

Christian Maturity: How Big Is Your Bucket?

Just Jesus Wk. 5

Pastor Eric Nelson

Community Group Questions:

1. How would you define maturity and immaturity? Give a few examples of each.
 2. Has the idea of Christian maturity been confusing for you? Explain your answer.
 3. Read Hebrews 6. What do we learn about maturity from this passage?
 4. How would you define spiritual maturity? Are you maturing now? Explain your answer.
 5. How have you benefited from 'stretching your bucket'?
 6. Look at the maturity equation above? What are you applying in this season of your life?
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MATURITY is the process of developing what's needed for the end goal.

Maturity is expected but not **AUTOMATIC** which makes immaturity **PROBLEMATIC**.

Immaturity is the gap between one's **CAPACITY** and the **TIME** they've been given.

Are you a maturing Jesus follower?

Hebrews 6:1-3 *Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.*

The Foundations:

1. Sin leads to death, turn from it and trust God.
2. Worship isn't about removing our sin but responding to our forgiveness in community.
3. Jesus is alive.
4. Those who trust Jesus will be raised with Him and judged in Him.

Hebrews 6:4-6 *It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.*

Since you can't put Jesus back on the **CROSS**, move forward in maturity with Jesus on the **THRONE**.

Spiritual maturity is not about levels of superiority but stretching **CAPACITY**.

Hebrews 6:7-12 *Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. 9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

Mature Jesus followers have a capacity for:

1. Thinking deeply about the truths of God.
2. Loving deeply as the people of God.
3. Hoping deeply until the end with God.

Hebrews 6:18-20 *God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*

Maturity = **TIME** + **APPLICATION**

Hebrews 7:23-25 *Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

How big is your bucket?