

A. There Are Powerful, Life-Changing Truths Tucked Away In The Word - things you: ought to know / want to know - But For Them To Become Reality In Your Life You've Go To Get Beyond The Basics And Move Toward Maturity

1. Notice how he describes spiritual babies:

- (:12) Need the first principals (milk, not solid food)
- (:13) Unskilled (inexperienced) in the word of righteousness (cf. :12 - oracles of God) = scriptures
- (6:1-3) Stuck on elementary principals (ABCs, 123s)
 - Repentance from dead works (cf. James) / Faith toward God (faith vs. works)
 - (:2) doctrine of baptisms
 - nature: water/spirit
 - does baptism cause a change, or show that there's already been a change
 - laying on of hands... (healing, commissioning/acknowledging authority...)
 - resurrection of the dead / eternal judgement = the end...

2. Now, notice how he describes the spiritually mature:

- (:12) Teachers (≠ gift/calling of teacher) / solid food (meat vs. milk)
- (:14) Full age = maturity (≠ measure of time)
 - senses = mental/intellectual faculties of perception/understanding
 - exercised = *gumnazo* = gym
 - to discern = to tell the difference : good & evil / truth & lies / right & wrong / God's Spirit & another

3. Vs. 1 tells us how to move toward maturity (:6a-b)

- Leaving...
- Go on... press on / be carried along
 - perfection = completeness / learned / mature