



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Growing towards Spiritual Maturity

**SPEAKER** Elder Low Kok Guan

**THEME** Maturing in Christ

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## MATURING IN CHRIST

BBTCians are called to share Christ as we mature in Him. But how do we know if we are maturing in Christ? Are there visible signs that we can look for to encourage ourselves that we are maturing? What might happen to one who is not maturing? Should we be concerned if we are not maturing? What can we do if we find that we are not maturing? As he brings us through this passage in Hebrews 5:11 – 6:12, Elder Kok Guan addresses these questions and more, as we move on in this theme of Maturing in Christ.

## GROWING TOWARDS SPIRITUAL MATURITY

### A. EVIDENCES OF SPIRITUAL IMMATUREITY

#### 1) Inability to Hear (and obey)

One evidence of Spiritual Immaturity is the inability to hear and obey the Word. The writer of Hebrews writes that it is hard for him to explain himself because the Hebrews have become dull of hearing (Heb 5:11). In Jewish culture, hearing is always followed by obedience. When the writer says that the Hebrews are dull of hearing, he is not referring to a physical disability, but a spiritual dullness. The problem lies not with their hearing, but with their hearts. A heart that is slow and lazy to obey what they have heard from God. Because they are slow and lazy to obey and apply what God has already revealed to them, it is difficult for the writer to explain more as they have not grown in spiritual maturity to be ready to hear what he wants to say to them.

#### 2) Inability to teach (and make disciples)

The second piece of evidence that the writer of Hebrews talks about is the inability of the Hebrews to teach (Heb 5:12), and instead, still need to be taught elementary truths. Elder Kok Guan reminds us that we are all called to be disciple-makers and thus, all of us have a responsibility to walk with and teach others as and when the opportunity presents itself. Be it in daily conversations, in small groups, or for some, when they preach to the masses. We are all called to proclaim and teach the Word of God to others.

#### 3) Inability to discern (and distinguish good from evil)

The third piece of evidence of spiritual immaturity is the inability to discern and distinguish good from evil (Heb 5:14). This is a discernment that can only be achieved by constantly practicing in obedience what God has already revealed to us, so that we will be rooted in the spiritual wisdom of God's word and not tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, and by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (Eph 4:14)

## B. ENDANGERMENT FROM SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

Elder Kok Guan also took the time to caution us to reflect on the state of our hearts today. Whether we have positioned our hearts to bear fruit to serve others among us, or whether our hearts bear only thorns and thistles that are ultimately worthless (Heb 6:7-8).

## C. ENCOURAGEMENT TOWARDS SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Finally, even with the warnings that he has given, the writer in Hebrews writes to encourage his readers that, in their case, he is sure of better things – things that belong to salvation (Heb 6:9). Therefore, he encourages his readers not to be sluggish, but to earnestly imitate those who through faith and patience, inherit the promises. Elder Kok Guan reminds us that it is not our actions that earn us God's blessings, but our faith enacted through our earnest actions, coupled with patience to wait on God, which will eventually be rewarded when we see God coming through for us in His time.

## CONCLUSION

In ending, Elder Kok Guan sums up for us what we should be doing as we wait on God to deliver His promise. He reminds us to **F**ocus on God, **A**pply what we have already learnt, **I**mitate (learn from) the godly as they imitate Christ, **T**rust God (wait patiently), and **H**elp in serving His church.

As we wait on God, let us wait in **FAITH**.

# QUESTIONS

1. What are the 3 evidences of spiritual immaturity? Which one speaks to you the most? Why?

2. As we wait on God, Elder Kok Guan encourages us to wait in FAITH. To Focus on God, Apply what we have learnt, Imitate Godly others, Trust God, Help in serving His church. Discuss practical ways on how each of these can be enacted.

3. Looking at the practical ways that were discussed, how can your CG help one another to wait in FAITH?