

BIGGERsteps

Part Four: *focused living*

February 26, 2023

Last Sunday, I showed that Christ-like Christians love God and people like Jesus loves God and people. Today I want to show you that a Christian must be focused on reaching spiritual maturity to achieve spiritual maturity.

There are three main reasons why Christians fail to reach spiritual maturity:

1. Some Christians are ignorant about Christ and how to become like Him (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Some Christians lack the discipline to become like Christ (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
3. Some Christians are enslaved by sin that they cannot become like Christ (Gal. 5:16-26; Hebrews 12:1-2).

These three reasons are all different, but they all stem from one issue.

- **Christians that are not focused on becoming like Jesus cannot become like Jesus!**

Christians that do not make becoming like Christ a priority do not reach spiritual maturity! This is the truth the Apostle Paul explains in Philippians chapter three.

In Philippians 3:12-21, Paul lists five keys to becoming like Christ.

1. You must keep striving to become like Christ. Vs. 12-14

The phrase “press on” was used for runners who extend their necks out at the finish of a race. As Christians, we are to keep striving to become like Christ until we cross our finish line (death or the Rapture).

2. You must keep reminding yourself what we have in Christ. Vs. 15-16

As Christians, we need to remind ourselves that we were declared righteous by God the moment we received Jesus as our personal Savior (Romans 5:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:21). We were united with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. We have been set free from the power of sin, so we can live new lives (Romans 6)!

3. You must keep learning to become like Christ. Vs.17

Every Christian needs some godly mentors to show them how to live. People who have reached a high level of spiritual maturity, love God and people, and are focused on becoming more and more like Christ.

4. You must keep avoiding people that want to stop you from becoming like Christ. Vs. 18-19

You should have some spiritual mentors, but you should avoid anyone that wants to keep you from reaching spiritual maturity. Avoid people who live sinful, worldly lives.

5. You need to keep looking for Jesus’ return. Vs. 20-21

You must keep looking for Jesus’s return to keep becoming like Him. Christians that look for Christ, stay away from sin (1 John 2:28), and stay focused on their spiritual growth (1 Cor. 15:51-58).

Two questions to ask yourself this week:

1. Do you want to become like Jesus?
2. What are you focused on?