

# Pressing On to Perfection

**Introduction.** The book of Hebrews constitutes a perfect inspired example of the correct relationship and balance between doctrine and practice. The purpose of the book is to exhort Christians; its occasion for being written is the faltering of the faithful.

The exhortation to “go on to perfection” expresses a goal for both writer and readers, teacher and students (Hebrews 6:1-3). The believers are exhorted to advance from the rudiments of the faith to the maturity of the message. The “maturity” that is spoken of is doctrinal.

We have to understand the implications of doctrinal maturity. This is not an emotional appeal to become better people; it’s an appeal to become efficient in recognizing the true teaching from the untrue, the lie from the truth. We need this teaching because we have to avoid apostasy.

“Use” in Hebrews 5:14 indicates the continuous disposition of character produced by past exercise. The goal of training is the distinguishing of good and evil (Philippians 1:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:21). This equals maturity which ultimately equals a stronger, more faithful Christian.

This sets the stage for a spiritual journey that goes beyond elementary doctrines, urging believers to embrace a more profound and mature relationship with God. Let’s see what rudimentary elements we should leave and develop powers of perception in the application of mature faith and judgment. It’s much like a builder who’s laid a firm foundation and goes on to complete the house.

## ***I. Repentance From Dead Works***

- A. Matthew 21:28-29.
- B. Luke 13:3, 5.
- C. Acts 3:19.
- D. 2 Corinthians 7:9-11.

## ***II. Faith Toward God***

- A. Luke 8:25.
- B. John 6:68-69.
- C. Romans 10:17.
- D. Acts 4:12.
- E. Mark 16:15-16.
- F. Romans 4:5.

## ***III. Doctrine of Baptisms***

- A. Matthew 28:19-20.
- B. John 3:3-5.
- C. Titus 3:5.
- D. Ephesians 5:26.
- E. Acts 2:38, 47.

## ***IV. Laying On of Hands***

- A. Acts 8:18; 19:6.

- B. 2 Timothy 1:6.
- C. John 20:30-31.
- D. Mark 16:20.
- E. 2 Corinthians 12:12.
- F. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10.

#### ***V. Resurrection of the Dead***

- A. John 5:28-29.
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:13, 19, 52.
- C. Philippians 3:8-11.

#### ***VI. Eternal Judgment***

- A. Hebrews 9:27.
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- C. Revelation 20:11-15; 22:12.

**Conclusion.** We're encouraged by God's holy Word to persevere in our faith and spiritual growth (1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 1 Peter 2:1-3). To do so, we have to move beyond the foundational principles of the faith and advance towards a deeper, mature understanding of difficult questions, which can include the following:

- How is Christ a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek?
- What does God know?
- Will people be condemned for not believing in Jesus even if they have never heard of Him?
- Does God love everyone in the exact same way?
- What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
- What can we know about angels? Demons? Satan?
- What is the book of Revelation about?
- Will the Rapture and Tribulation occur at world's end?

Later in chapter 6, the writer urges believers to be diligent, not becoming sluggish, but imitating those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. The overall message is one of endurance, trust, and a steadfast commitment to pursuing spiritual maturity, rooted in the assurance of God's faithfulness and the hope set before us. May God be with all of us as we press on to perfection.