

# MATURING IN CHRIST

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THREE ESSENTIAL AREAS OF GROWTH



## COLOSSIANS 1:28-29

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He (Jesus) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

## COL 1:28-29 (NIRV)

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Christ is the one we preach about. With all the wisdom we have, we warn and teach everyone. When we bring them to God, we want them to be like Christ. We want them to be grown up as people who belong to Christ. That's what I'm working for. I work hard with all the strength of Christ. His strength works powerfully in me.



# WHAT SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS NOT

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- Not about age
- Not about achievements or position
- Not about education or knowledge
- Not mere possession of gifts

# WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

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Spiritual maturity is to grow to be like Jesus!

- To love like Jesus
- To serve like Jesus
- To disciple like Jesus

# THREE ESSENTIAL AREAS OF GROWTH

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## I. Growing in the fruit of the Holy Spirit

## COL 1:9-12

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For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.



# JOHN 15:7-8

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If you remain in me and my words remain in you,  
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.  
This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much  
fruit.



# 1 COR 13:4-8

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**Patient,  
Kind,  
rejoices with the truth,  
always protects,  
always trusts,  
always hopes,  
always perseveres.**

**LOVE**

**does not envy,  
does not boast,  
not proud,  
does not dishonor others,  
not self-seeking,  
not easily angered,  
keeps no record of wrongs,  
does not delight in evil, never fails**



# I PETER 1:5-8

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For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# THREE ESSENTIAL AREAS OF GROWTH

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1. Growing in the fruit of the Holy Spirit
2. Growing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit

## GAL 5:13-14

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“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

## 1 COR 12:4-12

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4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

## 1 COR 12:4-12

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11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

## ROMANS 12:4-8

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6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

## EPHESIANS 4:11-13

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So Christ himself gave the **apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers**, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



# PURPOSE OF THE LEADERSHIP

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...to equip “all his people for the works of service”

...until we all become mature to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ”

## **Romans 12**

**exhortation**

**giving**

**leadership**

**mercy**

**prophecy**

**service**

**teaching**

## **1 Corinthians 12**

**administration**

**apostle**

**discernment**

**faith**

**healings**

**helps**

**knowledge**

**miracles**

*prophecy*

*teaching*

**tongues**

**tongues interpretation**

**wisdom**

## **Ephesians 4**

*apostle*

**evangelism**

**pastor**

*prophecy*

*teaching*

# What should we do then?

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**1 COR 14:1**

**PURSUE LOVE, AND EARNESTLY DESIRE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**1 COR 14:12**

**...SINCE YOU ARE EAGER FOR MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT, STRIVE TO EXCEL IN BUILDING UP THE CHURCH.**



# THREE ESSENTIAL AREAS OF GROWTH

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1. Growing in the fruit of the Holy Spirit
2. Growing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. Growing in disciple making

# WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

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Christian Discipleship is an active, intentional and lifelong learning process to grow a person into Christ-like maturity.

# GREAT COMMISSION

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- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 16:15-18
- Luke 24:46-49
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8

# WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

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- Are you growing in the fruit?
- Are you growing in the gifts?
- Are you growing in disciple making?