

## THE BEAUTY AND BLESSING OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Hebrews 5:11–6:20

“All children, except one, grow up.” With these words J. M. Barrie begins his classic work, *Peter Pan*, the title character of which has endeared himself to many for his ability to fly, his wild imagination, his friendship with Tinker Bell, his adventures with the Lost Boys, and his battles with Captain Hook. But behind the carefree facade of the story lays a cautionary tale, one hinted at by that opening line. Throughout, the characters resist and denigrate adulthood, choosing instead to live in the aging-optional Neverland. Determined to avoid the responsibilities and expectations of maturity, they naively embrace perpetual juvenility. The author of Hebrews has spotted Peter Pan in the church—believers flying around in a state of arrested development, belonging *to* Christ but refusing to grow up *in* Christ. And, inspired by the Holy Spirit, he wants to correct that, inviting believers to experience the beauty and blessing of spiritual maturity.

LIVING in Neverland

5:11–13; 6:4–6

LEAVING Neverland

Commission

5:14–6:3

Illustration

6:7–8

Affirmation

6:9–12

Motivation

6:13–20