

## FIVE MYTHS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Vineyard Values: Part 2 of 6  
Speaker: Graham H. Twelftree

### Myth I. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS **AUTOMATIC**

Truth: spiritual maturity is **intentional**

We must want to grow, decide to grow and make an effort to grow.

Galatians 3.27  Galatians 6.9  Ephesians 4.22

Becoming spiritually mature, or more like Jesus, depends largely on our deliberate cooperation with him, and our decision to put our lives in God's hands every day.

### Myth II. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS **INSTANT** WHEN WE FIND THE KEY

Truth: spiritual maturity is a **process** that takes **time**

Ephesians 4.15  1 Peter 2.2   
2 Peter 3.18  John 15

Because Christianity is a **relationship** with Jesus, spiritual maturity is a process that takes time.

### Myth III. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS FOR THE **FEW** MYSTICAL CHRISTIANS

Truth: spiritual maturity is **possible** and **practical**

1 Timothy 4.7: "Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit" (Phillips)

Spiritual lives fed by daily Bible reading and prayer (Psalm 119; Acts 6.4; 1 Thessalonians 5.17)

Speaking about Jesus naturally in everyday life (Acts 5.12–16; 1 Peter 3.15–16)

Small group membership (Acts 2.42–47)

Sunday worship (Hebrews 10.24–25)

Sacrificial service (Galatians 6.2)

Spiritual fruit in our lives (Galatians 5.22; Matthew 7.24–27)

Sacrificial giving of 1/10 of our income to our church family (Malachi 3.8–12; 2 Corinthians 8–9)

### Myth IV. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS **KNOWING** MORE

Truth: spiritual maturity is measured more by servant **behavior** than by beliefs.

"Study *without service* produces Christians with judgmental attitudes and spiritual pride" Rick Warren

Mark 3.35  James 2.18

Ephesians 5.8: "Though once your heart was full of darkness, now it is full of light from the Lord and *your behavior should show it!* (Living Bible)

Spiritual maturity is being able to **do** what God wants, and most of what he wants involves how we treat those around us.

### Myth V. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS A **PERSONAL** AND PRIVATE MATTER

Søren Kierkegaard (1813–55): the individual is much more important than the community, truth is not something out there to be discovered but what is found to be true for oneself.

Truth: Christians need **each other** to grow.

Hebrews 10.24–25  1 John 1.7  Acts 15.28

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main" Meditation 17, John Donne (1571–1631)

**Question:** Where will you be as a Christian 5 years from now?

Try:  
Gordon MacDonald, *Ordering Your Private World* (Nashville: Oliver Nelson, 1985)

Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998)