

## WHAT SPIRITUAL MATURITY LOOKS LIKE - 2

### Introduction

- 1) **Philippians 3:15** – “Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind”
- 2) It is important to be mature/complete/perfect; a **spiritually mature life** is characterized by...

### I) **KNOWING AND CHOOSING GOOD OVER EVIL (Heb. 5:14)**

- A) The context of 5:12-14 contrasts spiritual babes from full-grown Christians by the type of spiritual food of God’s word they are able to consume
  - 1) “Babes” = milk  
“Full-grown” = solid food
  - 2) “Milk” = first principles, unskilled in the word of righteousness  
“Solid food” = meat of word, by reason of use/practice
- B) Advantage of spiritual maturity is the senses are exercised to discern both good and evil
  - 1) “Senses” = organ of perception, understanding, judgment; “exercised” = habit, practice
  - 2) “Discern” = distinguish, act of judgment, shown by choices and actions
- C) I am spiritually mature when I know and choose good over evil (Rom. 12:9)

### II) **LEARNING MORE OF GOD’S WORD AND MOVING PAST THE BASICS (Heb. 6:1)**

- A) “Going on to perfection” is moving past the elementary principles of the gospel
  - 1) Moving on to deeper subject matter for those hungry to learn (opposite of 5:11)
- B) We should desire to advance in our knowledge of truth – more of the mind of God and better understanding of how to apply truth to our lives
- C) I am spiritually mature when I am learning more of God’s word beyond the basics

### III) **HAVING STEADFAST PATIENCE TO ENDURE TRIALS (Jas. 1:4)**

- A) The testing of our faith produces patience [endurance] and patience has its “perfect work” that we may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing [to overcome]
- B) Not up and down spiritually until giving up, but steadfast and faithful in all circumstances
- C) I am spiritually mature when I have steadfast, consistent patience to endure trials

### IV) **BEING IN CONTROL OF MYSELF (Jas. 3:2)**

- A) If I can “bridle” [control] my tongue, I will be a complete person with self-control
- B) The tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control and keep from evil (vv. 5-10)
  - 1) “Bridle” = curb, restrain; “Tame” = subdue, restrain
  - 2) Man needs God’s help to restrain his tongue and his whole self (1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 12:1)
- C) I am spiritually mature when I am in control of my whole self in living for God

### V) **LOVING PERFECTLY AND NOT FEARING (1 Jn. 4:18)**

- A) Being perfect/mature in godly love will cast worldly fear out of my heart
  - 1) Abiding in God and His commandments perfects the love of God in us (2:5; 5:3)
  - 2) Perfected love (obedience) casts out the fear of stumbling (2:10) and judgment (4:17)
- B) I am spiritually mature when I am loving perfectly in God, and not controlled by fear

### Conclusion

We can see in these passages what **spiritual maturity** looks like. These characteristics help us assess our spiritual development in Christ. Will you be born again and grow in Jesus?