

Personal Spiritual Development

Developing Spiritual Maturity

We're glad you made a choice to commit to this series of devotional meditations. This series is a part of an attempt designed to assist Christians to walk toward Spiritual Maturity. Each section will consist of a short Bible reading for each day of the week. There will also be a short paragraph of basic commentary about the focus for the week followed by a few questions that are designed to help you focus on the scriptures you read. This is not intended to be an in depth study of anything, but a deep desire to get people back into meditating on God's Word. Since each week builds on the previous week, I encourage you to prayerfully commit to staying with your commitment even if you miss a day or two. I also encourage you to speak with someone who will participate with you on this journey or at least hold you accountable to stay with it. May God richly Bless you in your desire to walk closer with HIM.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MATERIAL:

*"...that you may **become mature** Christians and may fulfill **God's will** for you." Col. 4:12b*

"We are not meant to remain as children ... but to grow up in every way into Christ..." Eph. 4:14-15

WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL MATURITY"?

*"... This work must continue until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ."
Eph. 4:13 (NLT)*

Spiritual Maturity is _____

*"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him ... **should become like his Son...** Rom. 8:29*

Facts About Spiritual Maturity

1. IT IS NOT AUTOMATIC

"You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead...you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life... He's still a baby Christian!" Heb. 5:12-13

2. IT IS A PROCESS

“Learn to be mature.” Prov. 8:5

“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 3:18

There are no shortcuts!

3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE

“Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” (1Tim 4:7b)

“Train yourself to be godly”

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

(SCRIPTURES HAVE BEEN SUMMARIZED IN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING GREATER AWARENESS TO THE FORCE OF THE TEXT. You are encouraged to read every text quoted from your own BIBLE so that your confidence grows in GODS WORD.

Over the years I have been greatly influenced by many great men and women of God. It is their dedication and influence from their books and their lives that have brought me to the place I am today. I am hesitant to mention them by name as I know that I will not do justice to the spiritual family that has supported and surrounded me over the years. However here are the names of some very special people whose lives and material has helped mold me. Bro. Dale Marshall; G.E. Bradshaw; Bill Hairston, Sister Christine Shelby; Clara Tyler. Bro. and Sister E.R. Bruce; Bro. Leon Barnes; Marvin Phillips; Lynn Anderson; Al Goff and my brother Patrick Kenee

Jeff