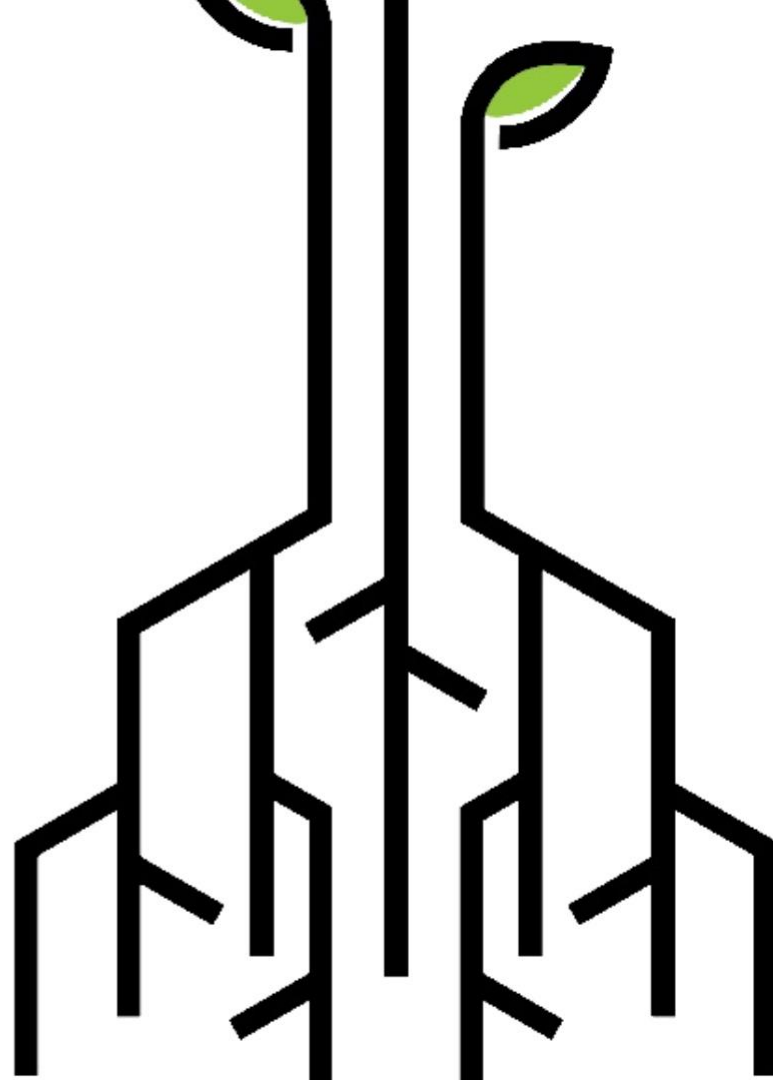
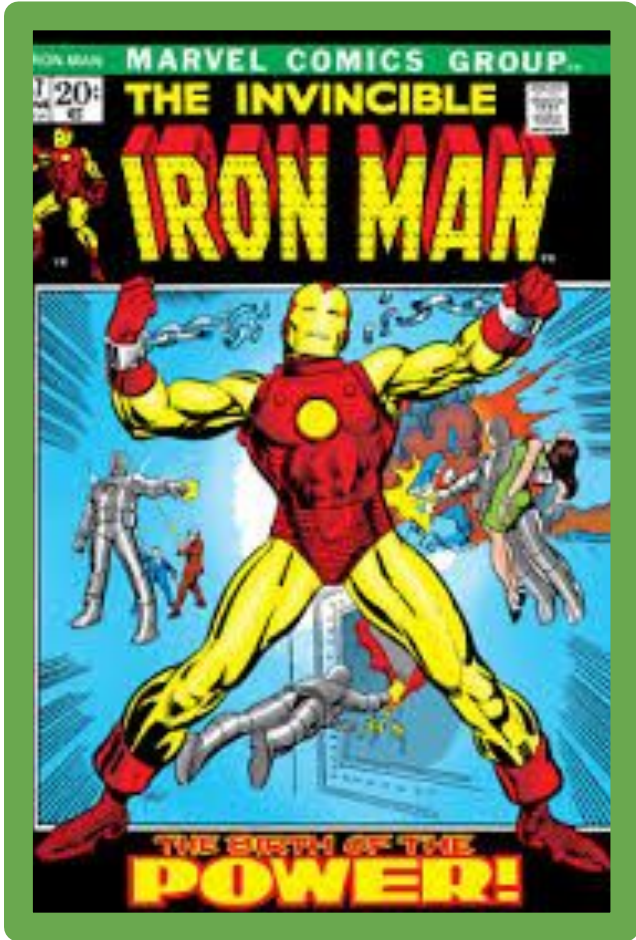


**YOUTH
TAKE
OVER**



SPIRITUAL MATURITY ADMITS IT HASN'T ARRIVED YET.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-13



IRON MAN



12 NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED ALL THIS, OR HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AT MY GOAL,
BUT I PRESS ON TO TAKE HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH CHRIST JESUS TOOK HOLD OF ME. 13
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF YET TO HAVE TAKEN HOLD OF IT

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-13

THE APOSTLE PAUL

- HE WROTE 13 BOOKS JUST SHORT OF HALF OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
- HE PLANTED DOZENS OF FOUNDATIONAL CHURCHES ACROSS THE ROMAN EMPIRE
- HE TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES BY FOOT TO SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD TO OTHERS



TRUE SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS REALIZING THE CLOSER YOU GET TO GOD THE
MORE YOU REALIZE JUST HOW FAR YOU ARE FROM HIM.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY FORGETS WHAT'S BEHIND

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

YOU CAN ESCAPE SOMETHING AND STILL BE STUCK IN IT

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

“Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead..”

“Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.”

And then he goes even further.

“I consider them garbage compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”



YOU CAN'T RUN A RACE WHILE DRAGGING CHAINS.

Shame- Keeps people distant from God.

Comparison- Keeps people insecure.

Embarassment- Keeps people silent.

Satan wants your history to become your identity.

Jesus died to give you a new one.

Ephesians 4:22-23

“You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds.”



WHAT JESUS FORGAVE...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP RELIVING

PRESS ON TOWARDS THE GOAL

Philippians 3:14

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”


Philippians 3:14

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”



iKON images

Spiritual maturity is:

- Continuing to trust God even when life feels uncertain.
 - Continuing to pray even when you don't immediately see answers.
 - Continuing to follow Him even during difficult seasons.
- 

Paul didn't say, "I already made it."

He said, "I press on."

So my encouragement today is simple:

- Don't stay stuck in the past.
- Don't stop growing spiritually.
- Don't give up just because life feels uncertain.

Keep pressing on toward what God has ahead of you.

LIVING WITH SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN MIND

NLT version:

17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. **18** For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. **20** But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. **21** He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

4 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,[a] stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

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- 1. Strong Role Models (17)**
- 2. Deny sinful behavior (18-19)**
- 3. Identity in christ (4:1)**

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- When our values are rooted in Jesus, this will come easy

JUST LIKE MY TEAMMATES AND I HAD TO "LOCK IN" FOR WHAT'S
AHEAD, SPIRITUALLY MATURE CHRISTIANS "LOCK IN" EVERY DAY
BECAUSE THEY LIVE WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

SO CHURCH, HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO "LOCK IN"?

JULY 23, CEDAR POINT

AUGUST 16, PARENTS NIGHT/6TH-12TH GRADE ROOTED

AUGUST 23, LAKE PARTY

AUGUST 30, BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

PRAYER

SNACK

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LEADER

KYLE@IMOSAIC.ORG

**YOUTH
TAKE
OVER**

