Some Signs of Spiritual Strength
Heb. 5:12-6:3

Introduction:
A. The Christian’s life is one of constant spiritual growth.
   1. Begin as babes – weak in knowledge, faith and ability.
   2. The rest of life is spent in developing a greater degree strength (2 Pet. 3:18; 1:5-8)
B. Spiritual growth or lack of it can be detected by certain signs of strength or lack of it.

Discussion:
I. The Ability to Digest Solid Food (Heb. 5:12-6:3)
   A. Ability to understand and use more than “first principles” (ASV) or “elementary principles” (NKJ)
   B. Ability that takes time – “when for the time.”
   C. Ability that is lost without use – “Have become such as have need of milk”
   D. Some to want meat can’t handle it – others who don’t want it need it.
II. The Ability to Discern (Heb. 5:12)
   A. Ability to sort out good and evil based on Bible teaching.
      1. This increases with study and practice.
      2. Babes require everything to be simply and specifically spelled out
      3. Mature can take general principles and apply them to specific situations.
   B. Ability to discern between the preacher and his preaching (1 Cor. 3:1-9)
      1. Immature Christians often rally more around gospel preachers than gospel preaching.
      2. Mature Christians appreciate the gospel preacher for his work, but rally around the preaching.
      3. Immature view gospel preachers as competitors – mature view the co-workers for Christ.
   C. Ability to discern between more and lesser important things (Matt. 6:33; 2 Cor. 4:17-18).
III. The Ability to Be Doctrinally Stable (Eph. 4:14-15)
   A. Does not mean one should never change.
      1. If there is scriptural evidence that one needs to change – he must change.
      2. But, one must not jump at each new novel and great sounding thing.
   B. Does mean one should anchor himself in sound doctrine and stay put unless proven to be unsound.
IV. The Ability to Adjust Without Compromise.
   A. Adjust to our changing external circumstances (Phil. 4:11-12)
   B. Adjust to the needs and weaknesses of others (Rom. 15:1-4; 1 Cor. 9:19-23)
   C. Adjust to preferences of others in matters of judgment for sake of peace (Jas 3:17 NKJ)
V. The Ability to See Duties as Privileges
   A. Paul viewed the duty of preaching as a grace given (Rom. 1:14-15; Eph. 3:8)
   B. Giving is a duty that is to be considered as a grace or privilege (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:7-8)
   C. Eliminates the “minimum requirement” mentality (2 Pet. 1:8; 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Cor. 8:17)

Conclusion:
A. What is your growth rate?
B. How well are you developing signs of spiritual strength?