



Key References:

Ephesians 4:13 (ESV)

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Philippians 3:7–8, 15 (ESV)

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. [...]

¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

Hebrews 6:1 (ESV)

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Luke 8:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ *And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.*

“If the things of this world, pleasures and your possessions are starting to take more and more of your time and stopping you from moving ahead to what God has called you to. Then maybe there’s some good things in this world that you need to say ‘no’ to. If you’re so busy that you haven’t got time to get to church or be involved in the extension of His Kingdom, then you’re too busy.” – Ivor Lewis

Read Ephesians 4:13. **After salvation what is God’s fundamental goal for us within this verse?**

1 – To pursue a relationship with Christ - Phil 3:7-8, 15
Why do you think Ivor made point #1 of his definition of Christian maturity about knowing Christ? Read Philippians 3:7-8, 15. What do you think of the use of “knowing Christ” as a present-verb?

2 – Build from a solid foundation of truth - Heb 6:1
 Read Hebrews 6:1. **What do you think are the elementary doctrines given here? Is it a problem in the church that we get stuck on the basics? Why do you think people get stuck on them?**

3 – Put the world in its place - Luke 8:14

Read Luke 8:11-15. **Concentrating on verse 14, how often is God’s truth drowned out by “the cares of riches and pleasures” in your life? How can we guard our hearts against the over-prioritizing of these things?**

Read the quote from Ivor on the left. **Are there any areas in your life where things are taking up too much of your time?**

4 – Not just hearing, but doing the word - Heb 5:14

Look at Hebrews 5:11-14. The writer encourages them that they could be teachers of God’s word by now. **What does it say that they should have been doing to mature properly? Do we need the same encouragement?**

5 – Use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor 14:20

1 Corinthians 14 is all about spiritual gifts. **Can you be a properly maturing Christian without also seeing growth with the spiritual gifts?**

6 – Intercession - Col 4:12

If it’s our goal for ourselves that we should grow up how is prayer a part of this? If we pray for maturity how might God bring it?

7 – Perseverance - James 1:2-4

Read James 1:2-4. **How has persevering through trials in your life brought maturity? Are you facing a trial right now?**