

# Growing Up: The Spiritual Man

(1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 1 John 2:12-14)

## Introduction.

A) "Spiritual" is a very confusion concept in modern society.

- We hear people refer to themselves as "*spiritual*", yet there is not evidence of conversion to Christ or anything to do with Christianity. They are more philosophical than spiritual, but confuse the two.
- We hear phrases like "*I'm spiritual, but I am not religious.*" This phrase is used by two groups of people. First, it is used by those that are trying to express a disdain for legalism. Secondly, it is used by those that want the privilege of faith in Christ, but not the responsibility.
- The more important usage of the word spiritual is the one found in the Bible.
- Contextualize this sermon in the Growing Up Series.
- When describing people as spiritual, the term sometimes makes reference to a person that is spiritually mature. It refers to someone who has experienced genuine conversion, is seeking to live out their commitment to Christ, and has reached a level of spiritual growth in which they demonstrate a consistent lifestyle of obedience to God's Word.

## I. The Stages of Spiritual Maturity (1 Cor. 3:1; 1 Jn. 2:12-14)

A) Babes

B) Young Men

C) Fathers

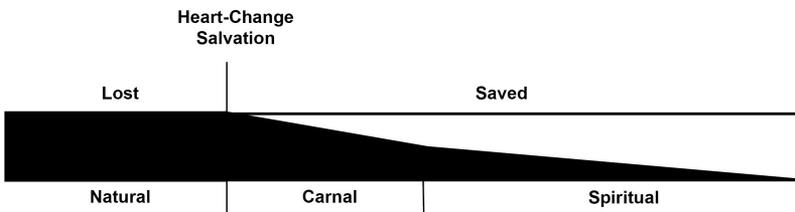
*Mature verses*

1 Corinthians 3:1

2 Corinthians 13:9-11  
Philippians 3:12  
Colossians 1:28  
James 1:4  
James 3:2

## II. Misconceptions About Spiritual Maturity

- A) Based on length of conversion
- B) Based on amount of knowledge
- C) Based on development of gifts
- D) Based on activity in service
- E) Based on happy feelings
- F) Based on becoming more miserable
- G) Based on temporal prosperity
- H) Based on liberality in giving.



## III. Spiritual Maturity Results From Knowing God (Eph. 1:15-19)

**Principle:** *Spiritual maturity is the result of a vital and practical knowledge of God, His ways, His purposes, and His will for mankind.*

*Notice the petitions of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians . . .*

**A) Understanding (v. 17)**

**B) Hope (v. 18)**

**C) Riches (v. 18)**

**D) Power (v. 19)**

## **II. Spiritual Maturity Results From A Denial of Self (Romans 6:1-2, 12-14)**

*Principle: Spiritual maturity results from a thorough awareness of personal depravity and, therefore, no confidence in self.*

**A) Indwelling sin opposes the principle of grace (Romans 7:18).**

**B) You are free to obey the Spirit (Romans 8:13)**

**C) You must deny self (Colossians 3:5-10)**

1) Starve the evil nature (Romans 6: 13, 13:14)

2) Avoid opportunities for sin (Eph. 5:6-13)(Prov. 4:13-14)

3) Maintain discipline over self (Proverbs 4:23; Jam, 1:14-15)

## **III. Spiritual Maturity Results From Cultivation of Your Inner Self**

*Principle: Spiritual maturity results from cultivation of an ongoing, personal, internal fellowship with Christ*

**A) Honor the Word (II Timothy 3:16)**

**B) Practice Prayer**

**C) Maintain a journal**

Review SOAP documents.

## **IV. Spiritual Maturity Results From Obedient Living (Romans 12:1-2).**

**Principle:** *Spiritual maturity results from an unreserved dedication to God.*

- A) Decide to follow (v. 1)**
- B) Surrender your whole being (v. 1)**
- C) Respond with right motivation (v. 1)**
- D) Acts of worship (v. 2)**

## **Conclusion**