

Reading: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Topic: Spiritual Maturity Of
Ministers & Workers - #2

INTRODUCTION: All ministers and _____ are to continue spiritual growth in their own personal lives as they are leaders and _____ to many others.

I. MORE SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

A. No Longer Comparing:

1. In this modern age of social media with everyone's personal lives being on _____, there is the tendency for everyone to start looking at themselves and begin _____ themselves and their own situations with everyone else.

2. Psychologists have reported a _____ rise in cases of depression and despondency, especially among the youth of this generation as they fall for the deception that "everyone else's _____ is much better than mine."

3. Asaph was a God-fearing man who was blessed by the Lord with talents of _____ and writing of songs, and was an appointed worship leader by King David, and yet he made the mistake of comparing his _____ with others in the world and it got him discouraged. Ps. 73:1-3

4. One sign of spiritual maturity is when one arrives at the place where they _____ who they are in the plan of Jesus Christ and they no longer _____ themselves to others in the Body of Christ because they understand their own mission and ministry is designed by God. 2 Cor. 10:12

B. Increase Of Patience:

1. Another unfortunate impact of our fast-paced modern tech society is the tendency to _____ everything to happen _____ and when it doesn't, we tend to begin to complain. Ps. 13:1

2. Spiritual maturity brings with it the understanding that God does not _____ on our time but on His own time, and while we want everything to happen _____ now, we grow through experience to realize that He makes everything beautiful in _____ time. Ecc. 3:11

3. When patience is developed in us, we do not get full of frustration, knowing that God is in _____ and will do His _____ according to His own time and plan. Heb. 10:35,36

4. The Word of God instructs us that God is wanting to bring us through our _____ and tests and when it is _____ we will come out with a great spiritual work done in us. James 1:2-4

C. Increase Of Trust:

1. Trust in someone or something comes through _____ and experience, and the Lord permits us to go through _____ of opposition and difficulty but does not leave us nor forsake us. Heb. 13:5

2. When we mature to the place where we understand that God is _____ all things together for our good, then it develops and deepens our _____ in Him for the future. Rom. 8:28

3. This trust leads us also to understand that we cannot figure God and His _____ out with our own natural _____ and we shouldn't try to understand everything He is doing. Is. 55:8,9

4. Once our _____ in God is deepened, our anxiety levels drop and we move from being anxious to being at rest in Him, for experience has taught us that He really _____ for us. Pr. 3:5,6
5. The Apostle Paul passed through many, many difficult situations during his time in _____ and he developed a deep _____ in God's care for him. Phil. 4:11

D. Learning To Listen:

1. Our human tendency is often to be ready to offer _____ to every person that comes to us with their _____, and we do that out of concern.
2. Another sign of maturity is when we learn to just _____ to what people want to say, for in some situations, people just want to unburden their troubled heart to a _____ ear.
3. Once people unburden their heart to you, the _____ to their problem may become evident to them even before you begin to _____ them in what they need to do.
4. We who are ministers and workers need to develop the skill of learning to _____ before we are going to begin to _____ into the situation. James 1:19

E. Growing In Compassion:

1. Last but not least, a sign of spiritual maturity is developing compassion for the _____ souls that Jesus died to _____ from sin and destruction. Jude 1:22
2. It is easy for us to become so occupied with our own needs and _____, that we may miss seeing someone in trouble who needs our _____.
3. Probably no other _____ illustrates the will of God for compassionate behavior than the one that Jesus related concerning the Good Samaritan, where two ministers had no compassion for the man who was severely injured and left for _____ on the side of the road. Lk. 10:30-34
4. Spiritual maturity will produce a _____ of compassion in a child of God. I Pt. 3:8

CONCLUSION: The will of God for all of His children is to grow from babes in _____ to become mature and strong in the _____ of God to minister more effectively to others.