

# WHAT SPIRITUAL MATURITY LOOKS LIKE - 1

## Introduction

- 1) **Philippians 3:15** – “Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind”
- 2) Growth (2 Pet. 3:18), full-grown (Heb. 5:14), mature thinking (1 Cor. 13:11; 14:20; 2 Cor. 13:9)
- 3) Maturity is NOT measured by how long I have been a Christian, or the church I am a member of, or my outward appearance – spiritual maturity is my life characterized by...

## I) COMPLETELY FULFILLING A TASK (Luke 8:14)

- A) It is good to start a task, but it often takes determination to finish it (Lk. 14:28-30)
- B) Easy to get distracted by
  - 1) *Cares* – I have a lot of worries and problems to deal with!”
  - 2) *Riches* – “I never seem to have enough and I need to make more and more!”
  - 3) *Pleasures of life* – “There’s so much fun in this world, but so little time!”
- C) I am spiritually mature when I am focused on *completely* fulfilling a task for God

## II) ACTING THE WAY GOD WANTS ME TO ACT (Matt. 5:48)

- A) In this context, it is loving our enemies, blessing those who curse us, doing good to those who hate us, and praying for those who spitefully use and persecute us
- B) Not as easy as we may think or claim – takes mature and godly faith and love
- C) I am spiritually mature when I am following the perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 1:25; 1 Cor. 2:6; Col. 1:28; 4:12)

## III) SACRIFICING AND GIVING UP FOR THE LORD (Matt. 19:21)

- A) The young rich ruler kept the commandments but was unwilling to sacrifice and give
- B) The Lord sacrificed for us – an example for us to give and not keep for ourselves
- C) I am spiritually mature when I sacrifice and give up for the Lord (Phil. 3:7)

## IV) HAVING STABILITY IN MY KNOWLEDGE (Eph. 4:13)

- A) A “full-grown” person is measured by the stature of Christ – perfect standard
- B) Will be stable in the truth, not moved around by error (v. 14) – firm in the truth of God, not in my opinions, biases, think-so’s, or wannabe’s
- C) I am spiritually mature when I have stability in my knowledge of truth (Col. 2:2-5)

## V) PRESSING ON TOWARD HEAVEN (Phil. 3:15)

- A) Mature Christians have a mind that is pressing toward the goal, our heavenly home
- B) Know what is most important and vital in life – gaining the crown of life (Jas. 1:12)
- C) I am spiritually mature when I am constantly pressing on and not just staying the same

## VI) TREATING OTHERS WITH LOVE (Col. 3:14)

- A) Treating those who already love us with love is easy; what about those who don’t?
- B) Love does not hate and hurt (Titus 3:3), but seeks the best and thinks the best
- C) I am spiritually mature when I treat *everyone* with unselfish love from the heart

## Conclusion

More will be said in our next study about what spiritual maturity looks like. These characteristics help us measure our own maturity. Will you be born again and grow in Jesus?