



# SEVEN LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*We all should desire to GROW to Spiritual Maturity in our relationship with Jesus Christ. God's Word reveals to us SEVEN LEVELS of Spiritual Maturity that MIRROR our own Physical Maturity. By understanding God's PATTERN of growth, we can understand the PROCESS that the disciple of Christ is intended to grow through, and the BIBLICAL SEQUENCE of "adding to our faith".*

*2 Pet. 1:5-8 And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; <sup>6</sup>And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; <sup>7</sup>And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. <sup>8</sup>For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## LEVEL 1: BABES

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### A. What they KNOW:

1. Know \_\_\_\_\_
  - ...except that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, was buried and rose again
  - They were a \_\_\_\_\_ separated from God
  - In other words, they know they have received the \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Characteristics of their LIFE:

1. They are still \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 3:1**

*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

**1 Cor. 3:3**

*For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not **carnal**, and **walk as men**?*

2. The need \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 3:2**

*I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

3. They are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word

**Heb 5:13**

*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: **for he is a babe.***

**C. How do they GROW?**

1. It starts with \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Pet. 2:2**

*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

2. They must \_\_\_\_\_ to their faith \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Pet. 1:5**

*And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue;** and to virtue knowledge;*

**Phil. 4:8-9**

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; **if there be any virtue,** and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 **Those things,** which ye have both **learned,** and **received,** and **heard,** and seen in me, **do:** and the God of peace shall be with you.*

3. VIRTUE is simply \_\_\_\_\_ what I \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

**James 4:17**

*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and **doeth it not,** to him it is sin.*

What we \_\_\_\_\_ <-----> What we \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must narrow this gap as it relates to God's Word!)

## **LEVEL 2: LITTLE CHILDREN**

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**A. What they KNOW:**

1. Know they are \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 2:12**

*I write unto you, **little children,** because **your sins are forgiven you** for his name's sake.*

**1 John 2:13**

*I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, **little children, because ye have known the Father.***

**B. Characteristics of their LIFE:**

1. They have nailed down the genuineness of their \_\_\_\_\_, but little else.
  - They have victory over their conversion - not operating off of **emotions** and **feelings**

**C. How do they GROW?**

1. They must ADD \_\_\_\_\_ to **VIRTUE**

**2 Pet. 1:5**

*And beside this, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

**Isa. 5:13**

*Therefore my people are gone into captivity, **because they have no knowledge**: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.*

**Isa. 28:9**

*Whom shall he teach **knowledge**? and whom shall he make to understand **doctrine**? them that are **weaned from the milk**, and **drawn from the breasts**.*

***Proverbs 19:2** Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is **not good**; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.*

2. Knowledge isn't added for knowledge sake, it's added for \_\_\_\_\_ sake. Know more so you can \_\_\_\_\_ more!

**Warnings about KNOWLEDGE:**

**Knowledge without SALVATION leads to DAMNATION**

*Rom. 1:18-32 – Damnation awaits those who HOLD the TRUTH in unrighteousness...*

**Knowledge without APPLICATION leads to DEFORMATION**

*1 Corinthians 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge.*

***Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.***

*Knowledge misapplied with PUFF you up...knowledge with CHARITY will BUILD you up!*

**Knowledge without INSPIRATION leads to STAGNATION**

*Rom. 10:1-3 being religiously "zealous" but being Biblically illiterate creates Pharisees*

# LEVEL 3: CHILDREN

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## A. What they KNOW:

1. \_\_\_\_\_, but still aren't doctrinally \_\_\_\_\_
2. KNOW enough to make them \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Characteristics of their LIFE:

1. They begin to WALK in \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 John 4

*I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy **children walking in truth**, as we have received a commandment from the Father.*

2. They begin to WALK in \_\_\_\_\_

### Eph 5:8

*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light**:*

### 1 John 1:7

*But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

3. They begin to walk in \_\_\_\_\_

### Eph. 5:1

*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

4. They are vulnerable to false \_\_\_\_\_ and false \_\_\_\_\_

### Eph. 4:14

*That we henceforth be no more **children, tossed to and fro**, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

## C. How do they GROW?

1. They must ADD \_\_\_\_\_ to KNOWLEDGE
2. In other words, \_\_\_\_\_ what you KNOW! - so you can be an instrument in God's hand to accomplish his kingdom purposes!

**2 Pet. 1:6**

***And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;***

**1 Cor. 9:24-27**

***Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***

3. Temperance is laying some things aside to run the race that God has called me to run. It's the \_\_\_\_\_ of evangelism and discipleship (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

## **LEVEL 4: YOUNG MEN (WOMEN)**

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**A. What they KNOW:**

1. They know the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

**1 John 2:14**

***I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.***

**B. Characteristics of their LIFE:**

1. They are \_\_\_\_\_ because the Word of God \_\_\_\_\_ in them

**1 John 2:14**

***... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you...***

2. They have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ one

***1 John 2:14 ...and ye have overcome the wicked one.***

**1 John 2:13**

***I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.***

3. They are \_\_\_\_\_ MINDED, DOCTRINALLY \_\_\_\_\_ & patterning GOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Titus 2:6-8**

*Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*

**1 Timothy 4:12**

*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

C. How do they GROW?

1. They must ADD to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Pet. 1:6**

*And to knowledge temperance; **and to temperance patience**; and to patience godliness;*

2. Patience is a \_\_\_\_\_ (maturing) Work

**James 1:3-4**

*Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience**. 4 But let patience have **her perfect work**, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

3. Allow what you know to be \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (so God can continue making you more like \_\_\_\_\_!)

**Rom. 5:1-3**

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in **tribulations** also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience**;*

*The devil doesn't want you bringing God any glory with your life...so if you've added **TEMPERANCE**, you better buckle up...b/c hardships, afflictions, trials, tribulations, etc...are all right around the corner!*

# LEVEL 5: FATHERS

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## A. What they KNOW:

1. They know the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 2:13**

*I write unto you, **fathers**, because **ye have known him** that is from the beginning...*

**1 John 2:14**

*I have written unto you, **fathers**, because **ye have known him** that is from the beginning...*

2. Fathers don't just know ABOUT God...they KNOW GOD

**Ps. 103:7**

*He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

## B. Characteristics of their LIFE:

1. Fathers are fully \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritually \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fathers have \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual offspring, and are \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 4:14-15**

*I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. 15 For though ye have ten thousand **instructors** in Christ, yet have ye not many **fathers**: for in Christ Jesus I **have begotten you** through the gospel.*

**Eph. 6:4**

*And, ye **fathers**, provoke not your children to wrath: **but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.***

3. They are to be \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 4:16**

*Wherefore I beseech you, **be ye followers of me.***

## C. How to they GROW?

1. They must ADD \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Pet. 1:6**

*And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; **and to patience godliness;***

2. This is where Christ begins to be manifest in YOUR \_\_\_\_\_...

**1 Tim. 3:16**

*And without controversy great is **the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.***

3. GODLINESS is a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ our “adding” of PATIENCE...and not BEFORE then...
4. GODLINESS can be \_\_\_\_\_!

**2 Timothy 3:5**

*Having **a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away***

## **LEVEL 6: ELDERS**

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**A. What they KNOW:**

1. Elders know \_\_\_\_\_
2. An Elder is a spiritual FATHER with \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Characteristics of their LIFE:**

1. They are \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord

**1 Pet. 5:1-4**

*The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [thereof], not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over [God's] heritage, **but being ensamples to the flock.** And when the **chief Shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

2. They are to be \_\_\_\_\_ submission

**1 Pet. 5:5**

*Likewise, ye **younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.** Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

3. They are to be \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Tim. 5:1**

*Rebuke not an **elder**, but intreat him **as a father**; and the younger men as brethren;*

4. They are to be \_\_\_\_\_

**Heb. 13:7**

*Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: **whose faith follow**, considering the end of their conversation.*

C. How do they GROW?

1. They must ADD \_\_\_\_\_ to GODLINESS

**2 Pet. 1:7**

*And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

2. "Brother kindness" - translated from " \_\_\_\_\_ " - "brotherly love"

**Rev. 3:7**

*And to the angel of the **church in Philadelphia** write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*

3. If you are saved today, all of us have the same Father - we are \_\_\_\_\_ (and sisters) in the Lord Jesus Christ...

**2 Cor. 6:18**

*And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my **sons and daughters**, saith the Lord Almighty.*

4. Love for our brothers and sisters is just the spiritual RESULT of real \_\_\_\_\_!

5. Brotherly Kindness \_\_\_\_\_ one another

**Romans 12:10**

*Be **kindly affectioned** one to another with **brotherly love**; in honour **preferring** one another*

6. Brotherly Kindness will be \_\_\_\_\_ as we \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 18:24**

*A man that hath friends **must shew himself friendly**; and **there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother**.*

# LEVEL 7: AGED MEN and WOMEN

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## A. What they KNOW:

1. They know the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. They are an ELDER with \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Characteristics of their LIFE:

1. They continue to \_\_\_\_\_ in their old age, and serve as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the elders of the church

**Ps. 92:14**

*They shall still bring forth **fruit in old age**; they shall be fat and flourishing;*

2. They are an example of \_\_\_\_\_

**Titus 2:1-3**

*But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the aged men **be** sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that they **be in behaviour** as becometh holiness, **not** false accusers, **not** given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

3. They are \_\_\_\_\_ the young men/women

**Titus 2:6**

*Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.*

**Titus 2:4**

*That they may teach the **young women**...*

4. They are like \_\_\_\_\_ "the aged"

**Philemon 1:9**

*Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as **Paul the aged**, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.*

## C. How do they GROW?

1. They must ADD \_\_\_\_\_ to BROTHERLY KINDNESS

**2 Pet. 1:7**

*And to godliness brotherly kindness; **and to brotherly kindness charity.***

2. Charity \_\_\_\_\_ UP, it does not \_\_\_\_\_ DOWN

**1 Cor. 8:1**

*Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.***

**Rom. 14:15**

But if **thy brother** be grieved with thy meat, **now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him** with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

3. Charity is the \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

*And now abideth **faith, hope, charity**, these three; but **the greatest of these is charity.***

4. If Brotherly love (*Philadelphia*) is love \_\_\_\_\_ the brethren, then Charity is love \_\_\_\_\_ the brethren

**2 Thessalonians 1:3**

*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and **the charity** of every one of you all **toward each other aboundeth;***

5. Charity is the \_\_\_\_\_ that hold the other 6 things \_\_\_\_\_!

**Col. 3:12-14**

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 **And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.***

*If you don't GROW to HERE...all the other things FALL APART!*