

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MATURITY

Paul commanded Timothy to reach and maintain spiritual growth maturity by the faith cycle of the word of God:

“You, however, continue (meno / p.a.impv.2ps) in the things you have learned (manthano / a.a.ind.2ps) and become convinced of (pistoos / a.a.ind.2ps), knowing (oida / perf.a.ptc.nsm) from whom you have learned (manthano / a.a.ind.2ps) them.” (2 Tim.3:14)

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

Contrast [you] (su / emphatic pronoun); [however] (de / adversative conjunction)

- Timothy is contrasted with false teachers.

Continue (meno / p.a.impv. 2ps)

- Timothy is commanded to stay faithful to grace doctrines he has learned from his pastor-teacher.

Convinced [learned] (manthano) [become convinced] (pistoos)

- Timothy is commanded to stay focused and advancing in his spiritual growth maturity.

Communicators [knowing] (oida / perf.a.ptc) [from whom] (para+abl. of source / tis / abl.pl.n) [you have learned them]

- Timothy was appreciative of several wonderful sources of spiritual teachers that brought him to this place of spiritual growth maturity (2 Tim.3:15).

We will study five aspects of Spiritual Growth Maturity in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).
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1. Spiritual growth is a process of a believer maturing from a stage of baby on milk doctrines to an adult on meat doctrines.

There are two categories of the Word of God necessary for spiritual growth.

- “Like newborn **babes (brephos)**, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow (auxano) in respect to salvation (soteriology doctrines/ gospel, mechanic to salvation, 50 things).” (1 Pet.2:2; 1:23; Titus 3:5; Heb.5:13; Isa.28:9).
- “But solid food is for the **mature (teleios)**, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Heb.5:14)

“But grow (auxano / p.a.impv.2pl) in the grace (charis) and knowledge (gnosis) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (CWL doctrines). To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Pet.3:18)

There are three stages of spiritual growth as adults:

- Immature (1 Cor.3:1-3; 13:11)
- Mature
- Reversionism (retrogression) (Heb.5:11-6:1). Spiritual growth is not static. It is either progressing or retrogressing.

2. Paul combined learning (manthano / a.a.ind) and believing (pistoo / a.p.ind) as essential to spiritual growth development (2 Tim.3:14).

“All Scripture is inspired of God (theopneustos) [God breathed] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” (2 Tim.3:15)

Theopneustos refers to the principle of **inhale and exhale breathing** of Scriptures. There is no verb in 2 Tim.3:15 to place emphasis the profit (ophelimos) [advantage] of the inhale and exhale principle.

3. The inhale and exhale applies to baby milk doctrines and adult meat doctrines

(Matt.4:4; Deut.8:3; James 1:22-25). Inhale and exhale involves cycling the word of God by the faith cycle.

Hearing (Rom.10:17)

Completing (James 2:22; Rom.4:21)

Believing (Heb.4:2)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:7)

4. Paul warned Timothy that it was possible to go to church and study the Bible and yet never grow spiritually.

“Always learning (manthano) and never able to come to the knowledge (epignosis) of the truth.” (2 Tim.3:7; John 8:32)

“Knowledge (gnosis) makes arrogant, but love edifies.” (1 Cor.8:1; James 1:21)

This is because the faith cycle is essential to spiritual growth development both as a baby believer on milk and an adult believer on meat doctrines.

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge (epignosis) of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **so that** you may **walk** in a manner worthy of the Lord, to **please Him** in all respects, **bearing fruit** in every good work and **increasing** (auxano/ growing) in the knowledge (epignosis) of God.” (Col.1:9-10)

5. All Church Age believers can reach and maintain spiritual growth maturity in the CWL. God has provided Divine Operating Assets (DOA) for this very purpose in the plan of God.

We will examine ten of these (DOA)

- Grace salvation (regeneration) (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Pet.1:23; John 3:3-8)
- Indwelling teaching ministry of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2; John 14:26; 1 John 2:20, 27)
- Canon of Scripture (2 Tim.2:15; 3:14-17; Matt.4:4; Heb.4:12)
- Soul able to be conformed to image of God’s Son (Rom.8:29; Eph.4:11-13; Rom.12:2)
- Spiritual gift of pastor-teacher (Eph.4:11-16; 1 Pet.5:1-4; 1 Cor.3:6-8).
- Local church (Heb.10:25; Col.1:24-29)
- Spiritual gifted members of the body of Christ (1 Cor.12:12-27; 1 Pet.4:10-11; Rom.12:3-8)
- Victor in Angelic Conflict and in the world (1 John 2:14-17; 4:4; 5:4; Eph.6:10-18)
- Logistical Grace (Phil.4:19; 2 Cor.12:9-10)
- Divine institution of nation and government that allows freedom of worship of Christ (Rom.13:1-7; 1 Tim.2:1-4; 1 Pet.2:13-17)