



# Discipleship Guide

*Sermon: I Am A Child Of God*

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Date: February 1, 2026

**Discipleship Guide: *I Am a Child of God – Growing Up in the Faith Family***

***Philippians 1:3–11 | Pastor JohnEric Zayas***

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## Purpose of This Guide

This guide is designed to help individuals and groups grow toward spiritual maturity. Growth may be inevitable, but in God's Kingdom, maturity is mandatory. God desires a faith family where wisdom is shared, resources are stewarded, and believers grow from infancy into fullness in Christ.

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## Key Scripture

**Philippians 1:9–11**

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best... filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.”

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## Core Truth

When the church avoids maturity, crippling occurs:

- Wisdom is not passed down
- Spiritual resources are wasted
- Believers remain elementary
- The seed God has sown goes undeveloped

Discipleship restores God's design—growth that leads to fruitfulness.

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## Stages of Spiritual Maturity

### 1. Nepios — Spiritual Infant

**Definition:** An infant in the faith; unskilled, needing milk  
(*1 Corinthians 3:1*)

**Characteristics:**

- New to faith foundations
- Spirit-filled living (learning)
- Worship-oriented
- Beginning discipleship
- Zeal without depth

**Discipleship Focus:**

- Gospel foundations
- Identity in Christ
- Learning to hear God
- Basic obedience

**Key Question:**  
**What foundations do I still need to strengthen?**

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## 2. Paidion — Spiritual Child

**Definition:** A young child; humble, teachable, learning  
(*Matthew 18:4*)

**Characteristics:**

- Growing consistency
- Spirit-filled giving
- Serving in the church
- Commitment to prayer
- Deeper study (Berean heart)
- Evangelism and missions exposure

**Discipleship Focus:**

- Spiritual disciplines
- Servanthood
- Community life
- Learning humility

**Key Question:**

How am I practicing faith, not just learning about it?

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## 3. Teknon — Maturing Child

**Definition:** A child with capacity to obey; growing responsibility  
(*Galatians 4:19*)

**Characteristics:**

- Fruit-producing life
- Spirit-filled leadership (developing)

- Thriving relationships
- Contentment (Philippians 4:13)
- Increased prayer and study
- Faithful service and mission

Discipleship Focus:

- Obedient living
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Healthy relationships
- Stewardship of gifts

Key Question:  
Where is God asking me to obey more fully?

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#### 4. Huios — Mature Son

Definition: A fully developed son; legal standing and inheritance  
(*Romans 8:14*)

Characteristics:

- Spirit-led living
- Spiritual parentage (making disciples)
- Consistent fruit
- Leadership with wisdom
- Kingdom responsibility
- Living out God's commands

Discipleship Focus:

- Multiplication
- Mentoring others
- Legacy and inheritance
- Living for eternal reward

**Key Question:**  
Who am I intentionally helping grow in Christ?

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## 5. Teleios — Complete and Mature

**Definition:** Full-grown, complete, lacking nothing  
(Matthew 5:48)

**Characteristics:**

- Christlike character
- Integrity and wisdom
- Deep love and discernment
- Long-term faithfulness
- Spiritual authority through humility

**Discipleship Focus:**

- Christ formed fully in us
- Sustained obedience
- Kingdom impact beyond self

**Key Question:**  
Does my life reflect Christ in character, love, and wisdom?

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## Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is maturity mandatory in the Kingdom of God?
2. What stage do you currently identify with most?
3. Where has the church benefited—or suffered—from a lack of maturity?
4. What wisdom has God given you that needs to be shared?
5. What step would move you into the next stage of maturity?

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## Weekly Practices

- Daily Scripture: Philippians 1:3–11
- Prayer Focus: “Lord, mature me for Your glory.”
- Action Step: Intentionally invest in someone at an earlier stage of faith
- Reflection: Identify one neglected spiritual resource God wants you to steward

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## Closing Truth

The goal of discipleship is not attendance—it is transformation.  
God is growing a faith family marked by wisdom, fruit, obedience, and love.  
Let us grow up into Christ—together.

# 5-Day Devotional

*Philippians 1:3–11 | Pastor JohnEric Zayas*

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## Day 1: Growth vs. Maturity

**Reading:** Philippians 1:6

**Devotional:**

In the world, growth is automatic—but maturity is optional. In God’s Kingdom, maturity is required. Paul’s prayer for the church is not just that they would grow in number, but that they would grow in depth. God is committed to finishing the work He started in you, shaping you into someone who reflects Christ.

**Reflection:**

Where have you grown, but not yet matured?

**Prayer:**

Lord, don’t just let me grow—help me mature in You.

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## Day 2: From Nepios to Paidion

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:1; Matthew 18:4

**Devotional:**

Spiritual infancy is a starting point, not a destination. God welcomes us as infants, but He also invites us to learn, be formed, and walk humbly. Maturity begins when we move from needing constant care to learning how to walk with God ourselves.

**Reflection:**

What foundational areas of your faith still need strengthening?

**Prayer:**

God, teach me to grow with humility and teachability.

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## Day 3: Teknon — Learning Obedience

**Reading: Galatians 4:19**

**Devotional:**

Teknon describes a maturing child—one who is learning obedience and producing fruit. At this stage, faith moves beyond information into transformation. God calls us not just to know His Word, but to live it.

**Reflection:**

**Where is God calling you to deeper obedience?**

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, help me live out what I believe.

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## **Day 4: Huios — Becoming Spiritual Parents**

**Reading: Romans 8:14**

**Devotional:**

A Huios is a mature son—led by the Spirit and entrusted with responsibility. Maturity is revealed when we begin to invest in others. God's design is that wisdom would flow from generation to generation within the faith family.

**Reflection:**

**Who is God calling you to mentor or disciple?**

**Prayer:**

Father, make me faithful to steward what You've entrusted to me.

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## **Day 5: Teleios — Christ Fully Formed**

**Reading: Matthew 5:48; Philippians 1:9–11**

**Devotional:**

Teleios speaks of completeness and spiritual wholeness. This is not perfection, but maturity—lives marked by love, discernment, and fruitfulness. God's goal is Christ fully formed in us, producing a life that honors Him.

**Reflection:**

**What would it look like for Christ to be more fully formed in you?**

**Prayer:**

**God, complete the work You have begun in me. Shape me into Christlikeness.**

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**Closing Truth:**

**Maturity is not optional in the Kingdom of God.**

**Grow up. Be formed. Bear fruit.**

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## **Reflection Questions**

1. Where do I see growth in my life that has not yet turned into spiritual maturity?
2. Which stage of spiritual maturity (Nepios, Paidion, Teknon, Huios, Teleios) best describes where I am right now—and why?
3. What wisdom, experiences, or lessons has God given me that I may be holding back instead of sharing?
4. Where might God be calling me to move from learning into obedience?
5. Who in my life could benefit from the spiritual growth God has already worked in me?

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## **Prayer Prompt**

Father God, thank You for welcoming me into Your family and committing to the work You have begun in me. I ask that You would not allow me to remain spiritually immature, but that You would grow me into fullness in Christ. Reveal the areas where I need wisdom, obedience, and deeper formation. Teach me to steward what You have given me and to pour into others as I have been poured into. Form Christ fully in me, for Your glory. Amen.