

January 7, 2018

“Deeper – A Journey to Spiritual Maturity”

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2

“Going Deeper”

“Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” Hebrews 5:14

A. What is the path to spiritual maturity?

1. Spiritual maturity is not based on the length of time since you gave your heart to Christ.
2. Spiritual maturity is not based on your knowledge of the Bible.
3. Spiritual maturity is not based on your good deeds.
4. Spiritual maturity is based on your obedience to the truth you have received.

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7

B. What is spiritual immaturity?

1. Spiritual immaturity is living a selfish lifestyle.

“For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.” James 3:16

2. Spiritual immaturity is truth without grace and grace without truth.

“Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:16-17 NIV

3. Spiritual immaturity is pride in knowledge of the Bible or spiritual accomplishments.

“Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that ‘We all possess knowledge.’ But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.” 1 Corinthians 8:1

4. Spiritual immaturity is filled with jealousy and quarreling.

“You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?” 1 Corinthians 3:3 NIV

5. Spiritual immaturity is seen by instability in life and belief.

“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be

influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.” Ephesians 4:14

6. Spiritual immaturity lacks unity and harmony.

“Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2 Corinthians 13:11b

7. Spiritual immaturity is more focused on cares, riches and pleasures.

“The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.” Luke 8:14

8. Spiritual immaturity seems to be identified more by the actions of the sinful nature.

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21

C. What is spiritual maturity?

1. Spiritual maturity is abounding in love.

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35

2. Spiritual maturity is growing in knowledge.

“I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.” Philippians 1:9

3. Spiritual maturity is increasing in discernment.

“For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.” Philippians 1:10

4. Spiritual maturity is evident in the integrity demonstrated.

“For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.” Philippians 1:10

5. Spiritual maturity is always seeking to find the work God has planned for us.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10

6. Spiritual maturity always seeks to glorify God.

“When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” John 15:8

7. Spiritual maturity seeks unity and harmony.

“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13

8. Spiritual maturity is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit. “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” Galatians 5:22-23

D. How do we grow in spiritual maturity?

“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.” Colossians 1:9-10

1. We develop in our faith journey by putting away the hindrances that hold us back.
2. We develop in our faith journey by longing for God’s Word to be developed in us.
3. We develop in our faith journey by obediently following the truth that God reveals to us.
4. We develop in our faith journey by allowing the Spirit of God to have full control in our lives.

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10

E. We grow spiritually by...

“Dear brothers and sisters, don’t be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.” 1 Corinthians 14:20

1. A healthy diet – The Bible
2. Fresh air – Pray often as it is oxygen to the soul.
3. Regular exercise – Putting into practice truth.
4. Adequate rest – relying on God at all times in simple faith.
5. Clean surroundings – Avoid anything that will weaken you spiritually.
6. Loving care – be a part of a church where you will benefit from Bible teaching and Christian fellowship.
7. Periodic checkups – Regularly examine your spiritual health.

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.” 2 Corinthians 13:5