



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### Understanding Spiritual Maturity

Bro. Bobby Rodriguez, Elder-Founder  
March 6, 2019

#### What is SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

It is a process that begins when a person accepts Christ and decides to live his/her life according to God's will.

Reading: HE 5:11-14

#### Evidences of Spiritual Maturity

##### 1) Thoughts

- Spiritual maturity begins in our thoughts. When our thinking process is in line with God's word, we begin to grow into spiritual maturity.
- We must discipline our minds to those things which are pure, true, just, lovely, virtuous and praise-worthy (PH 4:8).
- As our minds are renewed, we find that our lives are being transformed (Rom 12:2).
- We must meditate on the word of God and fill our minds with divine deliberations. This will cause a deep transformation in our lives, enable us to be successful and fruitful in our lives.

##### 2) Words

- Spiritual maturity is revealed by the words that we speak. If we do not control our words and continue to speak words of evil and carelessness, then all our spirituality becomes vain.
- Death and life is in the power of the tongue. A spiritually mature person will be careful to speak only life-giving words.
- Our words are powerful and can control the direction and destiny of our life. (Prov 18:21)
- Our words can either bless others or cause pain and sufferings to them.
- We must avoid speaking vain and idle words as we would have to make an account of our words on the day of judgement (Ps 19:14).

##### 3) Actions

- Our works reveal how much we have grown spiritually. Faith without works is dead. A spiritually mature person will demonstrate his faith by suitable corresponding action. Noah demonstrated his faith and obedience, when he built an ark even before he had seen a flood.

- A spiritually mature person is not lazy but rich in good works, living a life of usefulness and fruitfulness (James 2:26, 1 Jn 3:18).

##### 4) Attitudes

- Spiritual maturity is revealed through our attitude (Parable of the talents).

##### 5) Reactions

- Spiritual maturity is revealed through our reactions to painful experiences.
- Jesus prayed for forgiveness for those who crucified Him. Stephen prayed for mercy for those persecutors who stoned him to death.
- We should love those who hate us, and do good to those who have harmed us. Only then will we see the difference between the ungodly and spiritually mature person.
- Our response and reaction in the face of calamity and injury should reveal the depth of our spiritual commitment.

##### 6) Desires

- Spiritual maturity is revealed through our desires and longings of our heart. Our prayers and petitions before God reveal our innermost desire.
- A spiritually mature person will seek those things which are above; our prayers and requests should be in accordance with the will of God.
- We would not be selfish in our desire and seek only benefits to ourselves. We would long to know God more and intimately, to understand his purposes.
- We will be heavenly-minded and seek spiritual blessings frequently. We have the assurance that when we seek God's kingdom & His righteousness, all our earthly needs will be met (Mt 6:33; Col 3:1-2).

##### 7) Relationships

- Spiritual maturity is revealed when we have an intimate relationship with the Lord, and walk in love toward our fellow believers.
- Our associations have strong influence on our values and principles and decisions. A spiritually mature person will be careful in their associations and relationships, must associate with people with wisdom who will influence us in the path of

righteousness. Otherwise, we will be tempted to go back to our old life (Ps 1:1; Prov 13:20; 22; Si 30:24).

## **Hindrances to Spiritual Growth: What keeps us from growing spiritually?**

### **1) Lack of Knowledge**

- This is specially true for new Christians who do not have yet enough knowledge (Ho 4:6).
- Solutions:
  - Begin a consistent plan of Bible study, and ask for understanding from the Holy Spirit.
  - Decide to read at least one book a month on spiritual things.
  - Establish a relationship with a more mature Christian and get together at least once a month for prayer and discussion.

### **2) Lack of Enthusiasm**

- True for someone who has been a Christian for so long, and have become complacent about Christian life, know enough to grow but lost enthusiasm for Christian life.
- Solutions:
  - Find someone in need and begin to minister.
  - Look for Christians who seem to have contagious enthusiasm, and set specific times to be with them.
  - Write a story about your own conversion experience. Remembering our first experience with Christ will rejuvenate our faith (Rev 2:4)

### **3) Lack of Accountability**

- Lack of accountability to others which should keep us on track in our spiritual pilgrimage.
- Open our lives to a carefully selected few trusted and loyal confidante who will speak the truth and give them the right to examine, question and appraise our life.
- Every person's perspective is partial and limited and we need to balance perspective from another person (Proverbs). Maybe you have isolated yourself from other Christians that you are accountable to no one but yourself. You have allowed yourself to fall into some habits which are keeping you from moving forward in your Christian life.
- Christian life is similar to a wheel: Christ is at the center: prayer, study, service, community are the spokes that lead to the Lord; these four are essential to have a true and balanced Christian life.

### **Solutions:**

- Find a prayer partner and begin to develop a relationship with that person.
- Find a group of people with whom you can meet on a regular basis, to share your struggles and your dreams (Mt 18:20). The Lord speaks to us in different ways - from other people, events.
- There is no destination beyond reach for those who walk with God.
- Establish some specific goals and regularly evaluate your life against these goals. Christian growth is a balanced life of prayer, study, community and service.

### **4) Lack of Commitment**

- All of the other hindrances are simply manifestations of lack of commitment to Christ.
- Reflection: why are we hesitant to commit ourselves. Some refrain from commitment for fear this will rob them of their freedom. But the Lord said, truthfully, freedom comes only through commitment.
- The uncommitted person is not free, but rather is bound by the desires and demands of the moment.
- Some refrain because they fear they will not be able to follow through on their commitments, and have made made commitments to others.
- Solutions:
  - Remember the grace and mercy of God.
  - Write down some specific commitments you need to make.
  - Put a timetable on these commitments.

Spiritual growth is needed by every Christian. Those who are more mature spiritually should set good examples to the young. Serve God and you will be successful. With God by your side, everything will be effortless. When you are burdened, do not worry, just follow God, and He will carry your burden, and He will give you rest.

**Transcriber/Writer:** Sis. Jo Advincula  
**Editor:** Sis Vera Tuplano  
**Printing Sponsor:** Sis Vera Tuplano