

Reading: I Corinthians 13:11

Topic: Growing Up

Introduction: Some children have a difficult time letting go of their _____, and they want to remain like a _____ and be treated like one for a long time..

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHILD:

A. Behaviors:

1. Self-centered – thinks only about me, myself & I. This starts when the child is a _____ and needs to have everything done for it – feeding, changing diaper, burping, etc.
2. Strong willed – I want my own way. The child pouts and _____ when it doesn't happen, sometime will throw a temper tantrum – screaming and kicking.
3. Selfish – Nobody else touches my things, and nobody else plays with my toys. This leads to conflicts and uproars when other children come to visit.
4. Quarrelsome – Fights constantly with siblings and other kids over different issues.
5. Disobedient – ignores instructions from parents. Sometimes this disobedience is _____ and done behind a parent's back, but later it leads to _____ defiance and rebellion.
6. When another baby is born into the family the child competes for attention, and may _____ to acting like a _____ again.
7. Doesn't want to give up playing with toys. When some children arrive at the _____ when they should be thinking seriously about teenage and _____ things, they don't want to grow up.

All of the above characteristics are observed by parents who are attempting to raise their children to become, one day, mature adults.

II. SPIRITUAL NEWBORN CHILDREN:

A. Behaviors:

1. When one is born _____ by the Spirit of God, one is a spiritual baby and needs much spiritual care to learn how to begin to _____ and live for God. I Pt. 2:1,2
 2. When one comes to God and repents of sin, is baptized in _____ Name and receives the Gift of the Holy Ghost, one still has their own _____ and will sometimes fight against the _____ of God. Acts 8:18-24
 3. Though one is born again and beginning to _____ with God, the old nature of selfishness is still inside and will manifest itself from time to time. James 4:3
 4. Children of God may have differences that lead to _____ and fighting among themselves even though they are born again because they are still acting like _____ spiritually. James 4:1
 5. Though the Lord may speak clearly through His _____ and through the teaching and preaching of the _____ of God, some children of God will tend to be disobedient sometimes. Acts 5:1-3
 6. When other new people come and are born again, immature people in the _____ sometimes resent them, because they lose the _____ of the attention that they were getting. Acts 11:1-3
 7. Some newborn children of God will _____ very quickly and begin to mature spiritually, while some others will be reluctant to let go of the baby _____ and move forward. I Cor. 3:1-3
- Pastors, teachers and care partners all have had the experience in working with newborn Christians who have given their lives to Jesus Christ but have not yet matured in Christ.

III. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS THE GOAL:

A. Mature Behaviors:

1. When one becomes a mature child of God, the _____ of being self-centered changes to becoming concerned for the welfare of _____ people instead of me, myself and I. Acts 20:35
2. The once strong will that we had when we come to _____, is now broken and submitted to the divine _____ of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Lk. 9:23,24
3. When our life is surrendered to Jesus, our former _____ behavior is changed to wanting to give to others and _____ them instead of wanting everything for ourselves. Acts 9:36
4. When our will is surrendered to God, and we _____ from selfish to wanting to help others, we no longer want to _____ and quarrel with others. I Th. 5:12,13
5. After the chastisement of the Lord and the _____ learned the hard way, we learn the blessings of submission and obedience to the _____ of God. Heb. 12:6,7
6. When new people come to the Lord and believe and obey the Gospel, we _____ greatly and celebrate with the Body of Christ and the angels in Heaven over the _____ born souls. Lk. 15:7
7. The attitude of the mature _____ is one that says, "I do not want to stay where I am spiritually, but I want to _____ more and advance in my walk with God." I Cor. 13:11

CONCLUSION: The work of God is in need of many _____ believers who will unselfishly help to reach lost souls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and then help them to _____ and mature in the Lord also.

Self-Examination: Am I -

1. Self-centered or concerned for others?
2. Strong-willed and stubborn or humble and submitted?
3. Selfish or giving?
4. Quarrelsome or a peacemaker?
5. Disobedient or obedient to the Word of God?
6. Resentful towards new people or rejoicing over those who are newly born again?
7. Wanting to stay a child or growing up?