

NOT GOING TO CUT IT

SCRIPTURE:

...since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be 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 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" (Hebrews 5:11b-14)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Dull mower blade

MAIN MESSAGE:

As long as we are living on this earth, we cannot afford to stop growing our faith. We will never reach a place where we can say we know enough. As Christians, we must strive every day to grow closer to God and increase in knowledge of God's word.

SONG: "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes"

LESSON:

When I played basketball in high school, my coach would get on to me every day if I didn't work on my fundamental dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. These drills got to be so boring because I did them every day, and I think I could have literally done them in my sleep. Now I know why my coach pushed me to keep sharpening my basketball skills, because now, years later, I can hardly do any of the things I used to do. Some may say that it is because I am old, but there are still guys in the NBA who are older than me. The real reason is because I have not continued to practice and hone my skills.

My father is 86 years old and is the most diligent student of the Bible that I have ever known. You would think that after spending his entire life studying the Bible, preaching and teaching God's word, and serving for two decades as an elder in the Lord's church that he would slow down. But it is just the opposite. He continues to study and restudy the Bible over and over. I am still amazed when I go to his house and he can't wait to show me something new that he has learned. Although his physical body may be slowing down, his love and zeal for God's word remains sharp.

A steel mower blade is much harder than the flimsy blades of grass that it cuts, but over time, even the soft grass begins to wear down the metal, which causes it to become dull. After a while, the blunt edge of the blade will no longer do its job properly because it is no longer sharp. We live in a world that is full of influences that will reduce the sharpness of our faith. This is what happened to the people in Hebrews 5. They quit listening to the will of God, "since you have become dull of hearing" (Heb. 5:11), and they were becoming useless to God: "for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God" (Heb. 5:12). God needed them to be mature enough to start teaching others, but because they had become lazy and quit growing in their own faith, they had to be sent back to Bible grade school to learn the basics all over again. Where are you in your spiritual life? Are you always pushing yourself to understand more, or are you getting lazy and dull?

PRAYER: Our family will always study God's word and grow our faith every day.