

Three Principles for Holy Transformation.

Transformed living

Becoming a Mature Christian

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until 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.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

– Ephesians 4:11-16

Four Questions to See if you are Growing in Spiritual Maturity.

Question 1: "Can I handle the scriptures well enough to spot false teachers?"

Question 2: "Can I speak the truth in love?"

Question 3: "Do I know what my gift is?"

Question 4: "Do I allow my love of Christ and others to deepen?"

God measures our spiritual progress in the way we answer these two questions.

Do I love God more deeply?

Do I love others more authentically?

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

– Ephesians 4:2

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

– Ephesians 4:2

Put off your old self.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! – II Corinthians 5:17

Let your mind be transformed.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. – Romans 12:2

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

– Galatians 5:16-25

Put on the new self.

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. – I Timothy 4:7-8

How to pursue holiness:

The more you are willing to say no to your sinful desires, the easier it becomes to say no.

Never let a exception occur.

Diligence in all areas is required to ensure success in one area.

FAILING AND BECOMING A FAILURE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. I Corinthians 9:24