



Proofs of Growth: Spiritual Maturity

Spiritual maturity comparable to natural development

What is spiritual maturity? It is coming to full age on the inside. Growth is a process leading to maturity. Maturity is the destination.

Just like physical maturity can be recognized by different stages of growth culminating in adulthood, spiritual maturity can be seen when the good forces of the heart are growing as observed by ones words and actions on a regular basis.

The apostle John noted the phases of spiritual growth in I John 2:12-14.

Children:

Young Men:

Fathers:

Act your age: (I Cor. 3:1-2)

Ready for some tasty food? (Heb. 5:12-14)

Time to move on toward maturity! (Heb. 6:1-3)

Some proofs of spiritual maturity

Spiritual maturity is a pursuit, a constant pursuit. The following *proofs* are presented in their mature form, remembering that each of us is at a different point on our holy quest to experience the fullness Christ in these areas. God does not expects progress not perfection.

- 1) Maturity is responding to circumstances in an appropriate, godly, Christ like manner consistently, while we may experience a set back from time to time (Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10; I Thes. 2:12, 4:1).
- 2) Being mature in Christ does not mean that we can do anything or everything, but that we can, through faith and obedience, do what God requires of us through the seasons of life (Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 12:9-10).
- 3) Maturity does mean that we are enabled to stand the test wherever God places us during our lifetimes (I Pet. 1:4-7, 4:12, 5:10).
- 4) Mature living indicates that our hearts are always set on victory and advance regardless of losses or crosses (Rom. 8:35-39). We have power and a mindset to leave the past behind and strive for that which lies ahead (Phil. 3:7-15).
- 5) The mature are unwavering regardless of their circumstances. Time and delays do not rob faith; rather they gain confidence (Rom. 4:17-23; Eph. 4:13-14; Jas. 1:6-8).
- 6) The spiritually mature have reached the place where they have ascertained the will of God and are constantly aligning their thoughts, words, and actions to fulfill it, howbeit, with great struggles at times (Lk. 6:46-49; Mt. 26:36-44).

Christian maturity is a heart and mind determined to please and glorify God in all things at all times. It is a long walk in the one direction: toward the heart of the Father.

Prayer: Father, help me to mature in Christ. I'm tired of being in the same place. I want to overcome and know you in ever increasing way. I don't know if I am where I should be or if I am on your schedule, but I want to go forward so that I too can taste and see that you are good. I don't know the destination or the way, but I trust that you do. Take me today and lead me by the path I don't see or know. Be my Good Shepherd, I need your rod and staff to lead and direct me. Make me quick to respond to your nudge. I'm not always at my best; I need your gentle but firm influence on my heart to enable me to follow willingly. Thank you. I love and appreciate all you do for and in me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.