

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

#5

The 6 Levels of Spiritual Growth – Pt. 4

AUGUST 27, 2015

- Part of Christian growth is _____ where we are at and what it takes to get to the next level.

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.

- *What is spiritual maturity?*
- True spiritual maturity is the ability to recognize what is _____ and what is _____.

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

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.

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

3. A Son

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 likeness of his father.**

Characteristics of this level:

a. They embrace adulthood.

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 accept punishment.

Hebrews 12:6-8 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

c. They accept the father's leading.

Romans 8:14-15 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

d. They are willing to separate for relationship 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 receive 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 demonstrate God's righteousness in his life.**

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

4. A Disciple

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- A disciple is one who _____ the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of _____.
 - “Disciple” is not a title of who one is, it is a description of how one lives.
- Characteristics of this level:

a. They will experience _____.

Matthew 10:14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Heb. 12:2-3 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

b. God's word _____ in them.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- “When God’s word lives inside you it is the driving force behind all the decisions and direction in your life.”

c. The bear spiritual _____ in their lives.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Gal. 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

d. They accept the _____ of discipleship.

Luke 14:26-27, 33 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- **The spiritual goal is to know God's _____ and experience _____ in life.**

Matt. 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

- Questions to ask and reflect on for personal evaluation:
 - *What _____ or _____ have you adopted in your life?*
 - *Have you ever faced any form of _____ because of your belief in Christ?*
 - *Do you have a living relationship with God's _____?*
 - *Do you look to God's word when making a _____?*
 - *What _____ is evidence in your life that you are a disciple?*
 - *Have you ever made the _____ that you will be a disciple?*