



It is only natural for mothers and fathers, even grandparents, to have a will and a plan for their children or grandchildren for when they grow up; something they want their children to become as adults, the kind of person they want them to mature into, for their own well being. Likewise, our heavenly Father has always had a will and a plan for His children, something He wants for them when they grow up, for their own well being. For example, God said to the Jews, “For I know **the plans that I have for you,**’ declares the Lord, **‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope’** (Jeremiah 29:11). Yet, at that time, and at many other times, the Jews resisted God’s will and plan for them, and instead followed their own. In life, and with the Lord, this did not lead to a good future for the Jews.

Now God has a will and a plan for Christians when they grow up in Christ. We can see this in the following passage. “**And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be [1] teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not [2] accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us [3] press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment”** (He 5:9 through chapter 6:2).

Child of God, the subject of this passage is what “**you ought to be**” (vs. 12) when you grow up in Christ, when you become a mature Christian. For it says “by this time you ought to be” some things. So, there comes a time in every Christian’s life when he ought to be certain things. The word “**ought**” here, in the Greek transliteration “**opheilo,**” means to owe; to owe money, to be in debt for, that which is due, the debt; indebted; obligated. In other words, there comes a time when you have to pay up on these things, that is, as a Christian, there are **three things you are indebted to be or become.**

## 1. A teacher of the elementary principles of Christ

There comes a time in every Christian’s life when he ought to be able to teach someone all the basics of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For example, “**By this time you ought to be teachers”** (He 5:12), especially able to “**teach.... the elementary principles of the oracles of God”** (He 5:12), “**the elementary teaching about the Christ”** (He 6:1), such as, “**laying... a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings [Gk. Baptismos, baptisms] and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment”** (He 6:1, 2). We studied these things and more in Level 1, *The Advanced Chronological Study of the Holy Bible*. We studied “**the good confession”** (1 Tim 6:12), which must be preceded by the good belief (Ro 10:9, 10; Jn 20:31). We studied “**repentance from dead works,**” such as adultery (this sin is what Jesus said divorce leads to / SEE Mt 5:31, 32; beware of divorce), unrighteousness, intoxication, and more. We studied “**instructions about washings,**” with “washings” meaning in the Greek “**baptismos,**” baptisms. There are five baptisms mentioned in the New Testament. I listed and defined them for you in the lesson *John Prepared the Way for the Messiah*. We studied how the Lord directed us to call on His name to be saved in water baptism, not in prayer (Ac 22:16; Mt 28:19; Ro 10:13).

Note: One could spend the rest of his life teaching disciples this one basic principle, for how many disciples have not yet been taught this truth about how to call on the name of the Lord to be saved? How many are being misled to pray for salvation instead of calling on the name of the Lord in water baptism? And what about “the good confession”? I have asked many disciples, young and old, what it is, and they say they do not know or they give an incorrect or inaccurate answer. Christian, there is a great need to preach the gospel in such a way to others so as to help them make the good confession, through understanding the good belief (Jn 20:31).

Dear child of God, there is a great need for teaching others the basic principles about Jesus Christ. So, teach somebody! Set your sights on teaching someone. Make it one of your lifelong goals. Pray and petition the Lord God to lead you to someone to teach. It could be your children, a coworker, a member of your community, a relative, a grandchild, a friend, etc. My *Free Teacher Guide* will show you how to organize and teach your family, friends, or community the basic principles of Christ and more. You can order it at [FreeBibleStudy.org](http://FreeBibleStudy.org). But even more important than you teaching others, is your own learning. So I recommend that you complete my Level 2 and Level 3 studies (and Level 1) so that you can be most prepared for the job of teaching your family and friends, especially in setting the right example in Christian worship yourself (Level 2) and in the knowledge and use of your own spiritual gifts (Level 3).

Note: The “**laying on of hands**” refers to three things: When appointing someone to teach or lead (Ac 13:2, 3; 1 Tim 5:22). When the apostles alone laid their hands on others to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit to fulfill Joel’s prophecy (Ac 8:14-24). When Jesus and His chosen vessels laid hands on others to make them well (Mk 5:23).

## 2. Accustomed to the word of righteousness

“**For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil”** (He 5:13, 14). It takes a lot of “**practice**” to become a mature Christian. One has to constantly use the holy Scriptures, over a period of time, to be well acquainted with them, to be experienced with them, and this for the purpose of developing one’s spiritual senses to be able to determine what is right or wrong on various subjects. An immature Christian, one who is inexperienced with the Holy Scriptures, can not readily tell what is right or wrong about certain subjects, thus being less able to avoid unrighteousness in the sight of the Lord.

**As Jesus said (Mt 22:37), you need to love the Lord your God with all your mind!** This means you need to study the holy Scriptures, even daily, so that you can become very accustomed to them. You ought to love the Lord with all your mind. Read! Read! Read! Develop a Christian mind or mind-set. Meditate. Think. Consider. Divide. Sort out. Chew the cud. Habitually listen to the word. Immerse, baptize, and overwhelm your mind with it. To love Jesus is to love His word, for He is the word. Make it your goal to do what Paul told Timothy to do: “**study to show thyself approved unto God”** (2 Tim 2:15 KJV). Like Ezra, set your heart to (1) study the word, (2) practice the word, and (3) teach the word (Ezra 7:10). Like Joshua, read the word day and night so that it will enable you to follow it carefully and also so that it will be on your mouth, your tongue, meaning that you will be enabled to speak and quote it to others (Josh 1:8). For the mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart. What are you putting into your heart? Just look at your words and you will know. Are they seasoned with Jesus’ words? If not then you are not reading His words enough (or you are afraid to speak them). Read them more and more. Read them until your own mouth can speak them. Be like the kings were to be. They were not to multiply their physical desires, but their spiritual desires (Deut 17:18-20). Be a blessed man! Meditate on the word day and night (Ps 1). Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph 6:17). Use the sword. Wield it every day!

Notes: None of these examples suggest a lapse in meditating on the word of God. Why even skip a week of it? Let us keep practicing with the word. Make it your daily routine, and your life long goal so that you will be mature, so that you will be able to tell right from wrong. No one ever graduates from practicing the faith; not you, not me, no one. No one ever graduates from practicing with the word to discern right from wrong. Yet, your practice or constant study or learning the words of God does not guarantee your maturity. For example, we are told that some disciples are always learning, but for certain sinful reasons they are never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 3:6, 7). Some disciples who are untaught and unstable distort, twist, bend, and pervert the words of Christ to their own destruction (2 Pe 3:16). Some teachers actually want to teach you a distorted, twisted and perverted gospel of Christ (SEE Gal 1:7). So, beware! Love the truth, so that you will not believe and participate in a lie and be destroyed by it (2 Thess 2:9-12). For only those who love the truth (the Lord) will be saved.

### 3. One who presses on to maturity vs. stagnates or backslides

“Let us **press on to maturity**, not laying again a foundation” (He 6:1, 2). To “press on,” in the Greek transliteration “phero,” means to carry, to carry some burden. To move by bearing; move or to be conveyed or borne, with the suggestion of force of speed, for example (1) of persons borne in a ship over the sea, (2) of a gust of wind, to rush, (3) of the mind, to be moved inwardly, prompted. To bear up, to uphold, to keep from falling. To endure the rigour of a thing, to move aptly, to bring forward. So set sail! Get moving! Swiftly pursue the goal of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Set sail for the height of Christ, to grow up in all aspects in Him (Eph 4:15). Keep yourself from falling backward by pressing on with the word of the Lord.



If there is one thing that plagues disciples, as we can see with the Hebrew Christians, it is stagnation in the word of Christ or backsliding, immaturity, not pressing on deeper and deeper in to the words of Christ, to understand and therefore practice them. For example, in the parable of the sower, only one of the four types of soil pressed on with the word of God (Lk 8:15), and therefore bore fruit, meaning became mature enough for reaping to occur. The rest occupied themselves with other priorities (Lk 8:14), which choked out the word and its desire for them. They did not have the kind of growth for which God was looking. They did not become mature, even though many of them still served God and went to church. They were like these Hebrews. They were dull of hearing (He 5:11). They were not mature. They did not even know how to teach others the elementary principles of Christ.

But when Paul got converted to Christ Jesus, it was said of him that he “**kept increasing in strength**” (Ac 9:22). Likewise, Paul told Timothy to continue in the things he learned, to be absorbed in them, “**so that your progress will be evident to all**” (1 Tim 4:15). So do not be sluggish with the teachings of the Lord, or backslide, but instead like Paul and Timothy, press on, grow, develop, and increase in strength. Make progress in the teachings of Christ, both basic and advanced. Consider these verses which encourage you to

diligently grow instead of sluggishly stagnate or shrink back: He 10:36-39; He 6:11, 12; He 4:11; He 10:26; Philippians 3:12-16; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15.

Children of God, the kingdom of God is a growth business, if you will. We see this in the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30). God will be pleased with you if you grow, if you increase, if you mature in the things which He gives you responsibility to do. But if you stagnate or shrink back, He will condemn you! Consider the parable of the fig tree (Lk 13:6-9). The Lord is looking for fruit, mature fruit on His trees. If He finds none, He will cut them down and make better use of the ground in which they reside. Just like the fig tree in the parable, there comes a time when mature fruit must begin to show itself, or else the Lord will uproot the tree. So do not hesitate or wait to grow in your understanding and practice of the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have written two other intense levels of study to help you do this, one on Christian worship (Level 2) and the other on spiritual gifts (Level 3). I recommend that you complete them both, since you will likely learn some very important new things about Christ and His teachings, just like you should have learned some important truths in Level 1 studies.

#### Conclusion

As a Christian, you have an obligation to press on to maturity. This means you must, at some fitting point, and in some fitting way in the Lord, be able to teach someone all of the elementary principles about Christ, such as repentance from dead works, the good confession, water baptism (that is, how to call on the name of the Lord to be saved in it, not in prayer), and so on and so forth. You will become able to teach the basics by diligently studying the holy Scriptures to gain mastery in them.

Now the question is this: as a Christian, will you make it your priority to fulfill God’s will and plan for you to become a mature Christian or not? Someday, we will all know the answer to this question, based on whether or not you have mastered the basic principles of Christ and have demonstrated ability to teach them to others, whether or not you have become accustomed to the holy Scriptures by constantly studying them, and whether or not you have pressed on or stagnated or shrunk back from Christ and His teachings. **Child of God, do you understand what you ought to be when you grow up?**

This lesson is to be presented on the last day of the Advanced Chronological Study of the Holy Bible [Level 1] to exhort students to strive to become what God intended for them to be, a mature Christian. Rick David, an Evangelist, FreeBibleStudy.org, FreeBibleSchool.org

*What you ought to be, when you grow up!*

