

“Spiritual Adulthood”
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Hebrews 5:11-6:3 (ESV)

DEFINING “DULLNESS OF HEARING”

1. The opposite of dullness is the diligence or earnestness to hear the Word of God and then **respond with faith and life change** (5:11,14) (see Heb. 6:11-12; 4:2)
2. So, dullness of hearing = hearing God’s Word, then being **apathetic towards it**.
 - There is nothing wrong with the physical ear; instead, there is something wrong with the heart. God’s Word comes into the ears, down to the heart and hits something hard – dullness of hearing.
 - The heart has no passion, no lover’s embrace, no cherishing or treasuring of God’s Word.

“DULLNESS OF HEARING” LEADS TO PERPETUAL SPIRITUAL INFANCY AS CHARACTERIZED BY:

1. Inability to teach on spiritual matters (5:12a)
2. Struggle to retain even the most basic teaching (5:12b)
3. Settling for where you are spiritually (5:13a)
4. Lack of experience in responding with faith and change to God’s Word (5:13b)

WARNING – Perpetual dullness of hearing can lead to **apostasy.
GOD’S REMEDY**

1. Spiritual adulthood comes by putting God’s Word into “**constant practice**” (5:14) – that is, habitually responding to God’s Word with faith and life change.
2. God **expects** believers to grow over time (6:1-3)

CENTRAL TRUTH:

Responding to God’s word with faith and life change leads to spiritual adulthood.

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What silly childhood behavior do you still engage in as an adult?
2. Which life stage best describes where you are spiritually right now: infancy, adolescence, adulthood, senior? Explain your answer.
3. In the last three years, has your spiritual life declined, plateaued, or grown? Explain your answer in light of how the author of Hebrews assesses growth in 5:11-14.
4. Identify all the things that have contributed to the decline, plateau, or growth of your spiritual life. In particular, evaluate how “dullness or diligence” of hearing has effected your spiritual growth.
5. What three practical things can you do to answer God’s call to “go on to [spiritual] maturity” (Heb. 6:1)? How can your LifeGroup help you in this effort?

Responding to the Message

6. What one insight from the message seems most personally significant to you right now and what action can you take in the next week to start putting this into practice or to cooperate with God in bringing about this transformation?