



Gary Chappel – August 27, 2017

## Let's Talk About Maturity.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)**

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity,... **Hebrews 6:1a (NIV)**

## So what is Maturity?

**teleios** (Greek) - brought to completion; fully accomplished, fully developed, James. 1:4a; fully realized, thorough, 1 John. 4:18; complete, entire, as opposed to what is partial and limited

### ★ Maturity is God's Goal for EVERY Believer.

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.<sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. **Colossians 1:27-28 (NIV)**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.<sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **James 1:2-4 (NIV)**

## ★ How do I become mature?

### 1. I become mature when I desire to be mature.

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

**Hebrews 5:14 (NIV)**

### 2. I seek God's help.

a. I pray. James 4:3; Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42

b. I get to know Him.

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.<sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. **Luke 8:11-12 (NIV)**

### 3. I refuse to quit.

Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

**Luke 8:13 (NIV)**

### 4. I eliminate distractions.

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. **Luke 8:14 (NIV)**

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;<sup>19</sup> but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. **Mark 4:18-19 (NIV)**

### 5. I persevere.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. **Luke 8:15 (NIV)**