How to Become a Skillful Christian  
Heb. 5:12-14

Introduction:
A. Hebrews had become “unskilled in the word of righteousness.” (v. 13).
   1. Created a “communications gap”. (v. 11)
B. Christians should want to be as skillful as possible.
   1. Do this is lesser matters: job, sports, art, etc.
   2. Why I will always be a “duffer.”
C. It takes three basic things to become skillful in any worthwhile endeavor, especially Christianity.

Discussion:
I. It Takes Study To Become Skillful. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15).
   A. Hard to become skillful on one 30-45 minute sermon per week. (cf. Acts 8:28; 17:11; Ps. 1:2).
   B. Hard to become skillful on poor study habits.
      1. Merely looking at words.
      2. Letting Bible fall open anywhere.
      3. Passing over unfamiliar words and phrases.
   C. Hard to become skillful on passive listening. (cf. Man sat through many sermons without hearing).
   D. Hard to become skilled on Bible Classes that are not Bible Classes.
      1. Many “special classes” are really pop psychology in content.
      2. Many stray so far from the text and become useless as Bible Classes.

II. It Takes Experience To Become Skillful. (v. 14)
   A. Cannot develop skill by study alone. (“by reason of use” Jas. 1:22-25).
      1. Cf. “College whiz kid” must have experience on job.
      2. One can know every fact in Bible and still not be able to apply them.
   B. Cannot develop some knowledge without experience. (John 8:31,32).
      1. Apostles, in early stages, too inexperienced to receive many things. (John 16:12)
      2. Cf. Each step in assembling instructions easier after doing previous one.

III. It Takes Time To Become Skillful. (v. 12)
   A. Babes in Christ need to recognize this fact.
      1. Or they will become discouraged with self.
      2. Or they want to become teachers and leaders prematurely. (cf. Jas 3:1; 1 Tim. 3:6).
      3. Or they become offended if their judgement is not followed by older brethren.
   B. Mature in Christ need to recognize this fact.
      1. Or become impatient with mistakes of babes in Christ.
      2. Or push them into mature roles prematurely.
   C. All must be willing to give time to spiritual development.
      1. Too many fill all our time with lesser matters.
      2. To many wonder why own development not faster -- may be time element.

Conclusion:
A. Remember: It takes all three to become skillful Christians.
B. Remember: Cannot be a skillful Christian - if not a Christian at all.