

Faith Fight Podcast - Maturing in Christ

Maturing in Christ doesn't happen by accident. It takes purposeful work on your part. Though we all grow as time passes, We want to make sure that we are maturing in our thinking, our behavior and that we are applying Godly principles in our lives. There are a few scriptures in the bible that you can use to determine if you are maturing in Christ or not and today we are going to go over them. You can use this episode as a measuring stick to see how you measure up to the word regarding maturing in Christ. If you only get a passing grade for a few of these verses, that's ok... Its just there to show you how much work God and you have to do to be all that God has made you to be. Let's dive in.

1.

Matthew 7:1-5

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Jesus' statement "Do Not Judge" is against the kind of hypocritical judgmental attitude that tears others down in order to build oneself up. It is not a blanket statement against all critical thinking rather a call to be discerning rather than negative.

2.

James 3:3-6

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

What you say and what you don't say are very important. Proper speech is not only saying the right words at the right time, but it's also controlling your desire to say what you shouldn't say. Verse 6 from this James 3 compares a uncontrolled tongue to the damage that an uncontrolled fire can do. Mature Christians can control their tongue and know what to say and when to say it.

3.

John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

If you are maturing in Christ, you are able to abide in him (Walk with him in intimate fellowship) If you are abiding in him you should bear fruit. Let this be an indication to you if you are bearing fruit.

4.

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Receiving Christ as Lord of your life is the beginning. You must continue to grow to follow His leadership by being rooted, built up and established in faith. Christ wants to help you and guide you through your daily problems. Paul uses the word “rooted” in this verse and it paints the picture of a plant that draws all that it needs from the soil that its planted in. As we mature in Christ we have to ensure that our roots are firmly planted in Christ and his word.

5.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

The most important way that we can mature in Christ is by renewing our mind with the Word of God. Simply put, Don't allow the things of this world to have more influence over your mind than the Word of God. Part of doing this is to protect your mind from thinking about certain things that are worldly.

6.

Hebrews 6:1-3

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,[a] and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites,[b] the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

In context you will need to read Hebrews 5, and Hebrews chapter five which was a warning against apostasy – which means “the rejection of Christianity by someone who formerly was a Christian”. The author of Hebrews is telling us to move on from what we already know about the essential doctrines of grace and to not go backwards into man made rules and regulations.

7.

Hebrews 5:12-14

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

This verse speaks about some immature Christians. For all the time that they have been studying the word of God, they should've been teaching others but they have not applied what they have learned in their own lives yet. A mark to see if you are maturing in your spiritual life is if you applying the things that you have learned and then if you are able to teach others.

8.

Ephesians 4:11-14

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”

Regular, consistent Bible study gives us spiritual discernment and the ability to distinguish true biblical teachings from those that are false. Additionally, being submitted to people who have been equipped and positioned by God to teach the word also helps us to grow and will cause us to be more aware of the schemes of men to try to deceive us away with false teaching.

9.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Finally, This is an indication that you are maturing in Christ

1. You will be wise in your decision making
2. You will have favor with men.
3. God's favor will be upon you also.

Weekly Prayer Plan – Maturing In Christ

How to Use this Template:

Download and save this document to begin using at the beginning (Monday) of every week. Every Week will have different bible verses to meditate on based on the Faith Fight Podcast episode topic for that week. Determine the time and place that you will devote to prayer. The below structure is set for one hour and is only used as a guide. You can adjust your timing if necessary.

Time: _____

Place: _____

5 min – Drawing Near To God

5 min – Confession

10 min – God-Centered Petitions

10 min – Intercessory Prayer

10 min – Personal Petitions

15 min – Meditation

5 min – Praise, Thanksgiving & Closing

1. **DRAWING NEAR TO GOD** - Matt. 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

God the Father is the focus of all our prayers. We should never forget what a privilege it is to bend our knees on earth and reach almighty God in heaven.

Psalm 95:6 - Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Isaiah 6:3 - And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Psalm 84:1-2 - How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

2. **CONFESSION** - Matt. 6:12 “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”

When we repent and forgive others, we maintain fellowship with God. But if we hold grudges, that fellowship is broken. God loves to answer our prayers when the lines of communication are not disrupted.

Psalm 51:1-2 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 3:19 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

3. **GOD CENTERED PETITIONS Matt 6:10** "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

Prayer should reflect a desire to align ourselves with God's goals and purposes, not to get Him to follow our plans.

Job 22:21 - "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.

Psalm 40:8 - I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

4. **PERSONAL PETITIONS Matt 6:11** "Give us today our daily bread."

We are dependent upon the Lord for our needs and He wants us to come to Him with our requests.

Matt 7:7-8 - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matt 6:8 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

James 4:2 - You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. **You do not have because you do not ask God.**

5. **MEDITATION Joshua 1:8** "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Meditation is thinking about the word of God to understand what it means in the context of the scripture and how it can apply to your life today. The Word of God is powerful enough to still be relevant in your life today even though it was written thousands of years ago.

Read through the scripture passages for today as listed below:

Meditational Verses

Monday: Colossians 2:6-7

Tuesday: Matthew 7:1-5

Wednesday: John 15

Thursday: James 3:1-12

Friday: Luke 2:41-52

Saturday: Hebrews 5

Sunday: Hebrews 6

Once you have read the scripture for today, write down your answer to the questions below or any other insight/revelation that you receive in your prayer journal.

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

- 6. PRAISE & THANKSGIVING 1 John 5:14-15** “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

We can end our prayer time with confidence that God has heard our prayer and will answer in His perfect timing. Demonstrate your faith in Him by showing thanks before you see the answer to your prayers.

Psalm 136:1 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Psalm 103:1-5 - Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.