

**FOUNDERS DAY WORKSHOP  
PART II**

**DEVELOPING MATURE MEMBERS**

DECEMBER 14, 2013

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Clifford L. Harris, General Secretary  
Department of Lay Ministry  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

HOST

**COLORADO ZONE CHURCHES**

Cleaves Memorial CME Church  
Rev. Mark J. Hill, Pastor  
Mr. Runall Canady, Lay Leader

St. Luke CME Church  
Rev. Anthony Hill, Pastor  
Mr. Nat'nael Tekemariam, Lay Leader

Faith Mission CME Church  
Rev. Alberta Rogers, Pastor  
Ms. Charise Ivory, Lay Leader

KANSAS DISTRICT  
KANSAS-MISSOURI REGION  
THIRD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Mrs. Ozzie Carter, Colorado Zone Leader  
Mr. Phillip Jones, District Lay Leader  
Mr. James Wesley, Region Lay Leader  
Rev. James Hendrick, Presiding Elder  
Senior Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Presiding Prelate

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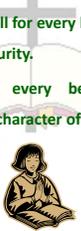
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**DEVELOPING AND BUILDING  
MATURE MEMBERS**

- The New Testament is very clear that God's will for every believer is spiritual maturity.
- God wants every believer to develop the character of Christ.




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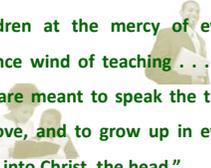
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**PAUL STATES IN EPHESIANS 4: 14 THAT:**

“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.”




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**FOUNDATION SCRIPTURE I**

Ephesians 4: 12-13 (12) "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ' may be built up (13) 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."

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**FOUNDATION SCRIPTURE II**

2 Corinthians 13: 9-10 (9) "We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong, and our prayer is for your perfection (10) this is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority-the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down."

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**MYTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY**



*"Sometimes To Understand What Is True We Must First Understand What Is Not True!"*

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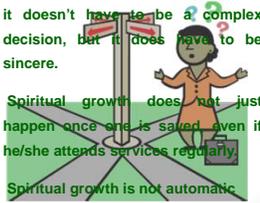
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**MATURITY MYTH #1** 

**GROWTH IS AUTOMATIC ONCE ONE IS BORN AGAIN.**

**THE TRUTH IS:**  
*Spiritual Growth is Intentional!*

- Discipleship begins with a decision; it doesn't have to be a complex decision, but it does have to be sincere.
- Spiritual growth does not just happen once one is saved even if he/she attends services regularly.
- Spiritual growth is not automatic with the passing of time.




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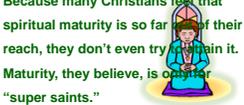
**MATURITY MYTH #2** 

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS MYSTICAL, AND MATURITY IS ATTAINABLE BY ONLY A SELECT FEW.**

- Because many Christians feel that spiritual maturity is so far beyond their reach, they don't even try to obtain it. Maturity, they believe, is only for "super saints."

**THE TRUTH IS:**  
Spiritual Growth is Very Practical.

- Any believer can grow to maturity if he or she will develop the habits necessary for spiritual growth. (Character is developed by the habits one develops).




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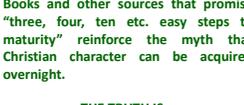
**MATURITY MYTH #3** 

**SPIRITUAL MATURITY CAN OCCUR INSTANTLY IF ONE FINDS THE RIGHT "Key."**

- Books and other sources that promise "three, four, ten etc. easy steps to maturity" reinforce the myth that Christian character can be acquired overnight.

**THE TRUTH IS:**  
Spiritual Growth Is A Process That Takes Time.

- God uses a gradual process of change to develop us into the image of Christ.
- There are no shortcuts to maturity; it is a slow process.




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**MATURITY MYTH #4**   
**SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS MEASURED  
BY WHAT ONE KNOWS.**

- While knowledge of the Bible is foundational to spiritual maturity, it isn't the total measurement of it.

**THE TRUTH IS:**  
Spiritual maturity is demonstrated more by behavior than by beliefs.

- The Christian life isn't just a matter of creeds and convictions; it includes conduct and character.

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Myth # 4 cont.

- The New Testament repeatedly teaches that our actions and attitudes reveal our maturity more than our affirmations.  
*James 2: 18 says, "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." James 3: 13 further states, "If your faith hasn't changed your lifestyle, your faith isn't worth much."*
- Any strategy a church develops to build up believers must help them not only learn the Word, but also love it and live it.

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**MATURITY MYTH #5**   
**Spiritual Growth Is A  
Personal and Private Matter**

- Most spiritual formation teaching tends to be self-centered and self-focused without any reference to our relationship to other Christians. This is completely unbiblical and ignores much of the New Testament.

**THE TRUTH IS:**  
Christians Need relationships To Grow.

- Hebrews 10: 24-25 states "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."

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Myth #5 cont.

- The quality of ones relationship to Christ can be seen in the quality of ones relationship to other believers.
- Most people must be taught how to develop relationships.

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**MATURITY MYTH #6** 

*All One Needs Is Bible Study To Grow.*

- Many churches stress the teaching of Bible content and doctrine, but give little, if any, emphasis to believers emotional, experiential, and relational development.

**THE TRUTH IS:**  
It Takes A Variety of Spiritual Experiences With God To Produce Spiritual Maturity.

- These experiences must include the five purposes of the church: (1) *Worship*; (2) *Fellowship*; (3) *Bible Study*; (4) *Evangelism*; and (5) *Ministry*. Thus, mature Christians do more than study the Christian life – they experience .

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Reference for Developing & Building Mature Members:  
*"The Purpose Driven Church". By Rick Warren*

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