

Spiritual Maturity
Bible Study April 16, 2020
St John Baptist Church - Pastor Charles A. Hall

Definition of "Mature" The quality or state of being mature or fully developed.

- Having completed a natural growth and development process
- The emergence of personal and behavioral characteristics through the growth processes
- Having attained a final or desired state

What is Spiritual Maturity?

Spiritual maturity is when those that have been enlightened by the spirit of God become more Christ like, in other words, we begin to act and behave more like Christ. Although the maturation process never ends, we as Christians have a sincere desire to be spiritually complete. It is for that reason; the spirit of God (aka the Holy Spirit) provides us with everything we need to reach a level of spiritual maturity that enables us to be and live godly lives that resemble Christ.

- **2 Peter 1:3** - According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

Spiritual maturity is an ongoing process

No one on earth fully achieves complete spiritual maturity, in other words there is always room for additional spiritual growth, no matter how much bible you know or how long you have been in church. God's Spirit is infinite, so there is always more to be revealed.

- **Philippians 3:12-14** - Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also, I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

What is essential to reach spiritual maturity?

To reach a level of special maturity in Christ you must first be regenerated or rebirth by His spirit, without the spirit of God residing in you, you cannot grow in Christ because the Word of God says you are none of His, thus you cannot grow something that you do not have.

- **John 3:5-6** - Jesus answered, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.* (6) *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
- **Romans 8:14** - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

How do we reach spiritual maturity?

Once we have been spiritually enlightened, we must continue to expose ourselves to greater biblical truths, so that we can nurture and grow this new spirit that has been birth in us. In order for Christian to achieve spiritual maturity they must make a personal decision to learn and embrace the Word of God. The power of the Word of God will transform you into a new creature in Christ.

- **Romans 12:1-2** - I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And

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be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of you mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

If you do not expose your new position in Christ to greater biblical truths you will always be a babe in Christ. What that means is that you will not know enough biblical truths to keep yourself out of worldly affairs. In Psalm 119:11 it reads, "They word have I hide in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." The true Word and Power of God is the only thing that can pull you out of spiritual wickedness and keep you in the spiritual light by revealing the error of your ways.

- **John 8:31-32** - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

Growing in Christ is like maturing through life from a teenager to an adult, it takes time, patience, guidance, personal desire, to grow from a boy to a man or from a girl to a woman. During this growth process you must be willing to shed the old things that you indulged in prior to being aware of the expectation of being an adult. This new behavior and mindset as an adult demand a more mature reaction to the occurrence of everyday life. In other words, we do not let the things of this world affect us in the same way they did when we were an adolescent now that we are an adult, we view life from a different prospective (1 Corinthians 13:11). Society has different expectations for adult's than they do for adolescences, society expects adults to make mature and thoughtful decisions, rather than making decision solely on youthful emotion and what maybe happening at this current moment in their life. To move from an adolescent to an adult you must be willing to move beyond your childish desires and wants and move toward thoughtful and more informed decisions. Spiritual growth works the same way, when you grow in Christ through His spirit you will make better and more biblically informed decisions because you won't lean and or rely on your own understanding, but instead seek God's wise counsel to lead and direct you in your thought process and decisions that affect your life and your journey in this life. As you become more spiritually mature your decisions and your behavior will better align themselves with God's commandments and His will for your life.

- **Ephesians 4:22-24** - That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

What are the manifestation of the presence Spirit of God?

When a believer reaches a mature position in Christ, it becomes apparent in their walk and their conversation that they are being guided by the spirit of God rather than by their flesh. Their journey in this life will reflect the fruit of the spirit, which can only come from the spirit of God that resides in you.

- **Galatians 5:22-23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- **Galatians 5:16** - This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.