

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP #4

PROVERBS #14

The 6 Levels of Spiritual Growth – Pt. 3

JULY 23, 2015

Heb. 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

- **True spiritual maturity is the ability to recognize what is right and what is wrong.**

Hebrews 5:13-14 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1. A Babe

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

- **A babe is one that needs to be fed and nourished.**
- Characteristics of this level;

a. They Resist Limitations

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

b. They Want Their Own Way.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. . .

c. They Need Daily Nourishment.

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

d. They Have Little Understanding.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

- **The main goal for a baby Christian is growth.**

Questions to ask and reflect on for personal evaluation:

- *Do I resist Biblical limitations?*
- *Are there areas in which I must have my own way, without regard to whether it is right or wrong?*
- *Do I really desire God's word?*
- *Do I desire to mature in my faith?*

2. A Child

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not **children** in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

1 John 2:1a My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not . .

- **A child is one that needs to be trained.**
- Characteristics of this level:

a. They Are Immature.

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

b. They Need Training.

Galatians 4:1-2 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

c. They Lack The Ability To Look Ahead.

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

d. They Are Easily Deceived.

Eph. 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

- **The main goal for a child is learning the fear of the Lord.**

Questions to ask and reflect on for personal evaluation:

- *Do you struggle with immature actions that are visible to others?*
- *Do you have a healthy fear of God?*
- *Are you seeking to be trained in the ways of God through His word and the help of other Christians?*
- *Do you make decisions without thought as to future consequences?*
- *Are you easily fooled by false teaching because of your lack of knowledge of God's word?*
- *Are you easily influenced by others words or actions?*

3. A _____

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- **The son is one who is in the _____ of his father.**

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name

- Characteristics of this level;
a. *They embrace _____.*

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Jam. 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

- b. *They accept _____.*

Hebrews 12:6-8 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if

ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

c. They accept the father's _____.

Romans 8:14-15 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

*d. They are willing to separate for _____
sake.*

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

e. They are to _____ their father's words.

Proverbs 2:1 & 5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

- **The spiritual goal is to _____ God's righteousness in his life.**

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, **among whom ye shine as lights in the world.**

Questions to ask and reflect on for personal evaluation:

- *Are you willing to become a _____ believer?*
- *Would you except God's _____ if that is what it takes to mature you?*
- *Do you seek God's _____ in your life?*
- *Are you willing to _____ anything that would come between you and your Heavenly Father?*
- *Is your heart truly _____ to the words of God?*