

THE QUEST FOR MATURITY

I John 2:12-14

In these verses John mentions children, young men, and fathers. He is talking about coming from childhood to adulthood, or growing up into maturity. The question and lesson for today is this; are you, am I a growing Christian? We can be young only once, but we can be immature for a very long time.

Ephesians 4:11-13 What is spiritual maturity? According to these verses it is the process that grows a believer up to become like Christ. It is a process that takes time and work but every believer can do it.

Skills Required For Maturity: (1) The Bible (2) Prayer (3) Continued Confession (4) Fellowship With Believers (5) Regular Church Services (6) Faith To Help In Temptations (7) Faithful Stewardship.

THE NEED TO GROW

Ephesians 4:14-15; II Peter 3:18 Many scriptures encourage believers to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth is developing or improving our spiritual make-up that show in our actions and lifestyle.

II Thessalonians 1:3 This church is a good example on spiritual growth. The individuals of the church were exercising 'Agape' love so that their faith was growing by leaps and bounds. When individuals within a local church do not grow it can cause problems like strife, worldliness, etc.

I Peter 2:2 Just like a baby desires milk to begin to grow up, new believers 'need to desire' to grow spiritually. Some Christians don't seem to want to grow for fear of responsibility, service, and the like.

Matthew 26:31-35; I Cor. 10:12 The Apostle Peter did not think he needed to grow more spiritually but after he bragged that he would die for Jesus later that same night he denied the Lord three times!

Philippians 3:12-14 Even Paul never considered himself to have achieved full spiritual maturity.

THE NEED TO EAT

Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2 We would never ignore a child that needs food in order to grow and be healthy. We as new born believers need the spiritual food God has for us in order to grow spiritually.

Job 23:12 How was it that Job was able to keep his faith in God as he went through the most undeserved trials and testings and stayed true to God? He meditated and loved the Word of God.

I Corinthians 3:1-3 Paul had to deal with 'baby Christians' in Corinth and needed to get back to the basics of Christianity in order to help them grow up and start acting more loving and mature.

Hebrews 5:11-13 These Hebrew believers were a good example of believers today. Many had been saved for a long period of time, however, because they were not in the word they were still babies!

II Timothy 2:15 There is no instant growth hormone or vitamin that makes new Christians instantly mature. Spiritual growth takes time, work, and patience.

James 1:2-4 Patience by new believers and patience with them. Spiritual patience leads to maturity.

Hebrews 10:22-25 It is a sad thing that most churches provide bible study classes every Sunday but most believers refuse to 'get up' and get to bible class in order that they might learn and grow in Christ.

THE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE

Hebrews 5:14 The writer is explaining to these immature believers that we can only become mature by exercising our body, soul, and mind in the word of God. Bible repetition creates mind memory.

I Timothy 4:7-8 To exercise spiritually takes discipline just like physical exercise does and will promote 'spiritual muscle' and will profit in this life and the next.

Luke 9:23; 14:27 Spiritual discipline can lead to maturity and discipleship. Only a very few believers ever become disciples because of the enormous personal cost, but the rewards will be great.