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Romans 11:33

# INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Ashland Church of Christ 2008



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## Children — We are His Growing on to Maturity

Text: Hebrews 5:12-6:8

**Key Text:** *Hebrews 5:12, “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.”*

### I. The mark.

- A. Hebrews 5:12 explains that the mark or goal for all of us is to become teachers (see 2Timothy 2:24).
- B. In order to be teachers, we must spiritually partake of solid food.
- C. Those who only partake of spiritual milk are babes.
- D. Those who partake of solid food are of full age.
- E. A mark or measure of full age is the ability to discern.

### II. The Measure.

- A. In order to ‘go on to perfection’ (‘press on to maturity’ – NASB), we must leave the elementary doctrines of Christ.

- B. The writer gives a list of some of the elementary doctrines of Christ:**
- 1. Repentance from dead works.**
  - 2. Faith toward God.**
  - 3. Doctrines of baptisms (notice the plural use of this word).**
  - 4. Laying on of hands.**
  - 5. Resurrection of the dead.**
  - 6. Eternal judgment.**
- C. This list then becomes a measure of whether or not we are mature.**
- D. We must be reminded that if we are not yet mature, then we need to work toward that end.**
- E. Notice, the writer says that maturity is conditional – God has to permit it.**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Finally, Hebrews 6:4-8 mentions some consequences of not growing on to maturity.**
- 2. The idea here should not be taken lightly:**
  - A. Once a person is saved and then falls from grace, it become very difficult (impossible....) to restore them to a saved state with God.**
  - B. This shows us how important it is to remain faithful.**
  - C. This point is illustrated in Hebrews by the plant world:**
    - 1) The earth can use the rain to grow good plants that have been cultivated.**
    - 2) But, when there are thorns, it is near useless and good to be burned.**
  - D. Consider this a warning concerning spiritual maturity.**