

We are looking at areas of growth and maturity for a Jesus Follower.

Today, let's look at this area:

A growing understanding and depth of spiritual maturity

Spiritual maturity is not a destination but a journey. We will never become fully "mature" on this earth. We should always be on a journey of spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is not something that happens by osmosis. The path of maturity is not like the military or a union where time in service is credited toward advancement. If we don't take steps to grow in our relationship with the Lord, we won't develop automatically. Biblical discipleship encourages people to take the necessary steps to mature and grow.

To grow in our knowledge of God and to mature in Him we must choose to press in. When we make a move toward God He will respond. If we do nothing, we will stagnate and suffer from our immaturity.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) *Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him! Then he will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.*

Spiritual maturity doesn't occur in a vacuum. It happens as we invite God into our everyday, ordinary life. If we keep God locked up in our "church life" box and never let Him loose in the rest of our lives, we are in danger of being dragged down in immaturity instead of being built up in maturity.

Romans 12:1,2 (Msg) *So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

Growing in spiritual maturity is a unique adventure; first, we must take the initiative to press into God, but we must realize that in our own strength and ability we have no power to properly grow in Him. God, out of His glorious riches, strengthens us through His Spirit. As we grow and mature in Christ, it becomes evident that we can't do it alone. God's love is too broad and long and high and deep for us to fully comprehend it by ourselves. Spiritual maturity is nurtured in the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 3:16,17 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

As Christians, we have a responsibility to live a life that is growing in the Lord. God uses organic symbolism often as He talks about our journey with Him. Healthy organisms continue to grow and bear fruit.

Colossians 1:10...*live a life worthy of the Lord...bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...*

God wants us to grow in Him. His will is for us to mature in our faith. At times it seems very difficult to continue to grow in Him. It's encouraging to know God will equip us to grow and develop.

Hebrews 13:20,21 *May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Hale Pule Question

Take a few minutes to meditate on the verse above. Can you recognize ways you are maturing in the Lord? Ask the Father to show you ways you can continue to intentionally grow and mature in Him. Share your thoughts with other Jesus Followers that you trust to support you in your journey.