

**“Spiritual Maturity Myths”**

# *Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)*

**It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,**

**to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up**

**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

**Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.**

**Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.**

**From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

**“We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching... But we are meant to speak the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ, the head.” Ephesians 4:14  
(Phillips translation)**

# Myths About Spiritual Maturity

*Maturity Myth # 1: Spiritual growth is automatic once you are baptized*

**“... though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again”**

**(Hebrews 5:12)**

***The truth is this: Spiritual growth is intentional  
(It requires commitment and effort to grow.)***

**“Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”**

**Philippians 2:12-13**

***Without a commitment to grow, any growth that occurs will be circumstantial, rather than intentional. Spiritual growth is too important to be left to circumstance***

***Maturity Myth #2: Spiritual growth is mystical,  
and maturity is attainable by only a select few***

***The truth is this: Spiritual growth  
is very practical.***

**“Take time and trouble to keep yourself  
spiritually fit.” (I Timothy 4:7 Phillips)**

***Maturity Myth #3: Spiritual maturity can occur instantly if you find the right “key”***

**The truth is this: Spiritual growth is a process that takes time.**

**God allowed Joshua and the Israelites to possess the land “little by little” (Deut. 7:22)**

***Maturity Myth #4: Spiritual maturity  
is measured by what you know***

**The truth is this: Spiritual maturity is  
demonstrated more by behavior than by beliefs.**

**“Though once your heart was full of darkness,  
now it is full of light from the Lord,  
and *your behavior should show it!*”**

**Ephesians 5:8 (living Bible)**

**“By their fruit you will recognize them”  
(Matt 7:16).**

**Pride: (I Corinthians 8:1) “Knowledge puffs up,  
but love builds up.”**

**Danger: (James 4:17) “Anyone, then, who knows  
the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins**

# **Five Levels of Learning**

*(Measurements of maturity)*

**Knowledge**

**Perspective**

**Conviction**

**Skills**

**Character**

***Maturity Myth #5: Spiritual growth is a personal  
and private matter***

**The truth is this: Christians need  
relationships to grow.**

**The proof we are walking in the light is that we  
have “fellowship with one another” (I John 1:7).**

**“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death” (I John 3:14).**

**Christians need relationships to grow.  
We don't grow in isolation; we develop  
in the context of fellowship.**

***Maturity Myth #6: All you need is Bible  
Study to grow***

**\* The Truth is this: It takes a variety  
of spiritual experiences with God  
to produce spiritual maturity.**

**“Remember today what you have learned about  
the LORD *through your experiences with him.*”  
( Deuteronomy 11:2 (TEV))**

**Proverbs 20:30 (TEV) “Sometimes it takes a  
painful experience to make us change our ways.”**

**Study *without service* produces Christians with judgmental attitudes and spiritual pride.**

**But Christianity is a relationship and a life. The words used most often to describe the Christian life are *love, give, believe,* and *serve*. Jesus did not say, “I have come that you might *study*.”**

**What many believers need are ministry and evangelism experiences where they can *apply* what they already know, relational experiences (like a small group) where they can be *held accountable* for what they know, and meaningful worship experience where they can *express* appreciation to God for what they know.**

**“Study is one component of the maturity process. Alone it will not give maturity. People need experiences in addition to study in order to grow. We must have a balanced strategy for developing disciples.”**