

## GROWING SOMEWHERE?

Human maturity is thought to be dependant upon reaching a certain age. But real maturity depends more on how a person acts and reacts as they face life. You and I both know people, even though they have reached an adult age, who still need to grow up. I knew a man in his early twenties who could outdo a two year old in throwing a temper tantrum, often to the chagrin of his wife.

Just like human maturity, spiritual maturity largely depends on our actions and has little to do with age or knowledge. Hebrews 5:12-14, talks about people who should be spiritually mature as still being babes. Do our actions demonstrate our spiritual maturity? In the letter of James we find at least five actions that indicate spiritual maturity. (Quotations from NKJV)

**Maturity Always Acts Positive Under Pressure**- James. 1:2-4, *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the test of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* Mature people recognize that through faith our patient reaction to pressures brings us to maturity.

**Maturity Always Acts with Love for All People**- James. 2:2, 8, *"My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ...with partiality."* *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well...* I Corinthians 12, tells us that we are many parts of one body and that no one person is better than another. They just have different functions, but all minister to the body. All should be loved equally.

**Maturity is able to Control its Tongue**- James 3:2, *"...if anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man..."* Words, once they are spoken, can never be retrieved. An old proverb says, 'A man should put his mind in gear before putting his mouth in motion.' Ephesians 4:29 says that only what is good should come out of our mouths.

**Maturity is about Peace-making, not Agitating**- James. 4:1, *"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members."* James says conflicts come from selfishness, a definite sign of immaturity. If a man seeks pleasure, he will never find God, but if he seeks God he will find pleasure in his life.

**Maturity is always Practical and Patient**- James. 5:16, *"The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* Whatever is happening in your life, good or bad, make it a matter for prayer. This is the practical thing to do. Then wait patiently for the answer from God.

Well, it looks like we all have a long way to go in our spiritual quest to grow mature.

LET'S GROW TOGETHER!

