

## **Devotional Questions – Hebrews 5:1-14, Study Leader’s Questions**

1. *What role did suffering and submission play in the life of Jesus?  
What role could they play in your life?  
What would be necessary for that to happen?*
2. *Compare Mark 14:32-42 and John 12:20-36 with Hebrews 5:8. What insights into the meaning of Christ’s life do these give?*
3. *What is the link between Christ as the author of our salvation and the need for our obedience (Hebrews 5:9)?*
4. *What does the author mean by the contrast between milk and solid food [“**strong meat**”] (Hebrews 5:12-14)?  
What are some examples of teaching you would consider to be
  - like milk?
  - like solid food [“**strong meat**”]?*
5. *What are the elementary truths of God’s word that we should all know (Hebrews 5:12)?*
6. *What does the writer expect believers to do with such knowledge (Hebrews 5:12)?*

## Devotional Questions – Hebrews 5:1-14, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 96-114 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1603 for detailed comments.

### 1. *What role did suffering and submission play in the life of Jesus?*

*What role could they play in your life?*

*What would be necessary for that to happen?*

Suffering and submission in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ caused Him to go through the battle of the will.

***“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt”*** Matthew 26:39.

***“He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done”*** Matthew 26:42.

***“And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt”*** Mark 14:36.

***“And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”*** Luke 22:42.

The battle of the will will be fought out in the life of every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would”*** Galatians 5:17.

The battle starts when the individual is saved i.e. ***“born...of the Spirit”*** John 3:5 and continues until ***“we ever be with the Lord”*** 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

A good *practical* prayer therefore with respect to remaining in the *preferred* will of God is as follows:

***“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it”*** 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

### 2. *Compare Mark 14:32-42 and John 12:20-36 with Hebrews 5:8. What insights into the meaning of Christ's life do these give?*

The key verses in these passages are:

***“And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt”*** Mark 14:36. See *Question 1* above.

***“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour”*** John 12:27.

Mark 14:36, John 12:27 give insight into the Lord's mindset with respect to His time on earth. The Lord's followers should have the same mindset with respect to ***“the will of his father”*** Matthew 21:31, namely ***“the will of God and our Father”*** Galatians 1:4:

***“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work”*** John 4:34, which should be memorised.

3. *What is the link between Christ as the author of our salvation and the need for our obedience (Hebrews 5:9)?*

For the Christian, the link is obedience to ***“the gospel of Christ”*** Romans 1:16 after the manner of the apostles’ invitation to the Philippian gaoler. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1462.

***“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”***  
Acts 16:31.

Paul laments that obedience to ***“the gospel of Christ”*** is not universal.

***“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?”*** Romans 10:16.

Romans 10:16 nevertheless reveals that getting saved is predicated on obeying the Gospel ***“that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”*** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 by means of having ***“obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you”*** Romans 6:17 one of the ***“the principles of the doctrine of Christ”*** Hebrews 6:1 according to the exhortation of Romans 10:13.

***“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”***

That is obedience to the Gospel after the manner of Acts 16:31. In sum, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 give the heart of the Gospel for the Church Age saint, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:13 set out how to obey it.

4. *What does the author mean by the contrast between milk and solid food [“strong meat”] (Hebrews 5:12-14)? What are some examples of teaching you would consider to be*
- *like milk?*
  - *like solid food [“strong meat”]?*

The contrast between milk and ***“strong meat”*** is best illustrated with emphasis on the book under study, the Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 5:12, 6:1 define milk as ***“the first principles of the oracles of God”*** and ***“the principles of the doctrine of Christ”*** respectively e.g. the Gospel, see *Question 3*. ***“Strong meat”*** is therefore any form of doctrine to ***“go on unto perfection”*** Hebrews 6:1 ***“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”*** Ephesians 4:13.

Doctrine like milk is learning and applying ***“the gospel of your salvation”*** Ephesians 1:13 i.e. personally coming to know ***“the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”*** Philippians 3:20. See *Question 3*.

***“Strong meat”*** is beyond personally coming to know ***“the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”*** Philippians 3:20 simply as the Saviour. It is, for example, focussing on the Lord’s overarching office, as explicitly and centrally set out in Hebrews, of High Priest. The term ***“high priest”*** with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ occurs in scripture only in the Book of Hebrews, where it is found 16 times, 11 times with reference to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; Hebrews 2:17, 3:1, 4:14, 15, 5:5, 10, 6:20, 7:26, 8:1, 9:11, 10:21.

Hebrews 3:1 is Paul’s initial exhortation to his readers to brace themselves for ***“strong meat,”*** especially insofar as he uses capitals for added emphasis with respect to the Lord’s office of High Priest. The Lord is also ***“the Apostle”*** because He is sent according to John 6:38 ***“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”***

Hebrews 3:1 reads ***“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”***

In His office as ***“the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”*** the Lord Jesus Christ, with respect to His High Priestly attributes, exaltation and functions is:

- ***“merciful and faithful...in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people”*** Hebrews 2:17 i.e. in His capacity as ***“the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”*** Philippians 3:20. See *Question 3*
- ***“passed into the heavens”*** Hebrews 4:14 ***“caught up to the third heaven”*** 2 Corinthians 12:2 ***“into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us”*** Hebrews 9:24
- ***“touched with the feeling of our infirmities...in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”*** Hebrews 4:15
- ***“called of God, as was Aaron”*** Hebrews 5:4, ***“begotten of God”*** 1 John 5:18 with Hebrews 5:5 but ***“Called of God...after the order of Melchisedec”*** Hebrews 5:10 even ***“for ever after the order of Melchisedec”*** Hebrews 6:20
- ***“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens”*** Hebrews 7:26
- ***“set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”*** Hebrews 8:1
- ***“come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building”*** Hebrews 9:11
- ***“an high priest over the house of God”*** Hebrews 10:21.

Each of the above eight descriptors of the High Priestly characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ are ***“strong meat,”*** certainly as each one is developed by means of scripture with scripture, 1 Corinthians 2:13. A full understanding of them will yield ***“a perfect man”*** Ephesians 4:13.

5. *What are the elementary truths of God’s word that we should all know (Hebrews 5:12)?*

These are ***“the first principles of the oracles of God”*** Hebrews 5:12, such as ***“the gospel of your salvation”*** Ephesians 1:13. See *Questions 3, 4*, noting that ***“the holy scriptures...are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”*** 2 Timothy 3:15.

In addition, ***“the first principles of the oracles of God”*** Hebrews 5:12 include:

- *The basis for assurance of salvation, eternal security.* ***“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”*** 1 John 5:13
- *The means of spiritual growth.* ***“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”*** 1 Peter 2:2. See also Acts 20:32
- *The offensive weapon in spiritual warfare.* ***“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”*** Ephesians 6:17
- *The countermeasures for resisting temptation.* ***“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth”*** Revelation 3:10
- *The agent of cleansing from sin.* ***“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you”*** John 15:3
- *The engine of mutual encouragement and true worship.* ***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”*** Colossians 3:16.

6. *What does the writer expect believers to do with such knowledge (Hebrews 5:12)?*

***“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”*** James 1:22.

***“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine”*** 2 Timothy 4:2.