual things

vii. He sees and learns readily and rapidly

viii. He delights in the Word and does not resist truths that prune away the flesh

ix. He is humble and tender, unworldly, heavenly-minded and finds that the Word of truth opens to him like a flower on a spring morning.

x. He runs well and firmly, with his eyes set firmly upon the prize...

## **III. UNNATURAL BABES –**

it is apathy, worldliness, pride and conceit which make us slow of heart and unable to understand that which is written.

a. The divided heart is ignorant and unnatural

- i. It is unskilled in the Word of righteousness
- ii. It is luke-warm
- iii. It is confused
- iv. It has atrophied in important places
- v. It has left its first love and has chased other gods

b. The Divided heart offends and angers God

c. The divided heart does not seek to be close to God but instead only desires to retain the assurance of avoiding hell...

d. The divided heart does not walk with God, but wanders away seeking its own paths and its own objects. There may be times and issues wherein our aims parallel God's, where to the outsider it might seem that we are seeking

godliness; but when we are divided it cannot ever be said that we are seeking God's purposes - for God seeks always to honor and exalt His own name and the Christ who He sent.

#### **IV. CONDEMNATION BORN OF EXPECTATION**

- a. The expectation was one of maturity, one of growth, one of purpose...
- b. The reality was selfish conceit, dressed up in religious clothes, full of the wisdom of man and the pride of his arrogance.
- c. The product of this was a crippled, stilted twisted thing that could not contribute to the advancement of the kingdom of God.
- d. They had become babes
  - i. A word of sweet and loving endearment became a criticism and a rebuke

- ii. A word that is often one of the most delightful signs of Divine love is now used as a mark of God's displeasure, of reproach
  - 1. They were babes because of their own sloth, pride and fleshly ambition
  - 2. They were filled with strife
  - 3. Riddled with sin
  - 4. Full of the world and its intentions
  - 5. They were inert
  - 6. They decreased
  - 7. They were utterly impotent and helpless

## **V. PROMISE OF RESTORATION**

a. Remember the height and repent

**Revelation 2.5**

b. Confess, Repent and Turn –

**1John 1.9**

c. God will feed us with His hidden manna –

**Revelation 2.17**

d. God chastens us because He loves us - so respond in obedience rather than in rebellion

**Revelation 3.14-22**