

Marks of **MATURITY** Spiritual



Hebrews 5:12-6:3

Babes in the Beginning

- Most start out with **great** enthusiasm and zeal, but **little** knowledge and strength.
- We spend the rest of our lives growing, developing greater knowledge, greater strength and maturity (2 Peter 3:18; 1:5–8).
- How can we tell if we're growing? What are some signs of spiritual strength, or marks of maturity?

Mark of Maturity #1

- The ability to digest solid food (Heb. 5:12–6:3).
 - The ability to get beyond the milk drinking stage, to understand and use more than “first principles” or “elementary principles.”
 - An ability that *does* take time.
 - An ability that will be lost without use.

Mark of Maturity #2

- The ability to discern.
 - Between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).
 - Between the preacher and preaching (1 Cor. 3:1–9).
 - Between lesser and more important things (Luke 10:38–42; 2 Cor. 4:17–18).

Mark of Maturity #3

- The ability to be doctrinally stable (Ephesians 4:13–15).
 - Change if the Biblical evidence demands it.
 - But don't jump at every new idea.
 - Put an anchor down in sound doctrine and stay put—unless proven to be unsound.

Mark of Maturity #4

- The ability to adjust *without compromise*.
 - The ability to adjust to changing outward circumstances (Phil. 4:11–12).
 - The ability to adjust to the needs and weaknesses of others (1 Cor. 9:19–23; 8:13).
 - The ability to adjust to the preferences of others in matters of judgment (James 3:17).

Mark of Maturity #5

- The ability to see duties as privileges.
 - Which is how Paul saw preaching (Eph. 3:8).
 - Giving, a duty or privilege? (2 Cor. 8:7–8).
 - Eliminates the “minimum requirement” mentality (2 Peter 1:8; 1 Cor. 15:58).
- “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear MUCH fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:8).

What does
our growth
chart look
like?

