

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

TOPIC: I AM MATURED

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:11; ROMANS 12:1-2; COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

INTRODUCTION

Paul reminds the Corinthians of what it's like to be childish. When we were children our knowledge was very incomplete, and our behaviour was self-centred and immature. When we grew up, we developed a more complete picture of the world and our place within it.

So it is with growing up as a Christian. When we are young, we are busy with our little gifts and rivalries. When we grow up, we develop the faith, hope and love of the mature Christian.

1. How Do We Mature? Colossians 2:9-10 TPT

Our confidence to mature is based on our trust of our new identity in Jesus:

⁹For he is the complete fullness of deity living in human form. ¹⁰And our own completeness is now found in him. We are completely filled with God as Christ's fullness overflows within us. He is the Head of every kingdom and authority in the universe!

2. We mature and grow as we surrender – Romans 12:1–2.

We come into His presence through his Word and His Holy Spirit, He transforms your mind to conform to his will. In Romans 12:2, the word perfect in this verse means *mature*.

Paul specifically references this truth in that he uses the word “transformed.” It is a form of the Greek verb from which we get “metamorphosis,” which is nothing other than the process of maturing into what we were designed to be. The DNA of the caterpillar is precisely that of the butterfly that will emerge from its chrysalis. It has simply metamorphosed into that which it was designed to be.

In God's presence we learn, heal, grow, and mature – **Psalm 16:11.**

- Come near to God and he will come near to you [James 4:8](#)
- Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts [James 4:8](#)
- Be diligent to search the scriptures [John 5:39](#)
- Ask for wisdom [James 1:5](#)
- Let your light shine before others. [Matthew 5:16](#)
- Recognize that the testing of your faith helps you grow [James 1:2–4](#)

Q: Give practical examples of how surrendering makes us mature?

3. Sin Stunts Maturity – Psalm 119:11, John 15:3

We have to renew our mind in conformity to God's Word to battle sin. Sin begins in the mind. Stay in God's presence by talking to him all through the day about whatever delights you, whatever upsets you, whatever is on your mind, and repenting when needed.

As you read the Word and meditate on it, it cleanses your inner being, just as water cleanses the body. See [John 15:3](#) and [Eph. 5:25–27](#).

- “Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against you.” **Psalm 119:11**
- Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonourable, he will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. **2 Timothy 2:21**
- He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord! **Isaiah 26:3**

4. Testing of Your Faith – James 1:2-18

We also mature through trials. Read and note the repeated words:

- Testing of your faith – **James 1:2-18**
- Hearing and Doing the Word of God – **James 1:19-26**

Storms Makes Trees Take Deeper Roots – **Romans 5:3**

Q: How does the testing of your faith makes you mature?

Conclusion

Maturing as in growing older is a definitely good thing.

The biblical emphasis, however, is not on one reaching his prime physically in old age, but rather spiritually, psychologically, and mentally. Therefore, one did not fear advancing years but welcomed them optimistically. “Old age was not a defeat but a victory, not a punishment but a privilege.”

Thus, in the Hebrew community of Bible times, the elderly were not thought of as people who had outlived their usefulness. They were not made to feel that they ought to apologize for being alive. Thus aging was a cause for celebration; indeed, to be older was better.

*Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything. James 1:4.*