



The Life Core

The Source of Life & The Life Core

Equipping Mature Believers

- Training those in the third stage of a Christian's spiritual growth is significantly different

DEEP INTIMACY WITH GOD

Strengthening Faith 3

The Mature Believer

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Clarifying the goals for the fathers

- There is no fourth stage (1 John 2:12-14)
- Not stepping onto next stage but growing within the third stage
- Spiritual development will continue to unfold as we seek ways to maintain and grow in our intimacy with God through Christ.
- Even adults grow in their maturity, wisdom, compassion and in the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

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Maintaining our growth

- Maintain does not signify development
- But it does by prioritizing good spiritual disciplines
- "What or who is most important in your life?"
- Our responses reveal whether we are seeking Him with all of our heart, or not.

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The test of perseverance

- “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23).
- “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us” (2 Thes 2:15).
- “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good” (1 Thes 2:15).



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Growing further

- “I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown” (Revelation 3:11).
- The mature believer should be careful to keep a fervent heart for the Lord.
- No end to spiritual growth and intimacy with the Lord

“Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12).

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Integration at the third level

- We renew our purpose of knowing Christ
- Have Him live out His purposes through our lives.
- “Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11).

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Integration at the third level



“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

- Notice the theme of life in Jesus’ words: vine, branches, abides, bear and fruit.

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A look at training materials

- The process of always having significant quiet times
- The way to restore good quiet times after a lapse
- The path to gain insights from difficult passages
- The means of listening to God from the scriptures

Maturity produces fruit. Jesus not only expects us to bear fruit but that it remains (John 15:16).

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A practical look

- Can practice anywhere, even if on the road
- For example, on this third level, just find one or two brothers (or sisters if you are a sister) and find one common need.
- I ask the person what area he would like to grow in and I also share how I would like to see him grow in another area (e.g. listening to God, exploring a Bible book, etc.).
- Time is split between praying, sharing and discussing the two areas.

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Our Lessons

- This stage differs from the prior ones because its goal is to thrive within this stage rather than pass through it.
- Dangers that threaten our growth can be avoided by focusing on what God is doing through our lives at any given stage.
- The trainer equips each believer to carry out God's preplanned works He has for him, remembering that they can be done only through a growing intimacy with Christ and through God's grace.
- Christian training must do much more to prepare believers to grow in this third area of development.

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Application

- ➡ Write down three Christian life stories (yours or others) that have helped you in your spiritual growth.
- ➡ Have you ever faced burnout, a dried up faith, etc.? Pick one and reflect how it came about.
- ➡ What are your biggest challenges to maintaining a vibrant faith?
- ➡ Have you mentored anyone at the third level of spiritual development? What did it look like?


