

Defining Spiritual Maturity

I. What do the Scriptures say?

- A. There is a vast difference between the definition of “Spiritual” according to the scriptures in their Hebraic context and the way many of us think of “Spiritual” today.
 - 1. How would you think of a person if I said, “They are really mature in the Spirit” or “They are very Spiritual.”
 - 2. We must become biblically solid on defining what we are contending for in our pursuit of Spiritual Maturity.

II. Scripture Study of Spiritual

- A. Spiritual - (Old Testament) When the Holy Spirit of God inspired, imparted, impelled, endowed, or manifested in or through an individual to cause them to be changed from their carnal state to a spiritual state.
 - 1. (1 Sam. 10:6, Is. 61:1-3, Ezek. 36:27, Hos. 9:7, Mic. 3:8)
- B. Spiritual - (New Testament) relating to the human spirit, or rational soul, as part of the man which is akin to God and serves as his instrument or organ
 - 1. (Rom. 1:11, Rom. 7:14, **1 Cor. 2:1-16**, 1 Cor. 14:1 and 12, Gal. 6:1)
- C. Maturity in Spiritual Gifts is never biblically measured by power or uniqueness but by the posture of the heart. (1 Cor. 12-14, Eph 1:3-16)
- D. With these verses we can rightly understand and define our pursuit of Spiritual Maturity.
 - 1. An individual who is transformed in heart and mind from their fallen carnal state to a renewed and righteous state that lines up with the nature and character of God by the power of the His Holy Spirit.

III. Imitators of God through Jesus Christ

- A. Jesus was, is and ever will be fully God in a human frame and within that human frame, He embraced the need for the power of God. Over and over He is placed in front of us as the expression and goal of spiritual maturity. His example is rarely given in the context of manifest power but rather in love.
1. (**Mat. 20:28**, John 15:12-13, Rom. 15:3, 1 Cor. 4:16-11:1, **2 Cor. 5:14-15**, 2 Cor. 8:9, Gal. 1:4, Eph. 3:19, Eph. 5:1-2, Eph 5:25, Phil. 2:5, 1 Tim. 2:6, Tit. 2:14, **1 Pet. 2:21-24**)

IV. Spiritual Maturity is Loving like Jesus loves

- A. A study in 1 John. 4:7-5:5
1. The call to walk in love for those who are in Christ (1 John 4:7-8)
 2. The Love of God manifest through us who are His (1 John 4:9-12)
 3. The result of those who are perfected in love by the Holy Spirit is confidence in their relationship with Jesus to the point where they do not fear His judgment. (1 John 4:13-19)
 4. The commandment of God is to love Him and His children. His love abides in those who through faith in Jesus have been saved and given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit produces the love of God in us for Him and His children. (1 John 4:20-5:1)
 5. Loving our neighbor with the love of God is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in us through our relationship with Jesus. If we are walking in the love of God for our neighbor then we can be sure of our salvation. (1 John 5:2-5)