

LifeGroup Questions

Based On: 2 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 6:1, Jude 1:20

May 24, 2015

Overview

Wikipedia defines maturity as “the ability to respond to the environment in an appropriate manner. This response is generally learned rather than instinctive.” All of us desire to be considered a mature person. The world of psychology describes maturity as a learned behavior rather than being instinctive. I think we could agree that an infant, if left alone, would not naturally become a mentally mature adult. Children need to be taught how to respond to situations and learn from the behavior of their parents. Probably at some point you have heard the phrase “mature for their age.” This implies that there are certain milestones of maturity that are accomplished as one gets older and yet age is not necessarily a great gauge for determining maturity. If age made you mature then just the passing of time would make you mature without any effort on your part. How does all this translate to faith? How does a person become Spiritually Mature? The answer to this question is found throughout the scriptures. One thing that does not determine Spiritual Maturity is the passage of time. Growing spiritually requires effort on the part of every believer. Christians are told to grow in knowledge and grace and to move beyond elementary teachings. In Jude 1:20 believers are told to build themselves up in their faith. God has provided His Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, teachers, pastors, and the church, but the ultimate responsibility for growing Spiritually belongs to each individual believer. Being responsible requires discipline and discipline requires effort, and effort requires a desire to grow. God has given every believer a desire to grow closer to Him, but too often this desire is not acted upon because of a lack of discipline and effort. It is possible for believers to let days, months, years, and entire seasons of their life go by without growing in their faith. Paul was addressing a lack of Spiritual maturity when he wrote 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. It reads: “Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?” Nobody wants to stand before God as a mere spiritual infant. This is why believers are told to build themselves up and make every effort to grow spiritually.

Bible Study: 2 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 6:1, and Jude 1:20

1. Discuss some reasons why people don’t grow spiritually. In the sermon, Pastor Brent mentioned: crisis, choosing to believe, and a helping hand as ways believers might start growing spiritually. Of these three areas which one started your spiritual growth?
2. Read 2 Peter 3:18. Describe what growing in grace and knowledge look like. In what ways can a new believer grow in grace and knowledge of God?
3. How would you define spiritual maturity? How do you gauge spiritual maturity? Is it possible for the spiritual immaturity of others to have an impact on your faith? Why or why not?
4. Read Hebrews 6:1. Discuss what the elementary teachings of Christ are that every new believer needs to know.
5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What does a spiritually mature believer look like? What disciplines are required for spiritual growth?
6. Read Jude 1:20. What steps are you personally taking to build up your faith? How have you seen your spiritual maturity grow over the years?

7. Read 2 Peter 1:5-8. Growing spiritually requires effort. What disciplines do you need to implement in your life to add to your faith: goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, love?