

Authentic Christianity: A Christian Matures

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 22, 2023

[Hebrews 5:11-5:14,6:1a](#)

5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...

An authentic Christian knows...

1. SALVATION IS NOT THE FINISH LINE, IT'S THE STARTING GATE

[1 Corinthians 13:11](#)

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

[Hebrews 5:14,6:1a](#)

5:14 ... solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...

An authentic Christian knows...

2. TRIALS PRODUCE MATURITY

[Romans 5:3-4](#)

3 ... we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

[James 1:2-4](#)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

An authentic Christian knows...

3. OUR MATURITY BRINGS GOD GLORY

[1 Peter 2:1-2, 9](#)

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 ... grow up in your salvation, 3-8... 9 ... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

[Luke 8:14-15](#)

[Jesus said] 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

[Ephesians 4:14-15](#)

14 [The mature] will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

[Philippians 1:6](#)

[I pray that] he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.