

# Spiritual Transformation (Maturity)

## Third Order Change

### The First Four of Thirteen Characteristics of Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth is a tricky thing to track, let alone outright define. We are called in 2 Peter 3:14 to “be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.” By “diligent,” Peter means that we are always to be on alert, with our mind focused on our development in Christ. Yet how can we best measure that growth?

The following is a list of several markers that are helpful in tracking spiritual growth. These are all things that we can expect to take place as we grow more mature in our faith. Let’s run down a list of thirteen different spiritual signpost that we can use to mark our path toward maturity.

#### **1. *A hunger to know God more***

If we are maturing in our Christian walk, then we will certainly have a growing hunger to know God. We will not be satisfied with how well we know Him or His ways, instead, we will constantly yearn for deeper understanding of our Father.

#### **2. *A desire to know the truth of Gods Word***

If we are growing in the Lord, then we will want to know what HE says about everything. A vital part of our maturity is understanding the power and relevance of God’s Word for us today, in every area of our lives. We must seek to discover what Scripture says about our families, relationships, ministries, churches, careers, politics, and every other aspect of life.

Let me ask you a tough question: How much time do you spend reading the Word of God, compared to the time you spend watching television reading magazines or scanning newspapers and Web sites? I know that it is important to stay up-to-date on world events, but we must be careful not to give too much of our time away to worldly things. It is much better to know what God has to say than what man has to say.

#### **3. *An increasing awareness of our sinfulness***

As we grow closer to the Lord, we become more and more aware of our desperate need for Him. This doesn’t meant that mature Christians should view themselves as worthless or devalue their self-worth in any way. Rather, this awareness means that our maturing spirit simply will not tolerate the same sins that once came so easily. At salvation, we become new creations (2 Cor. 5:17), but as long as we remain in our earthly bodies, we’re subject to the human drives and desires of the “flesh.” However, when we abide in the Holy Spirit, those things are brought

under His control, and we become increasingly aware of our own weaknesses. By recognizing these “Danger zones”, we can more effectively guard against them.

***4. A quick response to sin, involving genuine repentance***

Immature believers put off dealing with iniquity (sin) for as long as they can. Many people even admit, “Well, I know God will forgive me anyway, so I’m just going to hang on to this sin for a little longer.” What a horrible misuse of the grace of God. When we are growing spiritually, we will no longer be able to loiter so effortlessly in sin. Then if we stumble, we will want to bring that offense to the feet of God and repent of our actions as quickly as possible.