

Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



Spiritual Maturity Pt 3

Disciplines of Maturity

Various Texts

Last time, we studied principles of maturity from *2 Peter 1*. There, we saw 8 character qualities we should *have as Christians*, in an *increasing manner*. They were faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness or endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. The **goal** of the Christian life is to ***become more like Jesus and love like Jesus.***

One foundational act after someone puts his or her faith in Christ, is to be **baptized**.

Baptism does not and cannot save anyone, but is an act of obedience to God and a public declaration of your *personal faith in Christ*. This is a **very serious step** and shows how serious you are about following Jesus.

A. Our Lifestyle

1. Desire to Know and Grow –
1 Peter 2:2

2. Self-Discipline/Control –
1 Peter 4:7

3. Schedule – *Ephesians 5:15-16*

B. Bible Reading & Devotionals - Luke 4:16

Luke 4:16 - And He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read.

B. Bible Reading & Devotionals - Luke 4:16

This is where *every Christian starts*. There are *many ways to read the Bible*: a Bible plan; read the Bible in a year; focus on one book per month or over a couple of months and *read through* it; listening to the Bible online or through a Bible app; read a chapter in *Psalms and/or Proverbs per day* in addition to other verses; and/or get a good devotional book, etc.

B. Bible Reading & Devotionals - Luke 4:16

If you read a devotional, get one from a good Bible teacher, or pastor, and *something with depth and not fluff*: Oswald Chambers - *My Utmost for His Highest* (classic); John MacArthur, Chuck Swindoll, Elizabeth Elliot, Joni Ericson Tada, or Truth for Life, or Open Doors USA has a **daily devotional** sent 5 days a week through email.

C. Bible Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

C. Bible Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

Reading is the *start*, and **studying** is the *next step*. There are a variety of ways to study the Bible. You can: attend a church service, small group, Sunday school, class, conference, listen to good teaching and preaching, watch online videos, read commentaries, read study Bibles, use pre-done studies on topics or books of the Bible, and more...

C. Bible Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

1. Attend a Good Church

God wants us to be faithful in our *attendance* and *involvement* in a **local church**, wherever we live. This is where we *hear God's word proclaimed, explained, and applied*. If you don't have a church home, find one. *No church is perfect*, but we are to **join** one and **serve**.

C. Bible Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

2. Study Bibles

There are a **variety of study Bibles**: *Life Application Study Bible*, the *CSB*, *HCSB*, *NIV*, and *NASB Study Bibles*... *ESV Study Bible*... *Youth Study Bibles*... *Quest Study Bible*, *Apologetics Study Bible*, *Defenders Study Bible* or *Evidence Bible*... *Worldview Study Bible*, *Systematic Theology Bible*, *Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* and more...

C. Bible Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

3. Commentaries

There are *numerous commentaries* available, and it depends on how deep you want to go into studying the Bible... The *NIV Application Commentary*, *Moody Bible Commentary*, *Baker Illustrated Background Bible Commentary*, *Jewish NT Commentary*. Some of these are available in **digital format** too.

C. Bible Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

3. Commentaries

There are also *free online commentaries* from *Bible Gateway, Biblestudytools.com, Bible Hub, Bible.org, NETBible.org*, and more.

Some of have multiple commentaries, that are a little older, but very helpful.

D. Prayer - Matt. 6:5-13, 1 Thess. 5:17

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - pray without ceasing,

Prayer is a vital part to your Christian growth.

Likewise, if you do not pray, you *will not*

grow. This is a big topic, and one I *want to*

touch on today. ***Prayer is talking to God***. He

speaks to us *primarily through His word...*

Example prayer: ***Colossians 1:3-14***

E. Fellowship - 1 Corinthians 12:12

1 Corinthians 12:12 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

E. Fellowship - 1 Corinthians 12:12

*Christians are the body of Christ, or **church**. We need each other. God want us to come together in fellowship. Fellowship is sharing life together - our hurts, our pains, our struggles, our ups and our downs... It means we live as family, serve the Lord, serve each other, serve those outside the body of Christ and do it together.*

F. Evangelism - 1 Peter 3:15

1 Peter 3:15 - but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

F. Evangelism - 1 Peter 3:15

Evangelism is part of the Christian life. We should be telling others about the *good news* of God's grace alone and salvation in Christ alone by faith alone. This is **not** our message, but *His*. We don't change it, but we can share it in a variety of ways...