

Hebrews 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered,
seeing ye are dull of hearing.

Analysis

The author transitions with a rebuke: 'much to say and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.' The Greek 'nōthroi' (dull/sluggish) indicates spiritual lethargy. This isn't about intellectual capacity but moral responsiveness. Reformed theology recognizes that spiritual truth requires spiritual receptivity wrought by the Spirit. Without diligent hearing, even clear truth becomes obscure.

Historical Context

The readers' spiritual regression is concerning - they should be advancing but have regressed. This suggests persecution or cultural pressure had weakened their commitment, making them unprepared for deeper teaching.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What causes spiritual dullness, and how can you guard against it?
2. How does your responsiveness to God's word affect your ability to understand it?

Interlinear Text

Περὶ	οὗ	πολὺς	ήμῖν	ό	λόγος	καὶ	δυσερμήνευτος
Of	whom	many things	we	G3588	have	and	hard
G4012	G3739	G4183	G2254		G3056	G2532	G1421
λέγειν	ἐπεὶ	νωθροὶ	γεγόνατε	ταῖς	ἀκοαῖς		
to be uttered	seeing	dull	ye are	G3588	of hearing		
G3004	G1893	G3576	G1096		G189		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:15 (Parallel theme): For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

2 Peter 3:16 (Parallel theme): As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Acts 28:27 (Parallel theme): For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Isaiah 6:10 (Parallel theme): Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Mark 8:21 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

John 6:6 (Parallel theme): And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

John 16:12 (Parallel theme): I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Luke 24:25 (Parallel theme): Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

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