

Are We Going On to Maturity?

How do you know if you are maturing in your daily Christian life? At what level of maturity are you presently? This is a question that we should ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us. It is time for us as believers to make an honest assessment of where we are in the Lord. God's Word has a lot to say concerning finding the answer to this question.

As we discussed last month, Hebrews 6:1 tells us that a mark of maturity is that we are pressing **"to go on unto perfection (maturity)"**. Our goal as believers is to mature and move beyond the basic or elementary principles of the faith, as listed in Hebrews 6:1-2: *repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection from the dead, and eternal judgement.*

John addresses this same subject of maturity in 1 John 2:12-14. He mentions four stages of growth: *infants, little children, young men and fathers*. We are all at one of these stages in our life. It is not wrong to be at the stage of infant or little child, if that's the progression you've made since becoming a Christian. But, if, after many years of being a Christian and you have not at least progressed into the "youth" stage of the Christian life (where you are beginning to learn responsibility and accountability), then, there is a problem.

Hebrews 5:12-13 tells us, **"For when the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles (elementary doctrines) of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe"**. Far too many believers today are still "using milk" and they should not only be "eating meat", but, they should also be in a position to "teach" the "infants" and "little children".

We ask why there aren't more new Christians coming into the kingdom of God. This is a key to understanding this question. We're not ready to take up the responsibility to "teach" them the basic, elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ, for we haven't learned them ourselves, we haven't "gone on to maturity" and we can't lead those to maturity who desire to go on. A key component as to why we haven't progressed to maturity, as we previously discussed, is that we don't know and practice these principles.

We need to "go back to elementary school", learn the basics, apply them accordingly in our lives, "go on to maturity" and take up the responsibility of seeing the "young" raised into maturity. Then, we'll begin to see the glory of the Lord arise in and upon the Church, as the body begins to take its place alongside the Lord, mature and showing forth the character of our King.