

May 2019 Newsletter



Sundays At 6:30 AM on



SOLID FOOD IS FOR THE MATURE

By Keith Thomson
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"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" (Hebrews 5:14).

In Hebrews chapter 5, the writer charges his Hebrew readers with a lack of maturity. Rather than growing in their faith and taking their places as teachers, they have remained as babes in Christ. Physically, a failure to mature is sad. Spiritually, a failure to mature can be eternally tragic. Such a person has not used his senses enough so that he can discern both good and evil. The NASB translates the phrase "by reason of use" as "because of practice."



It is the "use" or "practice" that we are going to spend the rest of the article examining. This is the spiritual exercise in which we all need to be engaged.

Reading God's Word

"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path" (Psalms 119:105).

David was a spiritually mature man. Here we see an important key to that maturity: reading the Bible. It is our spiritual food and water. We are reading the Word of God (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**), and thus we are renewing our minds to be like Him (**Romans 12:2**).

It can seem to be hard to find time to read our Bibles; however, we find time to do countless other things that are far less important than studying the Word of God. To gain spiritual maturity, we need to make regular Bible reading a part of our lives.

Meditating on the Word

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalms 1:1-2).

Bible meditation is "thinking" on the things of the Bible. We ought not only to read the Bible, but we should consider what is written. What does the Bible writer mean in a specific passage?

How does the passage affect me and my life? What is God saying to me in the passage? This is biblical meditation, and it will help us apply the Word of God to our lives.

Praying

Prayer is an important part of our life as a Christian as Jesus teaches in so many places in scripture. He prayed as soon as He was baptized (**Luke 3:21**). Often, He would go off by Himself to pray (**Luke 5:16**). He would spend the whole night in prayer (**Luke 6:12**). Indeed, He teaches us that we need to be a prayerful people.

5/5 Sermon #1194

Angels

5/12 Sermon #1195

Believing a Lie

5/19 Sermon #1196

Angels: Myths & Misconceptions

5/26 Sermon #1197

Have You Forgotten?

It is of utmost importance that we take time out of our busy lives to pray to our Father. As Paul writes, *“pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Practicing the presence of God

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me” (Psalms 139:7–10).

We need to practice living in the presence of God. Each day we need to live knowing that God is walking along side us. Every decision we make needs to be made knowing that God is with us. Living with this awareness will help us to know that we are truly walking with God and growing toward maturity.

Adding these actions to our lives are just some of the things that will help us grow in faith and work toward spiritual maturity. And growing in our faith will cause us to become more like Christ (Ephesians 4:15).

POINTS OF TEMPTATION

By Kenneth Magwood
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“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

Since God first gave His first commandment in the Garden of Eden, temptation has been a part of the human experience. In this article, we will discuss temptation, the points of temptation, and its relationship to sin. James explains the process of temptation: *“...But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death”* (James 1:14-15).



Temptation begins with our own desires, that is, a feeling of want; however, desire in itself is not a bad thing. For example, we desire food, love, or wisdom. Satan takes advantage of our desires by creating situations that require us to disobey God to obtain them, thus creating temptation. When we begin to dwell on or plot ways to obtain it, we lust. When we act upon our lusts, we sin; and, if not repented of, we die spiritually. John identifies three categories of temptation: Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life (1 John 2:15-16).

In Eve’s first encounter with the serpent in the Garden of Eden, all three points of temptation were used to entice her to sin: *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise she took of its fruit and ate”* (Genesis 3:6).

The Lust of the Flesh:

A physical desire used to commit an unlawful act against God. In Eve’s case, she saw the fruit was good for food She desired it so much that she disobeyed God to have it.

The Lust of the Eyes:

A desire for visually appealing things. Eve saw that the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was pleasing to the eye and was tempted to eat it, against God’s command: *“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die”* (Genesis 3:2-3).

The Pride of Life:

A lust driven by a desire to be admired. Eve’s desire to be made wise by the fruit outweighed her desire to obey God.

These points of temptation are common to mankind, but we can overcome them! *“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it”* (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV).



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