

Signs of Maturity

The discussion points below are intended to be used in the context of a small accountability group or one-on-one discipleship. Believers are highly encouraged to team with one other believer (not more than four), in order to reap the full benefits.

GENERAL

In spite of his maturity in the Lord, or his knowledge of the Lord, Paul longed to grow closer and closer to the Lord (Phil. 3:10). Read Ps. 42:1-2. As a rule, is your daily walk characterized by eagerness to grow closer to Christ? Explain.

Read 1 Cor. 2:1-16; 2 Cor. 4:6. Doctrinal knowledge is no guarantee of spiritual comprehension. One could explain the entire Bible and still fall short of spiritual wisdom and understanding (1 Cor. 13:2). When hearing a sermon or reading the Bible, are you listening for what God is telling you?

Read 1 Tim. 1:15. Ironically, the more like Christ we become, the more aware we are of our sinfulness. Do you sense your own guiltiness and need for forgiveness when you sin? What is your reaction when you become aware of sin in your life?

Read 1 Tim. 1:16. Is it evident to those who knew you before you became a believer that your life is an example of divine grace and patience? Explain. Is it evident to those who presently know you that your life is an example of divine grace and patience?

Based upon Mt. 7:24-27 and Jm. 1:21-25 what should be your response to God's Word?

Read Ps. 119:9-11. How can you "hide" God's Word in your heart?

Pick one passage/verse that addresses an area in your life in which you intend on being obedient.

Read Rom. 6:11; 8:10; Eph. 2:1-5. In what ways are you more sensitive to the new life God has given you?

CONTENTMENT

Read Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:12-14; Heb. 12:2-3; 1 Pt. 2:23. Are you more concerned about the speed of your growth than the direction of your growth? Our focus should be on Christlikeness in every situation and allow God to set the pace for your maturity.

Notice what Paul's life consist of (Phil. 1:21). Are you content with your circumstances in life (Phil. 4:11-13)?

In what/whom should you be content (Ps. 27:1-5; Pr. 19:23)?

What alternatives to discontentment do you see in Deut. 8:10-18; Ps. 20:7; 131; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Heb. 13:5?

PERSONAL

Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17. Explain specific ways God's Word has provided new direction or guidance for your life, career, family, and personal thought life.

Read Mt. 25:34-40; Eph. 5:25; 1 Jn. 4:7. How have you become more loving toward others?

What areas of your life are disciplined for the purpose of godliness (1 Tim. 4:7)? What areas need improvement? How do you plan on improving in these areas?

Are you truly and completely forgiving of others to the extent that you have been forgiven (Eph. 4:32)?

Read Ps. 34:18; 51:17; 138:6; Pr. 3:34; Mt. 5:3; 18:3-4; Philippians 2:1-8; Jm. 4:6; 1 Pt. 5:5-6. Why do you suppose humility is the distinguishing mark of a believer? How can you grow in humility at home, work, and church?

PRAYER

Read Mt. 7:7-11; Jm. 1:5-6. When you pray, do you present your requests to God with a sense of anticipation and expectancy? Explain.

How do you know when God has answered your requests? Do you listen to God? Do you hear God when He answers? How do you know when you've heard God answer prayer?

Read 2 Cr. 7:14-15; Ps. 66:18; Is. 1:15; 59:2; Zech. 7:13; Mt. 6:12, 14-15; Jm. 5:15-16 and 1 Pt. 3:7. List some necessary conditions for an effective prayer life.

How have these passages encouraged you to have a more effective prayer life?