

## STEPS TO MATURITY

### Ephesians 4:14-15

**Psalm 37:23** How many times have we been told to “grow up” or “don't put the cart before the horse.” Many times a believer will try and take on a great task early on in their Christian walk only to fail and then quit. God has a plan for every believer and He knows we cannot become mature Christians over night. His plan is orderly and progressive. Faith, worship, walk then work.

### FAITH

**Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17; I Peter 2:2** To become a 'follower' of Jesus we need to first of all have faith, (trust, confidence in what God can do) and then feed the soul and grow with the right food.

### WORSHIP

**Hebrews 11:4** Notice that Abel's faith led to a sacrifice that was considered “excellent.” His sacrifice was an 'acceptable offering' in his worship. Worship equals sacrifice as far as God is concerned.

**Genesis 22:7-10** Here is the O. T. example of true, acceptable worship. Isaac *voluntarily* gave himself 100% as the offering to God. He yielded and committed his life in God's hands.

**Romans 12:1** Paul tells believers that in order to be acceptable to God in our worship we must “present ourselves 100%” to God as a “living sacrifice.” Nothing less than 100% is acceptable.

**Romans 12:1; 6:13, 19** Another word for “presenting ourselves” is to “yield ourselves.” As we yield ourselves to God 100% He will consume us 100% and be able to begin a work in and through us.

### WALK

**Hebrews 11:5** Here we see that Enoch pleased God so much that he became the first person born to be raptured right into the presence of God becoming the O. T. example of the church rapture.

**Genesis 5:21-24** It would appear that once his son was born he began to grow spiritually and worshiped and 'walked' with God the next three hundred years and pleased God so much that God wanted Enoch to come and enjoy being with God in heaven forever.

**I Thessalonians 2:12** In order to 'walk worthy' every believer needs to have a walk that pleases God as Enoch did. Enoch knew how to please God so we should take heed to the scriptures that teach us.

**Colossians 2:6** We should “walk in Him” that is to do what Paul said in **Gal. 2:20**.

**Ephesians 5:2; 8** If we are to please God we are to 'walk in love and as children of light.’’

**II Corinthians 5:17-20** If our walk is to please God we will take the ministry of reconciliation and the role as Christ's ambassadors and will give 100% of ourselves to His message to the world.

### WORK

**Hebrews 11:7** Noah is known for his tireless working for 120 years on the ark. Did you know that his parents named him Noah because they somehow knew he would be a good 'worker'- (**Gen. 5:29**)

**Titus 3:8; Hebrews 10:24** The previous verses encourage mature believers to worship, pray, stay faithful and provoke, or encourage each other to maintain “good works.”

**Colossians 1:29** we are to understand through faith and bible knowledge that God will do the work.

**I Timothy 6:17-18; James 2:17** The bible is full of verses saying we ought to be doing good works.

\*\*\* Look again at **Hebrews 11:1** *faith* comes first and is substance. **Hebrews 11:4** Abel then *worshiped*. **Hebrews 11:5** Enoch then *walked* (**Gen. 5:24**) with God. **Hebrews 11:7** Finally Noah went to *work* for the Lord. Why don't believers serve God? They do not follow the training program.