Spiritual Maturity

The Hebrew writer sternly addresses his audience, stating, "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. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 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 5:12-14). Christians must understand that God expects that we will grow in our ability to think spiritual, thus influencing the decisions we make in our physical lives.

Becoming a true disciple of Jesus is an ongoing process. That process revolves around our actively seeking spiritual maturity. Such is the point the Hebrew writer is addressing. We must never be satisfied with just the basics of Christianity. The Hebrew Christians were and therefore found themselves at odds with God because they did not know anything beyond what it took to obey the Gospel, "the first principles (Vs. 12)."

Consider the point the Hebrew writer is making. Those who are living on solid food (mature Christians) are those in whom God's truth is being digested, thus dispersed throughout their system so that every area of their life is impacted and informed by Biblical principles. Spiritual maturity involves a lot more than the passage of time or the accumulation of knowledge. Consequently, a properly maturing Christian is one who knows how to make godly decisions that are informed by the word of God as ministered to their hearts and minds by the Spirit

of God through His word (Jeremiah 31:33, Ephesians 6:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 4:11).

The connection between God's Word our spiritual maturity is indispensible. True disciples of Jesus must make the word of God a priority in their lives because in it we find the solid food by which we grow into the fullness of Christ. Spiritual maturity occurs when what we think connects with God's thoughts as revealed in scripture, ministered to us by the Holy Spirit. Spiritual maturity comes through studying God's Word. Growth in His will and way will lead us to make decisions that are made in the light of God’s truth until making godly decisions becomes a way of life.