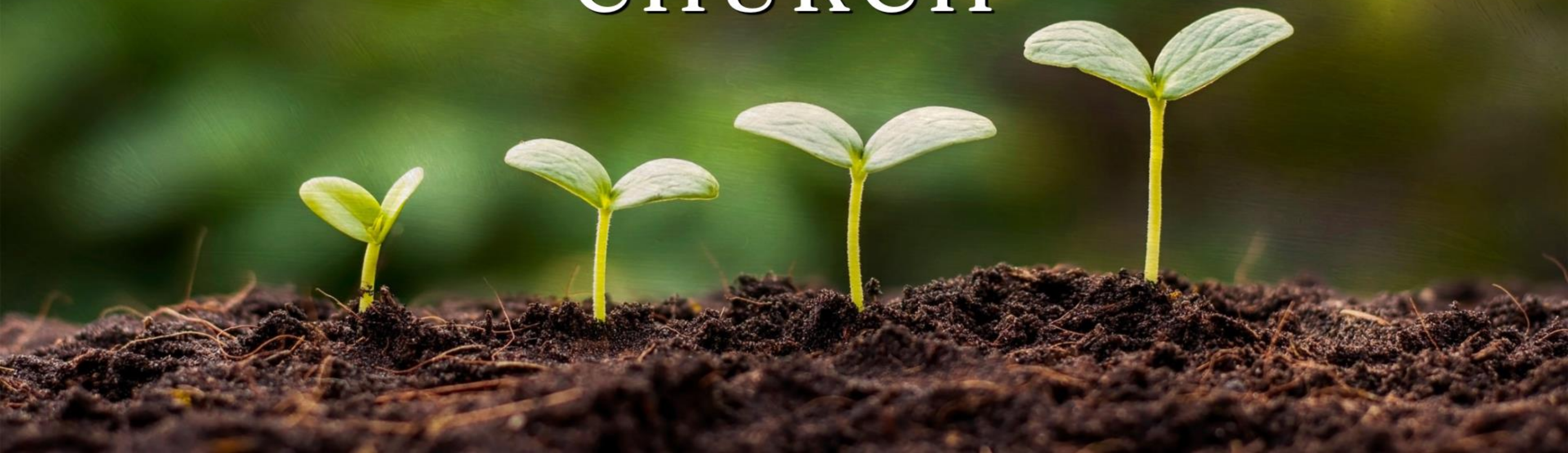


THE
MATURING
CHURCH



The Maturing Church...

Discerns

John 10:1-5

The Maturing Church series

- *Grows*
 - *Serves*
 - *Evangelizes*
 - *Tithes*
 - *Gives*
 - *Worships*
 - *Loves*
 - *Connects*
- These are not “*behaviors that equal maturity in the Lord*”, lest we fall into works-righteousness and pride
 - These are the *inevitable by-products* of spending time with the Lord.

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

Discern:

To correctly differentiate between God's voice and other competing voices. Discerners identify the Plans, Purposes and People of God in a world FULL of convincing counterfeits.

John 10:1-5

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

Correctly Discerning God's Voice:

- 1. 1 Samuel 3:4-18
 - a. Samuel listens to God's word REPEATEDLY
 - b. Samuel follows the wisdom of a mentor

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

Correctly Discerning God's Voice:

- 2. 1 Kings 19:11-13
 - a. Elijah ignores the “big”, “showy” and “loud”
 - b. Elijah recognizes the humble, uncelebrated

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

Wrestling to Discern God's Voice:

- 1. John 12:27-32
 - a. Many mistake God's voice for 'thunder'
 - b. The CROWD often miss God's voice altogether because their ears have not been opened. (yet)

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

Wrestling to Discern God's Voice:

- 2. Acts 10:9-16
 - a. Peter struggles b/c God challenges an area in which he was 100% sure!
 - b. Notice the **PROCESS** of discernment often requires *repetition!*

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

4 Common *False* voices:

- *1. The False Gospel of Works-Righteousness*
 - a. Pride/self-righteousness OR despair!
 - b. Gal. 2:11-14; 15-16
- *2. Lies from the Enemy about Yourself*
 - a. I'm no good, I'm hopeless, I'm a failure
 - b. Gal. 2:20, 4:7

The Maturing Church ... *Discerns*

4 Common *False voices*:

- *3. Cultural Popularity is a sign of God's favor*
 - a. idolizing preachers, musicians, authors
 - b. Gal. 1:10, 5:24-26 (*Luke 6:26*)
- *4. Worldly success and praise = your worth*
 - a. Approval from others/money/attractiveness
 - b. Gal. 1:6-9, 4:9, 6:8 (*John 12:36-43*)

Prayer Challenges:

- 1. Spend time **THANKING** God for gladly bearing with and teaching us to discern **HIS** voice!
- 2. **PRAISE** the Lord for the times you have heard and been led by His voice.
- 3. With which of those common false voices do you wrestle with? Take this to Him in prayer!