



“I still have many things to say to you,  
but you cannot bear them now.”

– John 16:12

# Spiritual Maturity

Misconceptions

The Process of Spiritual Growth

Part 2

# Recap

Spiritual maturity is necessary for all believers

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

# Misconceptions

1. Maturity develops naturally

2. Maturity by association

- Five wise and five foolish virgins (Matt. 25)
- “I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you...they answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “ If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. (Jn. 8:37-39)



# Misconceptions

## 3. Maturity comes instantaneously

- Ex: St. Paul's revelation
- Some people wait for this kind of revelation
- “Maturity” or “Maturing”
- “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Cor. 3:18)



# Misconceptions



4. Maturity is designed for the elect few
  - “... beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Cor. 7:1)
  - “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality...” (1 Thes. 4:3)
5. Maturity is for adults and elderly
  - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Tim. 4:12)

# Process of Spiritual Growth

- Invitation
- Detachment
- Assessing Value
- Ascending the heights



# Process of Spiritual Growth:

## Invitation



- Abraham
  - “Get **out of your country**, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.” (Gen. 12:1)
- David
  - “So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good- looking. And the Lord said, ‘Arise, **anoint him**; for this is the one!’” (1 Sam. 16:12)
- Our invitation was when we were anointed (Baptism/Chrismation)
  - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal. 3:27)
  - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

# Process of Spiritual Growth: Detachment<sup>1</sup>

- Abraham

- “The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.” (Acts 7:2-4)
- Detachment from our closest relationships



# Process of Spiritual Growth: Detachment<sup>2</sup>

- Abraham

- So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.” (Gen. 13:8-9)



- Detachment of earthly possessions

# Process of Spiritual Growth: Detachment<sup>3</sup>

- David
  - “Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.’” (1 Sam. 17:45)
  - Detachment of physical ability
  - He learned as a shepherd to lean on God’s strength



# Process of Spiritual Growth: Detachment<sup>4</sup>

- St. Paul

- “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me.’”  
(Acts 9:3-4)

- Detachment of the ego



# Summary

- Misconceptions about Spiritual Maturity
  - Maturity develops naturally
  - Maturity by association
  - Maturity comes instantaneously
  - Maturity is designed for the elect few
  - Maturity is for adults or elderly
- Process of Spiritual Maturity
  - Invitation
  - Detachment
    - Relationships
    - Possessions
    - My ability
    - Ego
  - **Assessing Value**
  - **Ascending the heights**