

A Few Thoughts on Spiritual Maturity

How can we know if we are growing in spiritual maturity? Since this growth is so vital to our life with God and our fruitfulness, it is really important to be able to check regularly how we are doing.

Here are a few indicators to help us:

- If we don't reproduce ourselves we are not doing all that we should be doing.
- Physical age has nothing to do with spiritual maturity. My maturity will be the degree to which I allow the Holy Spirit to rule in both my **will** and my **desires**.
- A spiritual leader must be spiritually mature. An immature reaction to a crisis is not good.
- Spiritual maturity is connected with my **attitudes** rather than my actions.
- Actions don't mean much because at all times we can 'act' for self-glory. We can be hypocrites who are just acting a part.
- We can enter a premature spiritual senility. We can degenerate. It is possible to 'unlearn' a spiritual truth. Spiritual truths can become misty/foggy and even unknown/forgotten in our spiritual experience. Heb. 5:11 calls this being "**dull of hearing**".
- Spiritual maturity is both a gift and a task.
- Total submission to the Lordship of Jesus is the only basis of spiritual maturity.
- God has pledged Himself to supply the motivation and the power in our lives to enable us to be spiritually mature – "**To will and to do**". He wills in me not **instead** of me. It is a divine partnership to make me spiritually mature.

There are three habits we must cultivate if we are to see greater spiritual progress in our lives.

- ✓ Cultivating fellowship/friendship with God
- ✓ Abiding in Him
- ✓ Right thinking – we choose what will fill our minds (Phil.4:8)

How can we know if we are progressing in spiritual maturity? It is seen in our attitudes to God, to others and to circumstances. Test yourself!

1. Do I seek the glory of God more than my own glory?
2. Do I desire holiness more than happiness?
3. Do I enjoy giving more than receiving?
4. Do I prefer serving to being served?
5. Do I accept rather than evade the discipline of God?
6. Is my life spiritually fruitful in showing forth the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
7. Do I have the 'Spirit of Joy' in my personality?

The spiritually immature are carnal. 1 Cor. 2:14-3:17 gives us a good picture of this.

Test yourself and see on which side of the following chart you live most of your life.

Are you spiritually mature?

1	Emotionally stable ruled by the will	Emotionally unstable ruled by feelings
2	Not touchy or contentious	Jealous, touchy, envious, contentious, given to quarrels and cliques
3	Mature	Arrested in growth – spiritually stunted
4	Steady	Inconsistent – tossed to and fro
5	Discerning	Lacking discernment
6	Helpful to others in trouble	Self-pity in trouble – given to tantrums, sulky
7	Understanding of others	Censorious of others
8	Aiming at unity	Divisive, pulling strings, politicking
9	Accepting events and turning them to God's glory	Rebellious, bitter

Let us ask ourselves if we are really growing in spiritual maturity. The Holy Spirit is our teacher. Are we open to listen to His exhortation? Let's encourage one another to make our growth in spiritual maturity our top priority.