



# MARKS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

## HEBREWS 5:11-14

# Hebrews

## *The Son Superior to Angels*

**1** In the past God spoke to our forefathers in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation

**6** And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

**7** In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
his servants flames of fire.”

## *Jesus Made Like His Brothers*

**5** It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. **6** But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is man that you are mindful of him,  
the son of man that you care for him?”

**7** You made him a little lower than the angels;  
you crowned him with glory and honor

**8** and put everything under his feet.

In putting everything under him, God

The Hebrew writer shares how Jesus is our  
High Priest.



***Psalm 110:4***

*The Lord has sworn and  
will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever  
after the order  
of Melchizedek.”*



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The writer of Hebrews decides to pause and strongly urge the readers to grow spiritually.

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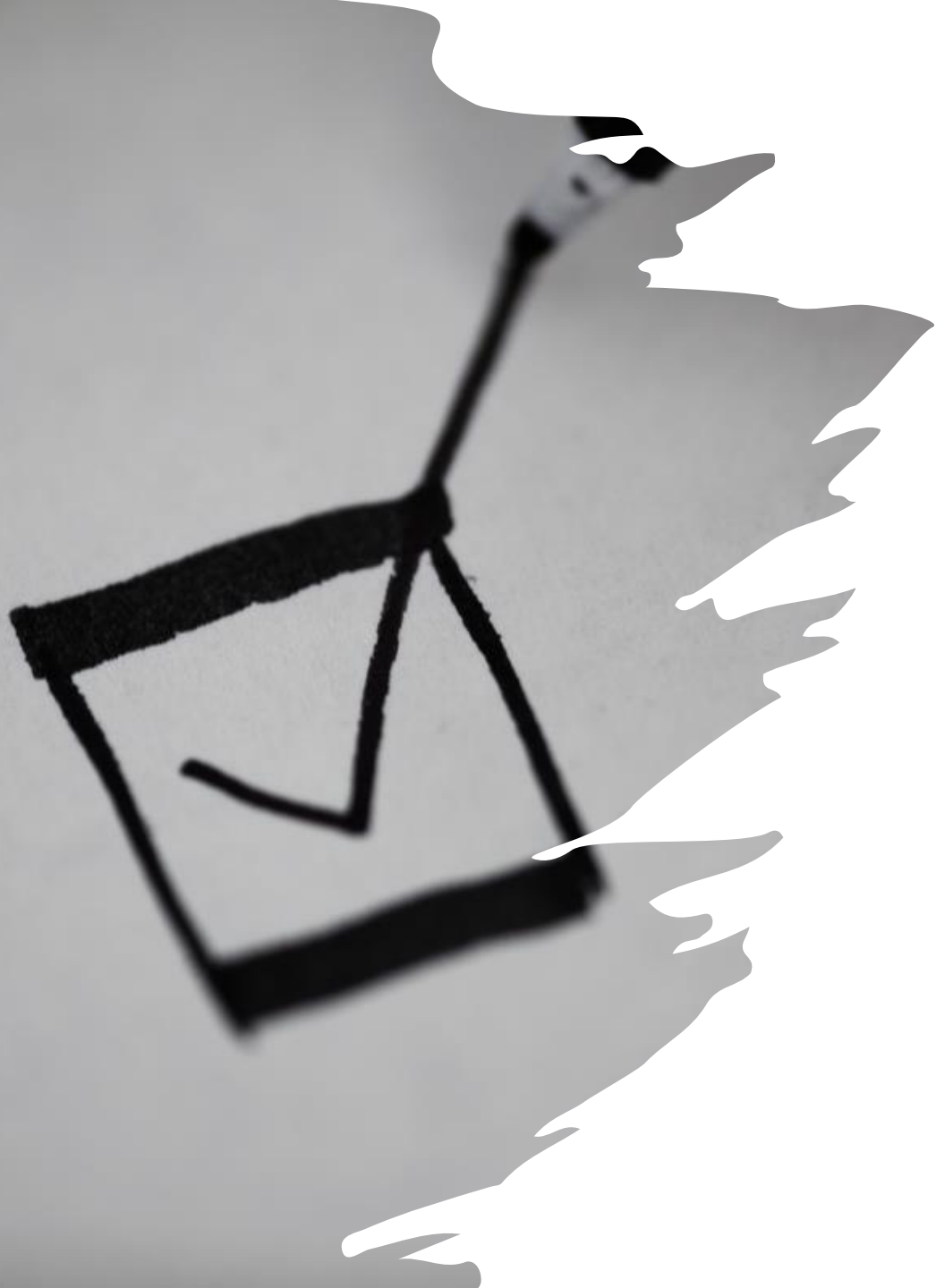
**Hebrews 2:1-4** (*Drifting Away*)

**Hebrews 3:7-4:16** (*Disbelieving in the Message of God*)

**Hebrews 10:19-34** (*Draw Near to God*)

## Hebrews 5:11-14

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you **have become** dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.



They were dull  
of hearing.





“too lazy to understand” (CSB)  
“you no longer try to understand” (NIV)  
“spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen”  
(NLT)  
“dull in understanding” (NRSV)  
“sluggish in hearing” (NET)  
“dull of hearing” (ESV)  
“dull of hearing” (NKJV)  
“dull of hearing” (KJV)  
“stopped trying to understand” (ERV)  
“Become poor listeners” (NASB)

### **Hebrews 6:12**

so that you may not be **sluggish**, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.



## **Acts 17:11**

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.



They were  
unskilled in  
the word.

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## **Psalm 66:16**

Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

## **1 Peter 3:15**

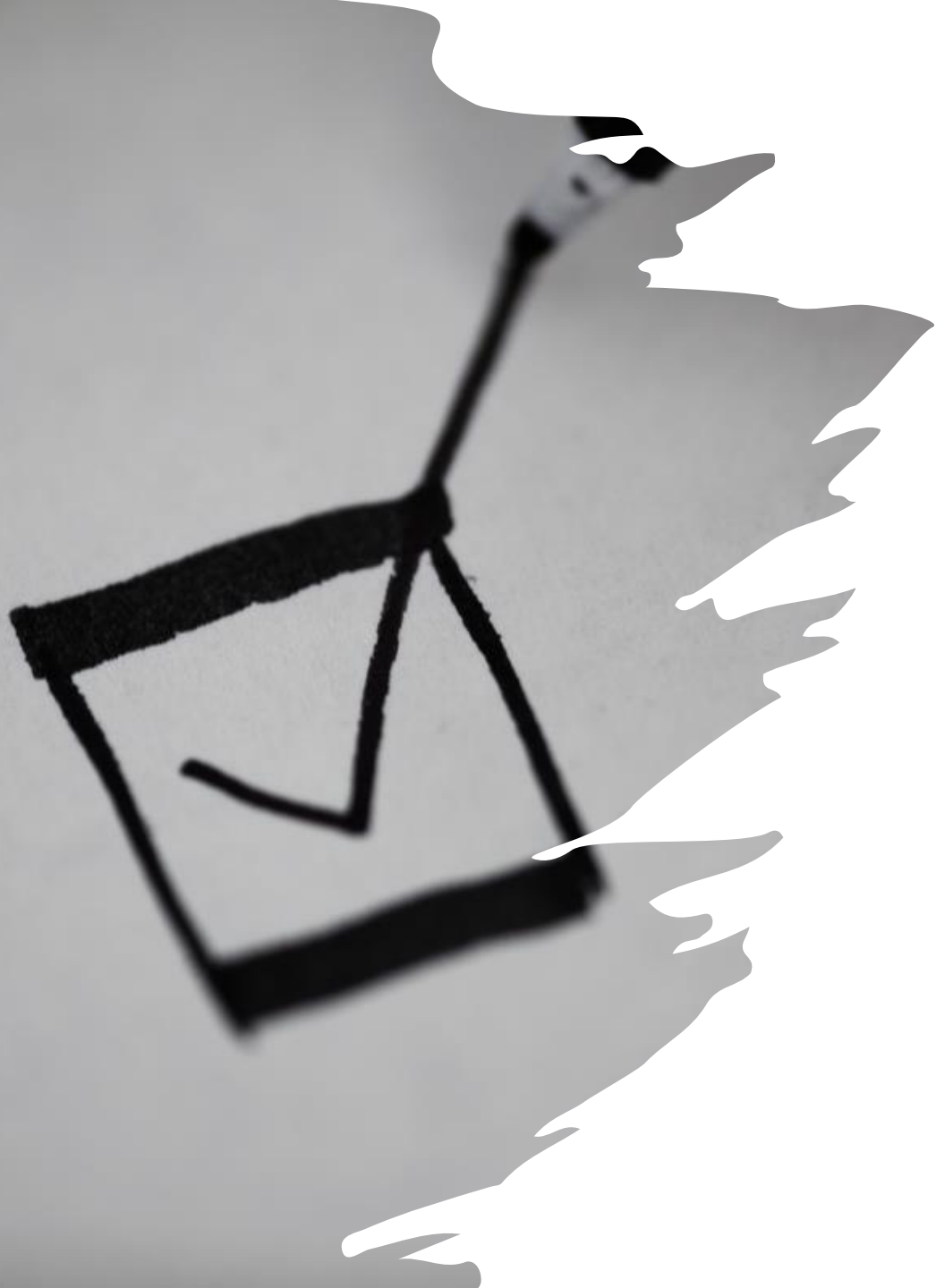
but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

## **Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> **teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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They were regressing  
rather than  
progressing.



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- Can take/handle solid spiritual food (5:12).
- Skilled in the word of righteousness (5:13).
- Can discern good and evil (5:14).
- Able to teach the oracles of God (5:12).



SPIRITUAL MATURITY BEGINS IN THE HEART.

## **1 Peter 2:2**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

## **Ezra 7:10**

For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

**Matthew 5:6** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”





**SPIRITUAL GROWTH NEEDS TO BE A TOP PRIORITY.**

## 2 Peter 1:5-8

For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 2 Peter 9-11

For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>

Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election,** for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## 1 Timothy 4:6-8

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, **being trained** in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. <sup>7</sup> Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. **Rather train yourself for godliness;** <sup>8</sup> for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.



**MATURE CHRISTIANS APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO THEIR LIVES.**

## **James 1:22-25**

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.<sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



# PRESS ON

## **Hebrews 6:1**

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,