

OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL STALL OUT

VITALS – Part 3

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Pastor Brian

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental[s]...³ And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. ⁴ For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—⁶ and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame. ⁷ When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God's blessing. ⁸ But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it. ⁹ Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. (Hebrews 6:1–9, NLT)

FOUR STAGES OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND DISORDERS

1. BIRTH: BEGINNING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS!

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.'" (John 3:3, NLT)

INHIBITOR: COUNTERFEIT CONVERSION

"These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us." (1 John 2:19, NLT)

"Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith." (2 Corinthians 13:5, NLT)

ACTION:
CLASS 101

2. INFANCY: THE LEARNING PHASE.

"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment," (1 Peter 2:2, NLT)

INHIBITOR: CONFUSION

"Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth." (Ephesians 4:14, NLT)

ACTION:
CLASS 201 / FOUNDATIONS

3. YOUNG ADULT: THE **LIVING** PHASE.

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling," (Philippians 2:12, NIV)

INHIBITOR: **CROWDING**

"but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced." (Mark 4:19, NLT)

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." (1 John 2:15–17, NLT)

ACTION:
CLASS 301

4. MATURE: THE **GIVING** PHASE.

"I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things..." (Philippians 3:14–15, NLT)

INHIBITOR: **CONSUMERISM**

"For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance." (Hebrews 6:10–12, NLT)

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)

ACTION:
SERVE

