

Reading: 2 Peter 3:18

Topic: Spiritual Maturity
Of Ministers & Workers

INTRODUCTION: When one is born again and becomes a _____ of God, the intended goal of God's work in our _____ is to bring us to spiritual maturity.

I. WHAT SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS NOT:

A. It's Not About Physical Age:

1. One may be sixty-five years old and still not be spiritually _____, and one can be an elder in age and very _____ and fleshly, still producing some of the works of the flesh. Gal. 5:20,21

2. Also, the length of time that one has been a believer does not determine spiritual _____, as some people who have been saved for many years have not _____ spiritually. I Cor. 3:1-3

B. It's Not About Appearance:

1. Some people are good at playing the _____ of being spiritual and they look like a good child of God in their appearance, and they also sound like a spiritual _____ in conversation.

2. However, just appearing to be a _____ believer and actually being spiritually mature are two different things, for appearances can be deceiving to _____ around the person. Acts 8:18-24

C. It's Not About Accomplishments:

1. One may be blessed with abilities and talents and be capable of doing many _____ to help in the _____ of God, but that is not a sign of spiritual maturity.

2. One may also study the Word of God, go to Bible College or even obtain a _____ in Scriptural studies and yet not be spiritually _____ as were the Pharisees of Jesus' day. Mt. 23:23-26

II. THE SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

A. Relationship With God That Is Constant:

1. Some believers unfortunately only feed off mountaintop _____ at special events and when the special moment is over, they begin to fall into spiritually down _____.

2. When one becomes a _____ believer, one knows that mountaintop experiences are great for the moment, but understands that the reality is that many days don't have great _____ but God is still there and their faith is in His Word and not in a feeling. 2 Cor. 5:7

B. Finding Value In The Ordinary:

1. There is a tendency for some believers to think that every day should _____ like a breakthrough so when nothing dramatic is _____, some people assume that something is wrong.

2. This type of believer falls into the trap of chasing the next _____ thing and starts looking for a better church, a different ministry, a _____ experience, and as a result they never mature. Acts 17:21

3. When one becomes a _____ believer, one understands that most of our spiritual growth will take place in ordinary everyday experiences of _____ as we do the right things.
4. Faithfulness in the mundane, showing up, staying consistent, doing the _____ unnoticed things is often where the _____ spiritual growth takes place. Gal. 6:9

C. Keeping Spiritual Disciplines Constant:

1. The road to spiritual maturity is built by being faithful in the _____ spiritual disciplines of reading the word of God and spending time in _____, communing with Jesus! Eph. 6:18
2. The other very important spiritual exercise is going to the _____ of God to be in fellowship with other believers in the _____ of Christ. Acts 2:42
3. When one is consistent in these three things, daily _____, daily reading the Word of God and regularly assembling with the _____ of Christ, one will grow and mature spiritually.
4. Unfortunately, some people never develop any consistency in those three _____ spiritual vitamins and as a result, they fail to _____ in their walk with God.

D. Living In The Peace of God:

1. As one walks with God daily and _____ in Christ, one of the results is the peace of God that becomes a _____ of daily life, even when times are tumultuous and unsettled. Phil. 4:6,7
2. When once one learns to _____ to God that which we cannot control, His peace sustains us as we now realize that He is really the one in _____ and He cares for us. I Pt. 5:7
3. This is a quote from Frank Powell, a writer for Churchleaders.com:
“Mature Christians don’t let the churn of bad news hijack their peace. They act where they have influence. They pray. And then they let go of what isn’t theirs to carry. They trust that [God is sovereign](#) over what feels chaotic, and that trust frees them from constant anxiety.”

CONCLUSION: Spiritual maturity is the objective that God desires to _____ in His children and upon those who strive to obtain it, He places His approval and blessing, but knows that _____ of the process will be valley experiences as well as the mountaintop times.