“IT'S TIME TO GROW UP”


Purpose: Review of the spiritual maturity process from the new birth as compared to that of natural growth: to encourage the Saints to move into a deeper knowledge of God. Thereby, able to go beyond fundamental knowledge (milk of the word) to the solid food (meat) of God’s word.

Misconceptions about being and adult, or “grown”.
I can do what I want, go where I want, when I want, how I want. Don’t’ have to answer to anyone

Reality:
There are rules in society. If you violate, there are consequences for your actions. We have a choice or free will to do as we choose. Deuteronomy 30:19. If our will is outside of God’s, the result is eternal death.

Facts:
1. God won’t force himself, on you. You have the choice to let him in. **Revelations 3:20**
2. You’ve been bought with a price. **1 Corinthians 6:20**
3. Your body is not your own. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
4. Once saved, you’re a new creation in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Note: A baby doesn’t go from birth to eating on solid food and meat. There’s a process.

Stages of development: (from human baby to adulthood/grown)

   a) Inception: beginning, as of a project, (from inceptus-past participle of incipere.= begin or take up). 
   b) Incubation: from inception to birth) (in womb, total dependence on mother).
   c) Birth: exposure to the outside world, elements, people, influences, things.
   d) Infancy: dependent on others and desires milk for sustenance. Toddler, taking risks, more independent/selfish. 
   e) Childhood: same but able to digest more solids, independent (from experience), discerning likes and dislikes, personality. 
   f) Adolescent: Making choices, accountable for actions, making life choices, influence from peers. 
   g) Adulthood: can handle the real stuff, from experience. More definite wants/likes. Impressed with outside appearance, material gain, a hope to have a successful life and be remembered as a good person.

Stages of Christian:
1. Inception: seed of the word is planted
2. Incubation: word begins to stir on the in your spirit. Divine revelation of the saving power of Jesus, acknowledgement of the sinful nature. Realize need for repentance and salvation.

   **Gnosis:**=Greek word meaning knowledge)
The unsaved get a knowledge of the lord that brings salvation. John 17:3, A personal knowledge of the Lord that comes under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit that enables one to believe that Jesus is the Christ. To believe in the heart and confess with the mouth brings salvation. (Matt. 16:16-18, John 1:12-13, Rom. 10:8-10) Christians with this gnosis knowledge are called babes in Christ who can only digest the milk of the word.

3. New Birth: Confession of Christ as Savior (new creature in Christ) 2 Cor. 5:17. Desiring the milk of the word. What is the word saying to me? What does it mean for me? Ephesians 1:18 (Paul prays that they would begin to grow.

4. Infant: Relying on the milk of the word but able to be fed some solid food. New member classes, Bible study, getting new exposure to the word and it’s meaning. Passing from eternal death to eternal life. Faith that Christ’s finished work at Calvary is sufficient. Acts 16:30-31, Ephesians 2:8-9. Nothing you can do to earn it.


6. Childhood: Experiencing the grace of God, covering power of the blood to heal, deliver and cleanse. Concerned with outside appearance, beginning to learn God focuses on the heart. 2 Samuel 16:7. Developing an appetite for the meat of the word. More of God is revealed by your faith walk and the hunger for him moves you to find satisfaction.


Epignosis: deeper knowledge (epi=above, beyond, after or deeper).

8. Adulthood: (Grown): Mature in Christ, eating the meat of the word. No longer speaking or acting like a child. Knowing the true meaning of repentance, a deeper knowledge of God-having gone through the process and being weaned so that the solid food and meat of God’s word can be digested. There is now evidence and a knowledge of the hope of his calling: that we would reign with him in glory.

God’s will before mine: Luke 9:23-24

Trust ing enough to do what he says, when he says: Gen 12:4 (Abraham)

Faith to accept is correction as well as his favor. Ezekiel 1:1-28, Hebrews 12:5-6, 2 Timothy 3:16.

Meditate on the word: Joshua 1:8, Psalms 119:11, Luke 6:45 (don’t talk about it, do it)
