

BIGGERsteps

Part One: spiritual maturity

February 5, 2023

This February, we're not going to talk about taking baby steps, we going to talk about taking bigger steps! In this message series, you will learn what spiritual maturity is, why it is important, and what you need to do to reach spiritual maturity more quickly.

What is spiritual maturity?

- A spiritually mature Christian resembles Jesus.

Spiritual maturity is measured by how much you resemble your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Spiritually mature people think, speak, and act like Jesus (Ephesians 4:1-16).

Five reasons it is important for Christians to grow to spiritual maturity:

1st - Spiritually mature Christians are not tricked by Satan's lies. Ephesians 4:14

Cult leaders cannot trick spiritually mature Christians because mature Christians live by the truth found in the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

2nd - Spiritually mature Christians speak the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15a

Spiritually mature Christians speak the truth with the right motive using the right words and tone (Ephesians 4:25-29). Mature Christians don't use the truth to hurt people; they use the truth to help people!

3rd - Spiritually mature Christians strive to be like Christ in every way. Ephesians 4:15b

Christians are supposed to resemble Christ. Spiritually mature Christians understand this calling and devote themselves to becoming more and more like Jesus each day (Philippians 3:12-16).

4th - Spiritually mature Christians help others reach spiritual maturity. Ephesians 4:16a

Spiritually mature Christians use their spiritual gifts (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11) to help other Christians within their local church grow spiritually. Mature Christians help their pastors equip people for ministry.

5th - Spiritually mature Christians help their church continue to be healthy, growing, and full of love. Vs. 16b

Spiritually immature Christians cause most of the problems in the church. Their childish antics distract the church from reaching people for Christ and operating as a loving family. Immature Christians don't give a lot of their time, energy, or money to the work of the ministry, instead, they want everyone in the church to serve them and cater to their selfish desires. Spiritually mature Christians help their church succeed. They gladly give and serve where needed for the good of the whole body.

Two questions I want you to ask and answer this week:

1. What percentage of my thinking, words, and actions resemble Jesus' thinking, words, and actions?
2. What is holding me back from becoming like Jesus?