

While spiritual influence is the best method for helping converts to grow in faith and spiritual maturity there are still some who appear to be converts that reject Christ and the gospel.

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7

Spiritual influence is the key to spiritual maturity which is the evidence of a saved life.

Not perfection in a sense of never committing a sin, but a maturity that comes from striving not to sin.

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:13

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ. Ephesians 4:14-15

A spiritually mature person is one whose character has been developed by a biblical worldview.

A biblical worldview is a person's view based on seeing the world through the lens of the bible.

1. God is the Creator of the world and rules this universe.
2. The Bible is completely accurate including matters of life and its origin.
3. Because of God and His Word, absolute moral truth exists.
4. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, He lived a sinless life, died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.
5. Satan is a real being and seeks to defeat God's plan for man.
6. Salvation is obtained solely by individual faith in Christ's work on the Cross and cannot be earned.
7. God will one day restore creation to its former perfect state for those who trust in Him.

Spiritual maturity hinges on a biblical worldview that has been modeled by the spiritual influences around us.

Many of them could not get past their past religion and traditions.

They wanted Jesus but they did not want to make changes in how they lived out their faith.

We want to buy in to a biblical worldview that doesn't cost us anything.

Do you think at times your spiritual maturity has been stunted because you could not let go of your past traditions.

It is easier to live a life of legalism than to pursue a relationship with Christ.

How do we get past our past and push toward spiritual maturity

Don't get carried away by teachings that lead us away from the grace of God

Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. Hebrews 13:9

Recognize the responsibility of sanctification

We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. Hebrews 13:10

For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. Hebrews 13:11

Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hebrews 13:12

Be willing to bear the reproach of those outside the camp

So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. Hebrews 13:13

We must look past the tangible for the intangible

For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come. Hebrews 13:14

Offer sacrifices that please God

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16