

How to Mature: Spend Relational Time “With” Jesus. (August 27, 2026)

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

The transformation of Jesus’s disciples is startling. How do uneducated and untrained fishermen stand up to the most powerful religious leaders of the nation? How does a man go from wanting to call down fire on a Samaritan village to an apostle writing letters encouraging Christians to love their brothers? How does a disciple scared of a young maiden before Christ’s crucifixion face the threat of death without fear when imprisoned before his own execution? How does a “son of thunder” become an “apostle of love?” How does a fisherman become a fisher of men?

The Jewish religious leaders provide the answer.
Peter and John were “with Jesus.”

Being with Jesus is more than being saved. Abiding in Christ speaks of deep fellowship. It is a spiritual beholding that transforms us into His image. It is a renewal of mind that transforms our hearts to know the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. It is a knowledge of Jesus and the power of His resurrection that motivates us to press on to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. It is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27)

Here are some thoughts to deepen your fellowship with God through Jesus in the Holy Spirit...

1. Talk with God about what is happening in your heart. Share personally, honestly, openly, and deeply. If your communication with God remains external or superficial, your fellowship with God will not change you on the inside. Talk with God about what is happening inside your skin.
2. Ask God open-ended questions. God welcomes our requests and intercessions. He appreciates our praises and thanksgivings. But He gives wisdom to those who ask. If you need wisdom, ask God...but ask in faith, waiting for His response and being willing to do what you are told.
3. Make prayer a dialog. Listen to God as much as you speak to Him. Let Him know that you want to hear whatever it is that He wants to say. And then let God say it however He wants to say it...whether directly through the Spirit by means of gifts or His still voice, in His Word when it is read or taught, through creation as it exists naturally or formed by humans, or through the mouths of other people whether babes or mature in Christ.

God desires our fellowship with Him to be deep and unbroken. And we know that “when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2)