**FOLLOWING THE SIGNS OF GROWTH…**

**2021 Bible Study series**

21 July 2021

To be spiritually mature, we have to radically prioritize and identify what, in us, needs to change. We have to replace our desires as humans with that that pleases God. **Seriously, pleasing God has to be your priority.**

Many feel that reaching this goal is impossible? Matthew 19:26 states Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

-We can do ALL THINGS through Christ who strengthens us…

-ALL THINGS work together for the good of them who love God…

-…there is one God, the Father, from whom are ALL THINGS and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are ALL THINGS and through whom we exist.

As we strive toward spiritual maturity we must recognize the signs of our ALL THINGS progress. WHY? Because, the enemy will attack us in ALL THINGS that pleases God. The enemy will always attempt to speak to your mind to influence your heart. As we begin to spiritually mature on the inside, we will display the characteristics of God on the outside and exemplify the fruit of God’s Holy Spirit, not only to ourselves but also to others.

AS WE BECOME KINGDOM PEOPLE…WE ARE TO PROGRESS IN OUR PROCESS.

1 GROWING DISCIPLES

2 SEASONED CHRISTIANS

3 MATURE FOLLOWERS

4 GROUNDED BELIEVERS

5 ESTABLISHED SAINTS

LET’S GO DEEPER…

**1 GROWING DISCIPLES SEEK TO BUILD THEIR**

**OWN FAITH.**

**James 4:8 NLT**

**8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.**

As we take steps closer to God, we experience His goodness, grace and glory in our lives in new and varying ways.

**Matthew 7:3-4**

**3 “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye?**

**2 SEASONED CHRISTIANS CHOOSE THEIR WORDS WISELY.**

**Ephesians 4:29-30 NLT**

**29 Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.**

**30 And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.**

Immature Christians can't help but speak their opinions on everything and everyone around them who, in their opinion, goes the wrong way.

**James 3:2**

**2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.**

**3 MATURE FOLLOWERS GLORIFY GOD AND HIS WORKS IN US.**

**1 Corinthians 3:4-7 NLT**

**4 When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you acting just like people of the world?**

**5 After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. 6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 7 It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.**

We must be extremely careful to not idolize or misrepresent man by giving God’s glory and completed works to whom it doesn’t belong.

**4 GROUNDED**

**BELIEVERS…BELIEVE THE WAIT IS WORTH IT.**

**Isaiah 40:31 NLT**

**31 But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.**

DON’T WASTE YOUR WAIT!

When God says, “Wait,” we have decisions to make. When God says, “Wait,” we can control only two things: how we wait, and who we become along the way.

**5 ESTABLISHED**

**SAINTS BREAK FREE OF THEIR PAST FAILURES**

**Philippians 3:13-14**

**13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.**

You can identify how issues from your past (e.g. character flaws, ways of coping with pain and even family issues) impact your current relationships and decisions.