

# MZRF BIBLE STUDY

August - Summer 2019

## What Constitutes Christian Maturity

*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 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. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?... For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14)*

### Synopsis:

Every living thing grows from infancy to maturity. And no living thing attains maturity overnight. It is certainly a progression. In humans, the progression starts from infancy to pre-teen to teenager to young adult and to full adult. However, Christian maturity has nothing to do with human aging process and has very little to do with how long one has professed to be a Christian. Most certainly, quoting swaths and swaths of bible passages does make one a matured Christian. It has everything to do with Christlikeness – becoming more and more like Christ throughout our lifetime. References to relevant scriptures will help us to pin-point what categorically constitute Christian maturity.

### 1. What is a Christian or Spiritual maturity

### 2. Factors that don't determine Spiritual growth or maturity

- a. Social/Economic/Political Status
- b. Degrees from School of Divinity
- c. Numbers of years of professing the Christian Faith
- d. Religious titles
- e. Spiritual Gifts

### 3. Signs of Spiritual Maturity

- a. Obedience/Submission (to God's Word and to His ordained authority)
- b. Simplicity/Teachability/Corrigibility
- c. Fruit of the spirit
- d. Rage/Anger Management; Tongue control

- e. Emotional Temperament

#### **4. Areas to Appraise Growth**

- a. Love
- b. Grace
- c. Faith
- d. Holiness
- e. Humility
- f. Relationship with the World
- g. Depth of Scripture Knowledge
- h. Identifiable Spiritual gifts
- i. Established Prayer-life
- j. Spiritual Power/Authority

#### **5. Hinderances to Spiritual Growth**

- a. Luke-warmness/Backsliding
- b. Carnality/Flesh
- c. Lack of willingness and determination (Zeal)
- d. Love of the world/Idolatry
- e. Lack of Conviction/Repentance and True Conversion
- f. No fear or reverence of God
- g. Comfort zone/Complacency/Stagnation
- h. Spiritual Arrogance (have-arrived, unteachable and incorrigible)

#### **6. Necessary factors to attain growth**

- f. God's touched heart/Willingness
- g. Price to pay (Self-denial: time, trials, lack and suffering)
- h. Discipleship
- i. The role of the Holy Ghost