

THE JOURNEY!

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Inside Out

Jay McAlister

We need to pursue spiritual maturity in order to navigate our spiritual journey well.



SERMON SUMMARY

In our current series, called Inside Out, we are focusing on the spiritual transformation God wants for each one of us. This week we talked about the importance of pursuing spiritual maturity. The Christian life is not meant to be stagnant – God wants us to be growing in our faith and that growth leads to spiritual maturity. This maturity will enable us to remain solid in our faith, even when life is tough, or we face spiritual challenges regarding our understanding of God’s word. What is amazing is that as we pursue maturity, we discover unity within the body of Christ. God’s desire for us is not just an individual maturity but a corporate maturity where we truly live and experience life as the people of God - His church. The pursuit of maturity is worth the energy and time – so let’s pursue that together!

- In Ephesians 4, Paul urges the believers in Ephesus to live a life worthy of God’s calling.
 - What is the calling we have received? Why would it be necessary to challenge believers to live a life worthy of this call?
 - Consider the descriptions of unity Paul gives in verse 3-6. What stands out to you in these verses? How should this encourage unity in the body of Christ today?
- In verse 11 Paul talks about the gifts God gives people in the church.
 - How are these different gifts meant to encourage unity and maturity? What are the implications for us today that these gifts are to equip people for works of service?
 - What does it mean that we become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ? (vs. 13) How can we pursue this?
- Paul’s description of the mature is a powerful image of what God wants for us.
 - Consider the images of an infant, and a boat tossed around in the waves. What is Paul saying we should be avoiding as we become spiritually mature? How does maturity protect us against false teachings? What are some of the most dangerous false teachings we might encounter today?
 - In the final part of this passage, Paul outlines the impact maturity has on the church. How is unity connected to maturity? What should it look like on a corporate level when the people of God have developed a level of spiritual maturity?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

This week, let’s consider how maturity is showing up in our everyday lives. Let’s consider how our priorities are being affected. Or, how maturity is impacting our decision-making process. Take time to consider whether others see in us a maturity built on the fullness of Christ.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION & READING REFLECTIONS

Sunday: Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 1:5-7, 13-14 (*The Mandate for Maturity*)
Monday: Heb. 12:3-11; 2 Tim. 2:5-7; James 1:2-4, 12 (*Endure through Trials*)
Tuesday: 2 Pet. 1:5-11; 2 Tim. 2:15 (*Put in the Effort*)
Wednesday: Heb. 5:11-6:3; 2 Tim. 2:22-26; 1 Cor. 13:11 (*Time to Grow Up*)
Thursday: Col. 1:9-14; 2 Tim. 3:14-17 (*Knowledge Leads to Action*)
Friday: Gal. 6:6-10; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:13-15 (*Encourage One Another*)
Saturday: Phil. 3:12-21; 2 Tim. 4:5-8 (*Press on for the Prize*)