

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

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Spiritual maturity is not about how many years you have attended church, how many worship songs you know by heart, or how well you can navigate theological debates. Aging is automatic; maturing is a choice. True spiritual growth is entirely practical. It shows up in how you handle a disagreement with your spouse, how you manage your finances, and how you react when a coworker undermines you. If your faith does not change how you live on a random Tuesday, it is not maturity—it is just religious routine.

When we look at believers who are genuinely growing up in Christ, we find four deeply practical components operating in their daily lives. These are not abstract concepts for theologians. They are the gritty, day-to-day habits that build a life capable of carrying the weight of real faith.

1. READING THE WORD FOR CORRECTION, NOT JUST COMFORT

Hebrews 5:13-14 KJV

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

A spiritual infant opens the Bible entirely looking for a boost. They want a verse to make them feel better, a promise to claim over their day, or a quick hit of inspiration to get them through a tough morning. While God's Word certainly provides comfort, the mature believer goes to the Scriptures for something heavier: they go for correction. They are actively looking for the "meat" of the Word to challenge their behavior.

Practically, this means you stop reading the Bible just to endorse your current

lifestyle and start letting it confront your flaws. When you read a passage about loving your enemies, you immediately think of the family member who wronged you, and you ask God for the grace to forgive them. You allow the text to dictate how you speak to your children, how you conduct your business, and what you entertain on your screens. Maturity is when you stop asking the Bible to bless your plans and start allowing it to reshape your character.

2. OBEYING GOD EVEN WHEN YOUR EMOTIONS PROTEST

James 1:22-24 KJV

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

The most glaring sign of immaturity is negotiating with God's instructions based on how you feel. Spiritual infants obey when it is convenient, when they feel motivated, or when it makes sense to their logic. A mature believer understands that obedience is a discipline, not a mood. They know that listening to a great sermon on Sunday means absolutely nothing if they refuse to implement it on Monday.

In real life, this looks like choosing to hold your tongue during a heated argument when every fiber of your being wants to win the fight. It looks like writing the tithe check when the budget is tight and you feel anxious. It looks like apologizing to a friend because your attitude was wrong, even if you feel justified in your anger. The mature Christian does not wait for their emotions to catch up to the truth; they obey the truth, knowing the emotions will eventually have to fall in line.

3. STAYING PLANTED WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES TURN HOSTILE

James 1:2-4, KJV

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

When adversity hits—a sudden medical diagnosis, a betrayal in a relationship, or a prolonged season of financial strain—the immature believer immediately assumes something is wrong. Their reflex is to ask, "Why is God doing this to me?" or to quietly pull back from their church and their faith. They want the fire put out immediately. The mature believer, however, recognizes that pressure is the primary tool God uses to forge deeply rooted character.

This does not mean you pretend the pain isn't real. It means you change your primary question. Instead of asking God to immediately remove the hardship, you ask, "What are You trying to build in me through this?" Practically, resilience means you do not quit your marriage when the romance fades. You do not leave your local church the first time your feelings get hurt. You keep showing up, keeping your commitments, and trusting God's character even when you cannot understand His timeline.

4. INVITING HARD TRUTH THROUGH REAL RELATIONSHIPS

Proverbs 27:17 KJV

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

You cannot grow in isolation. An immature believer keeps their struggles hidden. They come to church, smile, shake hands, and go home without ever letting anyone see what is actually happening behind closed doors. They avoid accountability because they do not want anyone telling them what to do. The mature believer knows that a private faith is a dangerous faith. They actively seek out the friction of honest relationships because they know they have blind spots.

In everyday terms, this means giving a few trusted, godly people the absolute right to intrude on your life. It means giving a mentor or a spiritual friend permission to look you in the eye and say, "The way you are speaking to your spouse is out of line," or "You are working too many hours and neglecting your family." When that correction comes, the mature response is not to get defensive or cut the person off. The mature response is to listen, repent, and adjust. You cannot become who God called you to be while hiding from the people God placed around you to help you grow.

Spiritual maturity is built in the trenches of everyday decisions. Take an honest inventory of these four areas today. Decide to read the Word for transformation

rather than just information. Choose one area of delayed obedience and execute it before the day is over. Stand firm in whatever pressure you are currently facing, and reach out to a trusted believer to share a struggle you have been carrying alone. That is how growth actually happens.