

DIGGING DEEPER



Walking in Truth

1. What did you learn from our study of Christian and church maturity that you did not already know? What one change do you purpose to make in your life as a result of this study?
2. How do you define maturity? How did Paul define maturity in I Corinthians 13:11?
3. Have you observed seasons in your life when you significantly grew and times when you didn't? What made the difference?
4. Based on II Peter 1:2-11 at what level would you place yourself in the process of maturity? What will you do to graduate or grow to the next level? How can others in the body of Christ help you?
5. Based on Ephesians 4:11-16 how would you describe the maturity of our congregation? What needs to change in order for us to grow more? What are you willing to do about it?

For Long-Handled Shovels

- Describe the difference between much of the literature and seminars on church growth today and the biblical teaching on church growth. How can popular definitions of church growth be damaging, destructive, at the very least deceitful?
- What are the behavioral, social and spiritual characteristics of immature Christians according to Hebrews 5:12-14 and I Corinthians 3:1-4?



II Peter 1:2-11
Ephesians 4:11-16

Faith Bible Church
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2 Peter 1:2–11

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I. THE MATURITY OF A CHRISTIAN

A. The POWER to Grow:

B. The PROCESS of Growth

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Ephesians 4:11–16

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

II. THE MATURITY OF A CHURCH

A. The MEANS of Growth:

B. The MEASURE of Growth: