

NEW DESTINY CHRISTIAN CENTER

BIBLE STUDY LESSON: CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

INTRODUCTION

One of the hardest things for people to see in themselves and other Christians is their level of spiritual maturity. Sometimes people measure spiritual maturity by how well or deep a message is preached, or how someone intellectualizes the Word of God. Paul talks about maturity in Hebrews 6:1 and Philippians 3:12-15.

Maturity is the goal of every Christian. How can we know if we're growing as a Christian?

TEXT: (1st Thessalonians 1:1-3)

By Work That Produces Faith

This is not a work of labor, but a work of love. What work is Paul talking about? The Bible provides instruction on things that help increase our faith.

Using the words, scriptures and definitions below, fill in the titles, and match the Scriptures and definitions with the titles that best reflect them.

The Work of _____ the Gospel

Definition: _____

Scriptures: _____

The Work of _____ in God

Definition: _____

Scriptures: _____

The Work of _____ on the Word

Definition: _____

Scriptures: _____

- a) Trusting
- b) Sharing
- c) Standing
- d) Proverbs 3:5-6
- e) Psalm 1:2-3
- f) 1 Peter 3:1
- g) Deuteronomy 7:9
- h) Psalm 37:3-6
- i) Psalm 119:105
- j) Genesis 22
- k) Acts 1:8
- l) To endure or sustain. Difficult times shape our ability to stand on the Word.
- m) Reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.
- n) To have part; to receive a portion; to partake, enjoy, or suffer with others.

By Labor Prompted by Love

Labor is not so much as to the actual exertion which someone makes, but it is the weariness they experience from the exertion. {To feel fatigue} This love says, "I'll treat you right, even when you treat me wrong." (Agape Love)

True love is demonstrated through action.

True love is demonstrated through the willingness to continue when others are giving up.

True love is demonstrated through being patient with your brother and sisters, as well as your enemies.

- a) John 3:16-19
- b) 1 John 4:10, 19
- c) John 15:12-13
- d) Luke 22:33; 54
- e) Matthew 5:43-46
- f) Luke 10:25-37

By Endurance Inspired by Hope

Endurance - steadfastness, constancy. Endurance is a characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.

True endurance or the ability to hold onto the promises of God is not based on what we see, but on what we don't see.

Strong hope in God produces endurance in affliction.

Hope fixed and focused on heavenly things never fails.

Hope demonstrated is always better than hope concealed.

- a) Romans 5:3-4
- b) Romans 5:5
- c) 1 Peter 3:15
- d) Hebrews 10:35-39
- e) Romans 8:24-25
- f) Romans 12:12

CONCLUSION

As Christians, if we focus on growing in the areas of Faith, Love, and Hope, the elements that define spiritual maturity will fall in line. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13.