

The Case of Moving Toward Maturity

September 30, 2018

Scripture:

“¹¹ About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. ¹ 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, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits. ⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.” (Hebrews 5:11–6:6, ESV)

1) _____ your spirituality:

“² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2–3, ESV)

“⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:5–7, ESV)

2) _____ your freedom:

“¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,” (Titus 2:12, ESV)

“²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24, ESV)

3) _____ your influence:

“¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:15–17, ESV)

Remember:

“⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7, ESV)

Reflect:

“The Christian life is very much like climbing a hill of ice. You cannot slide up. You have to cut every step with an ice axe. Only with incessant labor and chipping can you make any progress. If you want to know how to backslide, leave off going forward. Cease going upward, and you will go downward of necessity. You can never stand still.” – C. H. Spurgeon

Seek:

- 1) In Pastor Ken’s message he challenged the Christian believer in *Moving Toward Maturity*. Part of that “moving” requires us to examine where we are in our spiritual walk. A sincere examination requires knowing both the positive and negative elements in one’s life. Consider where you currently are in your spiritual maturity. What are some positives you see evident? What areas do you find yourself needing to work on? Record your thoughts.

Share:

- 1) In exercising our freedom, we grow closer in our relationship to God. For this to occur requires that we put aside our old self and seek to be a new creation in Christ. Record those elements of your daily life that assist you in transforming your life to one of “righteousness and holiness” (Eph 4:24). Record your answers.

Serve:

- 1) Part of expanding your service in the kingdom is preparing yourself to share in the witness of the word to others. What will you do this week to improve on your preparation? Record your answers for sharing.

Prayer:

- ✓ This week, in your prayer time, ask God to open your heart and spirit to the truth of His word that you might mature greatly in His truth.