

## HEBREWS 5

### The High Priest

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins. And no man takes this honour to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*

In **Exodus 28** we see that God established both the priesthood and the office of high priest in the days of Moses. The work of the High Priest was to *offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins*. In Old Testament times sacrifices were intended as simple *gifts* to God and for the atonement of *sin*. He also had *compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray*, and presented the atoning sacrifices for the people. He had this *compassion* because he understood that *he himself is also subject to weakness and sin and the sacrifices were also for himself*. - (**Leviticus 16:1-6**).

*And no man takes this honour to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was* - The High Priest came from a specific line of descent (the tribe of Levi) and was always appointed by God, therefore no man could take the honour upon himself and be filled with pride. (**Exodus 13:2** and **Numbers 3:40-41**)

### Our High Priest

So also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."* As *He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"*

*Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest* - Jesus did not make Himself High Priest as much as Jesus was declared to be the *Son of God (in Psalm 2:7)*, He was also appointed by God to be *a priest forever (in Psalm 110:4)*. - Jesus' priesthood (like Melchizedek's) is unending and forever - *according to the order of Melchizedek*.

### Our High Priest (Jesus) has compassion.

*Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

Jesus went through severe temptation and agony at the Garden of Gethsemane, yet He remained obedient to the Father and endured it for us. (**Matthew 26:36-39, Luke 22:44**)

*He learned obedience by the things which He suffered* - Though Jesus was God, He became a man and being obedient to the Father, suffered to the point of death.

*We as Christians* are appointed to affliction (**1 Thessalonians 3:3**).

It is through many trials and tribulations that we would enter the kingdom of God (**Acts 14:22**).

Our present suffering is the prelude to glorification (**Romans 8:17**).

### Our High Priest (Jesus) is perfect.

*And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say,*

*Jesus' suffering, His death on the cross and resurrection, makes Him the perfect author of eternal salvation, to all who obey Him:*

*You have become dull of hearing* – Here is a stern warning to us as Christians not to *become dull of hearing*. This is applicable to those who once obeyed, but *become dull of hearing through* backsliding, hardening their hearts or being disobedient to God. Being *dull of hearing* is a consequence of departing from Jesus.

## Spiritual growth - (Maturity)

For though by this time, you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God;

*By this time* - According to the time they had been followers of Jesus, they should have been much more mature than they were now.

*You ought to be teachers* – meaning mature in God and ready to teach others who are new to the gospel of Christ.

You need someone to teach you again the first 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* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

As a mature Christian we are not to be tossed around by every wind of doctrine and the snares of the devil - **(Ephesians 4:14-16)**.

## Mature Christians

We need to be mature Christians, *who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*. Meaning those who have through practice and habit trained the use their senses to discern between right and wrong and good and evil.

A mature Christian

1. Humbles him/herself before the Lord. - *Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD (2 Kings 22:19)*.
2. Is committed to Christ – *Commit thy ways unto the Lord (Psalm 37:5)*
3. Listen what the Spirit of God says - *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 3:22)*
4. Exercise their spiritual eyes - *The eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened (Ephesians 1:18)*.
5. Desire to grow in Christ – until we all attain unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ **(Ephesians 4:13-15)**