

Living Truth Ministry Church © 2014

Discovering **Spiritual Maturity**

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DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Christianity is God's journey through man, to make man, the crown jewel of his work here on earth. Without Christ Jesus, God wouldn't have accomplished much like Christ Jesus did for us all. Let us not forget that the first man Adam made a mess of God's divine will and ended with treason.

Ps. 8:4-5 "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour."

Man is the crown of God's creation, yet still man couldn't define all of God's purpose.

THE SECOND ADAM

When Jesus came onto the scene, He made all hidden mysteries known to man through His Spirit. Man had to go through God's own school of training. This meant man was constantly making adjustments to ungodly attitude and character in efforts to walk in obedience; and stay aligned with God's original purpose.

Ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, there is a plan of God for your life. But, it is your reasonable duty to discover this plan and make efforts accordingly to achieve all that God has for you.

Every child of God that is Born Again has a destiny in God. That destiny can only be fully seen through God's Word. Remember, every destiny has a beginning and can have a wonderful end if God's plan is followed..

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Any child of God that will grow into full maturity, must, I repeat must... apply himself/or herself to God's Word. To grow spiritually is an act of devotion, commitment and dedication to God's cause.

You see spiritual maturity has always been God's plan for every born again child of God. This spiritual maturity is seen in the likeness of Christ and in us, as we carry out our daily activities.

Our spiritual life has a purpose and that purpose is growth and maturity too. However, when these two key attributes aren't seen in your life... something must

be wrong or the Word isn't being activated or applied totally into our spiritual lives.

HOW SPIRITUAL GROWTH OCCURS

Spiritual growth isn't automatic upon being born again or being in a Pentecostal Church. Spiritual growth only comes as a result of you putting the Word of God to the test in your life; by activating your faith in Him. This spiritual growth requires three ingredients to help you achieve God's purpose for your life. They are: *Desire, Decision and Effort.*

1 Pet. 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

As newborn babes, we are instructed by God to desire the sincere milk of the Word. Spiritual milk, means the foundational truths that give instructions of things you might have heard, but you do not understand the full meaning of. Nor do you know the cause or effect that it will have on one's spiritual life. Spiritual milk Christians in the Bible also refers to simple truths that infants and babies (newly born again believers) feed upon to gain understanding on such things as: "Who is

Jesus?” “What is Salvation,” or “What is Repentance and Holiness.” As growth occurs in any new believer the effect of their spiritual maturity can be seen by the fruit in their daily lives; which is called your spiritual walk.

Heb. 5:13-14 “For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Let’s take a closer look at the three keys to obtaining spiritual growth and maturity:

Decision

As Christians, it is a wonderful thing to desire anything from God. But, it will take sound decision making to achieve this purpose. *Decision* means the act of making up one’s mind, or determination or firmness in the mind. This is why it took your decision to become a child of God, and it will take your unwavering decision to maintain your course and advance. Your decision as a child of God will determine your end result in life. If you are making unwise decisions, you will end up losing out. But, if you choose to follow God’s plan for your

life, your choice will guide you towards making the wisest decision that will lead you to eternal life with God.

Prov. 11:14 “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

In every decision you make, if it is done with sincerity of heart towards God. It will move you forward towards achieving spiritual growth. That is why it is crucial that as children of God, we should and must learn how to make sincere word based decisions. Simply because any “godly or ungodly” decision that any person makes. That decision will ultimately influence and determine your eternal destination be it Heaven or Hell.

Effort

Phil. 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

Some Christians deny training for their destiny. The effort you invest into your spiritual life enables your spiritual life to flourish and be established. The

dictionary word for **effort** means, the use of energy to do whatever you want to do. That energy comes upon you through the Rebirth experience. The effort you put into remolding your mind, will and emotions has a definite payday for you, and that payday is found in:

Rom. 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will go God.”

These efforts made end up working out for your good. Then the result of that good, advances you forward towards your effort becoming acceptable (meaning to believe in) to God. Now your “good and acceptable” effort that has been approved by God becomes a life style that produces maturity which is perfect in God’s sight! Always remember, your “**effort**” starts by seeing what God says is wrong! Any effort that is made to please God is an investment to make any wrong you’ve done.... bow towards the right principle with freedom to serve God without excuses.

Don’t Be Deceived

In the church we should be wise to take note about what we invest into our spiritual lives. If any child of

God isn't fed with the Word of God, he/she is dumping contaminated spiritual dirt into their spirit. God created room or space in every believer's heart to receive spiritual deposits of good rich soil that will allow him/her to manifest the grace of our God.

Do not ever believe that spiritual growth is reserved only for a selected few, like the leaders, pastors and those in authority. Believe me when I tell you this, spiritual growth is for **every... child of God** that loves the Lord with all of their heart, and desperately wants to know Him more.

Spiritual growth is developed practices that become spiritual habits. This godly habits help to keep us in a righteous place where God can communicate with us daily about His divine will and purpose for our lives.

1 Tim 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

Spiritual fitness comes through practicing and developing godly desires, decisions and efforts. Spiritual fitness is as a result of learning certain spiritual exercises and being disciplined to do them regularly. The core of all spiritual growth is determined

and depicted on the habits that influence our time, money, and relationships.

There are four (4) basic Spiritual Habits for Spiritual Growth:

1. **Time habits:** Time with God's Word, reading, hearing, studying and teaching.
2. **Prayer habit:** Communion with God constantly with and about everything.
3. **Money habit:** Learning to give according to God's instructions in you tithing on every increase and/or giving the first fruit of your harvest..
4. **Relationship habit:** This aspect or habit has all to do with your transformed mind, because if your mind is transformed it will connect and draw itself to what transformed it, this is the beginning of true fellowship.

You must make room for your godly habits to grow and develop with the supervision of the Word of God daily. For your godly habits to grow and reproduce after itself without any obstruction, God must be your first audience; and pleasing Him must be your only objective..

THROUGH THE PROCESS OF TIME

God uses a gradual process of change to transform us inside out - with the right habits. During your waiting process, even time will seem to be painful, difficult, and unbearable. But know this, while you are waiting on God. His grace is removing all your reproach and all negative circumstances are being worked out for your good. Because change is an effort imposed with consistency and determination, and anytime your body does not agree with it... it rebels against the change. Just be encouraged you have the victory tread through it.

Spiritual growth isn't magic and obtaining substantial growth is not instantaneous. The growth that stays is the spiritual growth that takes time and discipline to be established, developed ultimately resulting in your living a healthy godly lifestyles.

Personal character is also developed. Everyone wants to grow, but growth, is demonstrated by behavior rather than, just by belief. Once your behavior portrays the life of Christ Jesus both inside and outside; the belief isn't just a belief. But now, a behavior!

Behaviors are developed by association. Every Godly behavior requires a relationship. This means you need to have a relationship with your fellow brother and sister in Christ Jesus in order to grow spiritually. If your behavior isn't Christ-like in nature, your soul is malnourished and is not living but wasting away growing in disobedience, isolation and eventually destruction.

Eph. 4:11-12 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors, and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;"

Spiritual growth is a product of a variety of spiritual experiences. These experiences can only come by every Christian actively participating in the Word and following the path and plans that God has intended for you and I.

Notes

We are overcomers wherever we go, authorized to produce remarkable power to challenge and defeat Satan's abilities against our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We stand firm in the Holy Spirit for Spiritual Liberty, as we declare and decree that we are God's Epistles in our generation. We announce to the world that Jesus Christ Is Lord of All.

God's glory, Do not stay down! Get up, pray, repent and start over with the Word;

Romans 3: 20-25

"Therefore by deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference;

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; October 2014 by Pastor

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.”

REMEMBER, THE SALVATION OF A MAN’S SOUL IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THROUGHOUT THAT PERSON’S LIFE.



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Notes