

“Again, I leave the world and
go to the Father.”
– John 16:28

Feast of the Ascension

- Fulfilled promises
- **“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” (Ps. 110:1)**
- **“You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.” (Jn. 14:28)**
- **“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.” (Jn. 20:17)**

He led them out...

- **“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.”** (Lk. 24:50-51)
- There is a point in life at which visible leadership ceases
- The Lord’s desire is for His children to mature



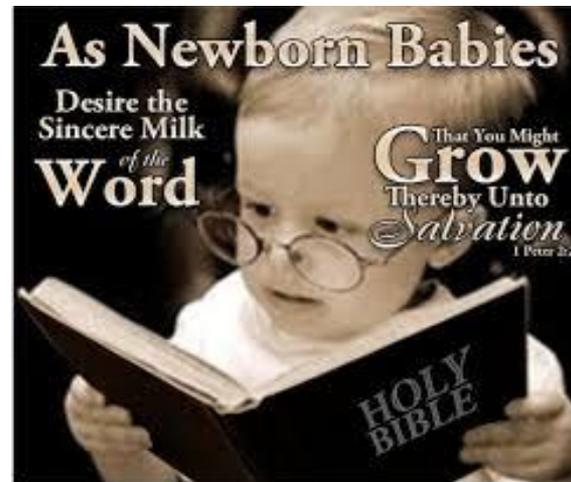
Spiritual Maturity

Necessity of Spiritual Maturity

Part 1

1. Growth is a vital step in maturing

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...”
(1 Peter 2:1-2)



As Newborn Babies

Desire the
Sincere Milk

of the
Word

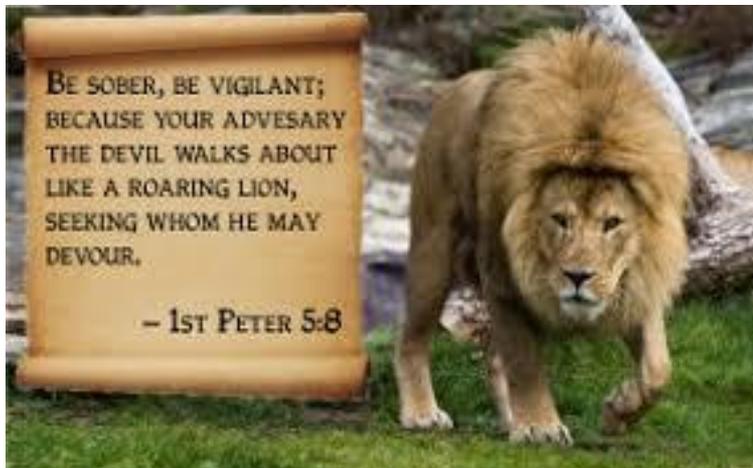
That You Might
Grow
Thereby Unto
Salvation

1 Peter 2:2

HOLY
BIBLE

2. The immature is not prepared to face temptation

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Pet. 5:8)



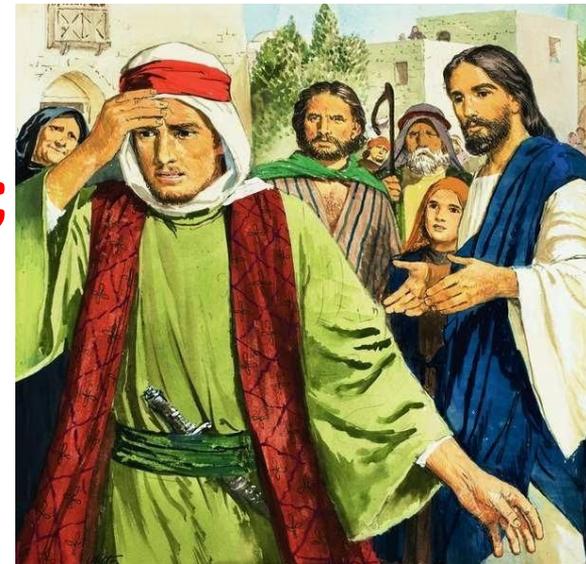
3. God desires that we mature

- “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matt. 5:48)
- “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:3)
- “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom. 6:4)

4. The spiritually mature will gladden the heart of God

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

(Matt. 19:21-22)



Summary

Spiritual maturity is necessary for all believers

- 1. Growth is a vital step in maturity**
- 2. The immature is not prepared to face temptation**
- 3. God desires that we mature**
- 4. The spiritually mature will gladden the heart of God**

Next Week = Part 2: The Process of Spiritual Maturity