

Editorial / Focus - November 1977

On to Maturity

The matter of Christian maturity has produced a steady stream of spiritual writings over the years. Much of it has been so spiritual as to be utterly unreal. It has often been so obscured by antiquated theological verbiage as to appear totally irrelevant to the Christian in industry or facing the commercial rat-race of modern business, or a harassed and weary mum coping with four children on a rainy week during school holidays. Whereas Paul's writings on perfection could be summed up in the few words 'grow up, stop behaving like small children with petty squabbling, and moody, pouting, unrestrained emotional reactions. Grow up into the manhood seen in Jesus Christ.' The man as God intends man to be. Spiritual maturity is not some super holy condition arrived at when you seem to be totally out of this world living in a trance-like unnatural dream. Such persons, become increasingly isolated from everyday relationships with ordinary people and happenings, and show more the hall marks of religious mania rather than spiritual maturity. Maturity is being very aware of life and people, conversant with the injustices of society, compassionately concerned for our fellow men, especially those of the Christian community. It is reacting to life as Jesus would, feeling as He would feel, speaking as He would speak, acting as He would act; at all times expressing the balanced, firm, positive, measured, sober yet happy approach to life that He showed.