

GROW

No More Children

Foundation Statement: *God's will is that we grow up and reach a place of spiritual adulthood, spiritual maturity. This growing process, this maturing process is simply becoming more like Jesus. He is the perfect example of spiritual maturity. God never intended that we stay babies. He corrected people for being at a place in spiritual development below where they should be. We are to go on to maturity and not pitch a tent at immaturity. God wants us to be in this process of growing spiritually all the time where we are pressing towards full development. The religious rhetoric is that, "I'm only human, I'm flesh and blood, I make mistakes everyday, nobody's perfect and will all sin everyday." That type of thinking doesn't help you grow spiritually. Our mindset needs to be, "I'm not telling you that I've attained full development, but I'm pressing towards it. I've forgotten my past mistakes and stretching towards this goal of being spiritually mature and just like Jesus."*

I. Ephesians 4:10-It's clear that God wants me to grow up and not stay a baby – It's God's will that I grow up

A. Ephesians 4:13-Perfect man (**Perfect**-Full grown, adult, full age, mature); Perfect doesn't mean flawless it means full grown, adult, full age and mature

1. Could you reach the place of spiritual maturity, spiritual adulthood? This doesn't mean that you're done developing, but rather it just means that you're a spiritual adult
2. This growing process, maturing process, perfecting process is simply becoming more and more like Jesus

a. Ephesians 4:12-15-We are growing up into Jesus; He is the perfect example of being mature spiritually

- 1) **ERV**-No, we will speak the truth with love. We will grow to be like Christ in every way; TLB-We will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly—and so become more and more in every way like Christ; VOICE-These ministries will continue until we are unified in faith and filled with the knowledge of the Son of God, until we stand mature in His teachings and fully formed in the likeness of the Anointed

b. Eph4:12-**Perfecting**-Make one what he ought to be; What ought you be?-1 John 2:6-You ought to conduct your life just like Jesus

- 1) Luke 6:40-The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master
- 2) 2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMP)-[Because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another

3. Luke 1:80, 2:40-Jesus grew in spirit and he is our example and therefore we are to grow in spirit
- B. Ephesians 4:13-15-*Be no more children*-God's plan is for you to reach this place of spiritual adulthood and be no more a **child** (Nepios-Infant, little child, childish, untaught, unskilled)
 1. We are not meant to stay babies-1 Corinthians 3:1-3-They are getting rebuked for STILL being babies (*You are YET carnal*)
 - a. 1 Corinthians 14:20-**KJ**-*Brethren be not children in understanding; in understanding be men; **AMP**-Brethren, do not be children [immature] in your thinking; be infants in [matters of] evil, but in your minds be mature [men].*
 - b. 1Cor13:11-*When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things*
 - c. 2 Peter 3:18-*Grown in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ*
 2. Hebrews 5:11-6:1-Let us go on to maturity – You don't pitch a tent at babyhood
 - a. *For when the time you ought to be teachers...such as have need of milk* – In spiritual development they are below where they should be and they are getting corrected for it
 - 1) Teaching is a mark of development/maturity-1 Timothy 3:2-6-A **novice** (new convert) shouldn't be teaching; 1 John 2:14-**Fathers**-Advanced in years, one who has infused his own spirit into others, teaches, experienced
 - 2) 1 Peter 2:2-They need the milk because you grow by the milk and apparently they aren't growing
 - b. 6:1-Let us go on unto **perfection**-Full grown, adult, of full age – They weren't going on to maturity, rather they camped out at immaturity
 - 1) (**AMP**-*Therefore let us get past the elementary stage in the teachings about Christ, advancing on to maturity; **CJB**-Let us go on to maturity; **MSG**-So come on, let's leave the preschool finger painting exercises on Christ and get on with the grand work of art. Grow up in Christ. The basic foundational truths are in place: turning your back on "salvation by self-help" and turning in trust toward God; baptismal instructions; laying on of hands; resurrection of the dead; eternal judgment. God helping us, we'll stay true to all that. But there's so much more. Let's get on with it!*)
- C. God wants you to be in this process of spiritual growth all the time where you are pressing towards full development-Philippians 3:12-15
 1. So much of the religious rhetoric concerning our conduct is that I'm only human, I'm flesh and blood, I make mistakes, nobody's perfect, no body could ever be perfect, we all sin everyday and that type of thinking does not help you grow spiritually
 - a. 12-He's saying I haven't attained this neither am I already perfect BUT I **FOLLOW** AFTER IT (Press on, one who runs a race to reach a goal, to pursue eagerly, earnestly endeavor to

- acquire); 13,14-I forget the things behind me and reach towards stretch towards this goal of growing up and being like Jesus – That's much different than the religious rhetoric
2. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be **THUS MINDED** (The mind he demonstrates in verses 12-14)
 - a. 15-Mature people think like this: *I'm not telling you that I'm fully mature and just like Jesus, but I'm in hot pursuit of it, forgetting the things behind and pressing towards the goal of growing up and being just like Jesus – It sounds to me like he believes he can get there*
 - b. 15-Immature, religiously correct people would say, *"I'm not telling you I'm perfect and I never could be after all I'm just a man, I make mistakes, I sin everyday, after all we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God none of us could ever be just like Jesus,"*
 3. 16,17-Hold onto what you have already learned and follow me; The way he's pressing towards this you and I should be pressing towards this
- D. Growing up should be something on our radar – We've been commanded to grow up (Ephesians 4:14-15)
1. You have to see your need to grow before you're even going to be thinking right and doing things to grow