

SOFT FOOD

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."

Some people say they do not read the Bible because it is written in words, terms, and ideas they do not understand. But the Bible is filled with principles and teachings that are expressed in ways that should be familiar to you. God was not ignorant of our limited knowledge, nor did he overlook the fact that the Bible would have to make sense to people in different cultures over a span of several thousand years. Plus, God provides talented translators so the Bible can be read in all the languages of the world, and with contemporary terminology.

Many Bible teachings use analogies that make sense to us. Our human behavior is often compared to sheep (which are pretty dumb and hard to herd) and goats (which are wild and unruly). Faith is compared to our confidence that the sun will rise in the morning and the moon at night. Our obedience to God is compared to the relationship between parents and children. Our love for God is enlightened through an understanding of the passion of a man for a woman – a beautiful woman. Sharing Christ with others is expressed in terms of fishing. Making wise decisions is demonstrated in building a house on shifting sand, or solid rock. And, many more.

Today's verse expresses how some believers mature in their faith so slowly, that they still need the very basic teachings of Christ long after they are born again. In school, you learn to read and write before you learn math and science. You then learn more complicated subjects. The object of a school education is to continually increase the amount of knowledge you learn until you have a full-fledged education. But, followers of Christ often reject that concept and insist on only hearing again and again, the very basics about God: God loves you, God cares about you, God will take you to heaven if you are a good little boy or girl. And, sadly, many pastors also limit their teachings to those very basic lessons.

If you will take the time to read the Bible – all of the Bible – you will find it is full of important information that you need, to not only live peacefully, but triumphantly. The Bible can give you the foundation upon which your entire life can be revolutionized and turned into something worth celebrating. But, you need to put away the tiny little spoon with which you have been nibbling on the soft food of the Bible, grab a big fork, and dig into the scriptures so you can consume the meat God has placed there for you. When you find something you do not fully understand, ask the Holy Spirit to explain it to you. That is His job. When you find something you object to (because it convicts you of sin), ask God to forgive you and guide you to a better way to live. When you find something that illuminates truth and gives you hope, share that with others so they can also be encouraged.

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