

James 1:2 (NKJV) - My brethren, **count it all joy when** you fall into various trials,
James 1:3 (NKJV) - **knowing that** the **testing** of your faith **produces** patience.
James 1:4 (NKJV) - But **let patience have its perfect work**, that you may be **perfect** and **complete**, lacking nothing.

Romans 5:3-5 (NKJV) – "And not only that, but **we also glory in tribulations, knowing that** tribulation **produces** perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT) – "Dear friends, **don't be surprised at the fiery trials** you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering."

7. A Mature Christian Has a Servant's Heart

True spiritual maturity is demonstrated through humility and service.

Spiritual Aspect:

Jesus modeled servant leadership.
God exalts those who humble themselves.

Practical Application:

Serving in church, community, and family.
Putting others' needs before personal gain.
Being generous with time, resources, and encouragement.

Mark 10:45 (ESV) – "For even **the Son of Man came** not to be served but **to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) - **Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit**, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better than himself**.

Philippians 2:4 (NKJV) - Let **each of you look out not only** for his own interests, **but also for the interests of others**.

Matthew 23:11-12 (NKJV) – "But he who is **greatest** among you shall be your **servant**. And whoever **exalts himself will be humbled**, and he who **humbles himself will be exalted**."

Conclusion

A mature Christian is marked by love, faith, self-control, prayer, endurance, and a servant's heart. Maturity is not about perfection but about continual growth in Christlikeness.

Final Challenge:

Which of these areas do you need to grow in?

What steps will you take this week to mature spiritually and practically?

◇ **Closing Prayer:** "Lord, help me to grow in spiritual maturity. Shape my character and make us more like Jesus."



A Profile of a Mature Believer's Life

Sunday, February 23, 2025

1. A Mature Christian Walks in Love

A mark of maturity is an unwavering commitment to love God and others.

Spiritual Aspect:

God is Love and should be reflected in His children.
Maturity means loving even when it's difficult, forgiving freely, and seeking peace.

Practical Application:

Showing kindness and patience in daily interactions.
Choosing forgiveness over offense.
Helping others without expecting anything in return.

John 13:34 (NKJV) - A new **commandment** I give to you, that **you love one another; as I have loved you**, that **you also love one another**.

John 13:35 (NKJV) - By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another**."

1 Corinthians 13:4 (ESV) - **Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant**

1 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV) - or rude. **It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;**

1 Corinthians 13:6 (ESV) - **it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.**

1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV) - **Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

1 Corinthians 13:8 (ESV) - **Love never ends.**

1 John 4:7-8 (NLT) - Dear friends, **let us continue to love one another**, for love comes from God. **Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.**

2. A Mature Christian Lives by Faith, Not Feelings

Faith is a constant reliance on God, not emotions or circumstances.

Spiritual Aspect:

Trusting in God's promises even when things don't make sense.
Not being controlled by fear or anxiety.

Practical Application:

Making decisions based on God's Word rather than emotions.
Maintaining joy even in trials.
Being faithful in tithing, giving, and obedience to God.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) – "For **we walk** by faith, not by sight."

Hebrews 11:6 (AMP) - But **without faith it is impossible** to please and be satisfactory to Him. For **whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe** that God exists and that **He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him** [out].

Romans 10:17 (ESV) – "So **faith comes from hearing**, and hearing through the word of God."

3. A Mature Christian Guards Their Words

What comes out of our mouths reveals the state of our hearts.

Spiritual Aspect:

Words have power to bring life or destruction.

Speaking truth and wisdom, not gossip or negativity.

Practical Application:

Controlling speech in anger.

Encouraging others rather than tearing them down.

Speaking God's Word over circumstances.

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV) – "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) – "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that **your words will be an encouragement** to those who hear them."

James 3:2 (ESV) – "For we all stumble in many ways. And **if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man**, able also to bridle his whole body."

4. A Mature Christian Lives a Life of Word and Prayer

A mature believer maintains constant communication with God.

Spiritual Aspect:

Word and Prayer strengthens my relationship with God.

Both are ways

of receiving wisdom, direction, and power.

Practical Application:

Making time for daily prayer and study of the Word.

Praying for others and not just self.

Praying before making decisions.

Psalms 119:105 (NKJV) – "Your word is a **lamp** to my feet And a **light** to my path."

John 8:31-32 (NKJV) – "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you **abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed. And **you shall know the truth**, and **the truth shall make you free.**'"

Proverbs 4:20-22 (NKJV) – "My son, **give attention to my words**; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For **they are life** to those who find them, And **health to all their flesh.**"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV) – "Rejoice always, **pray** without ceasing, **give thanks in all circumstances...**"

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) – "Be **anxious for nothing**, but in **everything by prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your **requests** be made known to God."

James 5:16 (AMP) - The **earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer** of a righteous man **makes tremendous power available** [dynamic in its working].

5. A Mature Christian Bears the Fruit of the Spirit

The evidence of spiritual growth is the fruit of the Spirit in daily life.

Spiritual Aspect:

A transformed heart produces good fruit.

The Holy Spirit cultivates Christlike character.

Practical Application:

Responding with patience in frustrating situations.

Showing kindness to difficult people.

Exercising self-control in speech, habits, and decisions.

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV) - But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23 (NKJV) - gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Matthew 7:16 (NLT) – "**You can identify them by their fruit**, that is, by the way they act."

John 15:5 (ESV) – "I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him**, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for **apart from me** you can do **nothing.**"

6. A Mature Christian Endures Hardships with Joy

Trials are opportunities for growth, not reasons to give up.

Spiritual Aspect:

Perseverance through trials builds faith.

God uses hardships to refine and strengthen us.

Practical Application:

Not complaining during difficulties.

Seeking God's purpose in trials.

Encouraging others who are struggling.