

MEASUREMENTS OF MATURITY

HEBREWS 5:11-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. Are you a tree or a fence post?
2. Some Christians grow. Some Christians rot.
3. Hebrews 5.11-14 tells us how to measure our spiritual growth.

I. BIBLE COMPREHENSION

- A. **Hebrews 5.11:** *“we have much to say, and hard to explain”*
- B. Is the Bible difficult to understand?
 1. Some scriptures are difficult to understand. (2 Pet. 3.16)
 2. Some can be understood by a child. (2 Tim. 3.15)
- C. If your level of understanding is the same as it always has been, you may not be growing spiritually. (2 Pet. 3.18)

II. BIBLE PASSION

- A. **Hebrews 5.11:** *“since you have become dull of hearing.”*
- B. If you are no longer passionate about Jesus, you may not be growing spiritually. (1 Pet. 2.2; Rom. 1.15; 10.1)

III. BIBLE TEACHING

- A. **Hebrews 5.12:** *“by this time you ought to be teachers”*
- B. If you struggle to explain the Bible to others, you may not be growing spiritually. (1 Pet. 3.15)

IV. BIBLE BASICS

- A. **Hebrews 5.12,13:** *“you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God”*
- B. If you need to be retaught, you may not be growing spiritually. (Heb. 6.1,2; 1 Cor. 3.1,2; Eph. 4.14,15)

V. BIBLE APPLICATIONS

- A. **Hebrews 5.14:** *“those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
- B. The Bible gives us what we need to live. (2 Tim. 3.16,17)

Conclusion: To grow, you must first begin.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

September 13, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

Let God Judge

How do you react to those who mistreat you? It is natural to want to do unto others what they have done to us. If someone hurts you, you want to hurt them back. You might even use the Bible to justify your reaction. After all, does not the Bible say, *“eye for eye, tooth for tooth”* (Ex. 21.24)?

The Bible never justifies personal retaliation or vigilantism. The scripture that teaches *“an eye for an eye”* is in a context of civil authority, not personal revenge. Jesus corrected the Pharisees who misapplied this passage when He said, *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also”* (Matt. 5.38,39).

When someone hurts us, are we just supposed to let them get away with it? Is that justice? Is that fair? Let's let God determine what is just and fair. We are told that *“it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you”* (1 Thess. 1.6). In other words, let God handle it (cf. Rom. 12.19,20).

What should we do? We should help those who hurt us to be saved. God will punish the wicked in due time. In the meantime, God wants all to be saved. This should be our desire as well...even for those who hurt us (Ezek. 33.11; Matt. 5.43-48).

CLP

JESUS IS WHO YOU NEED

Acts 16:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Acts 16 transitions to the second missionary journey.
2. It is here that we are first introduced to Timothy. (Acts 16.1-5)
3. In Acts 16, there are three individuals who were in need.

I. THE MACEDONIAN MAN

- A. The Intention.
 1. **Acts 16.6-8:** Paul travels to Asia to preach the gospel.
 2. The Holy Spirit had other plans. (v. 6,7)
- B. The Interpretation.
 1. **Acts 16.9:** “a vision appeared to Paul in the night.”
 2. **Acts 16.10:** They left “concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”
 3. In times of need, Jesus is the One who helps.

II. LYDIA

- A. An Analysis.
 1. **Acts 16.11-14:** Lydia was independent.
 2. **Acts 16.14:** Lydia was religious.
 3. **Acts 16.14:** Lydia was repentant.
 4. **Acts 16.15:** Lydia was obedient.
- B. An Application.
 1. **Acts 16.13:** Lydia went to the river to talk to God.
 2. When we are in need, take it to God. (Heb. 4.15,16)

III. THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER

- A. The Context.
 1. **Acts 16.16-18:** A demon was cast out.
 2. **Acts 16.19-24:** Paul and Silas were imprisoned.
- B. The Conversion.
 1. **Acts 16.25:** “Paul and Silas were praying and singing”
 2. **Acts 16.26-28:** An earthquake put the jailer in peril.
 3. **Acts 16.29,30:** “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
 4. **Acts 16.31-34:** He was told to both believe and be baptized to be saved.
 5. When you need salvation, Jesus is the answer.

CONCLUSION: Jesus is the One you need today.

That the World May Believe

The world is searching for answers. However in a world that is filled with darkness and confusion, answers are not easy to find. The true disciples of Christ are to shine as a beacon of light so that all around many see. Jesus taught His disciples that they were “*the light of the world.*” And as such, they were commanded to let their light “*so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*” (Matt. 5.14-16).

Sadly, the light has been greatly diminished because of the religious division among those who claim to be the true children of God. Virtually every denomination and religious institution claims, as does this Calvinistic based site, to be “*the most biblically faithful systematization of the Bible's teachings*” [www.reformed.org]. While every different and contradictory religion claims to be the one true faith, it has created confusion and desperation among people of the world. Many have become so disenfranchised that they have even rejected the Sonship of Christ.

Jesus referred to the damaging effects of division when He prayed to the Father concerning unity. **JOHN 17.21:** “*I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*” How the world will come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and was sent by the Father is by observing the unity of faithful believers.

We cannot control the division and disharmony within the denominational world, but we have a responsibility to ensure that there is unity among the Lord's church (1 Cor. 1.10). Jesus taught that the peacemakers shall be called the sons of God. (Matt. 5.9). While the world is looking for the one true church, they walk into the building where the faithful meet. What do they see? Do they see peacemakers, or do they see people who are divided and filled with animosity toward one another. When there is division among God's people, is it any wonder why the world cannot easily identify the true sons of God? Yet Jesus said that the peacemakers were called the sons of God.

As Christians, we are unified in the same doctrine (2 John 9), with the same goals (Phil. 3.14), and with the same mindset (Gal. 3.2). We cannot be unified without also showing love for one another (1 Pet. 3.8; Phil. 2.1,2). Our success in the world is dependent upon our success within the church. CLP