

Move forward to maturity

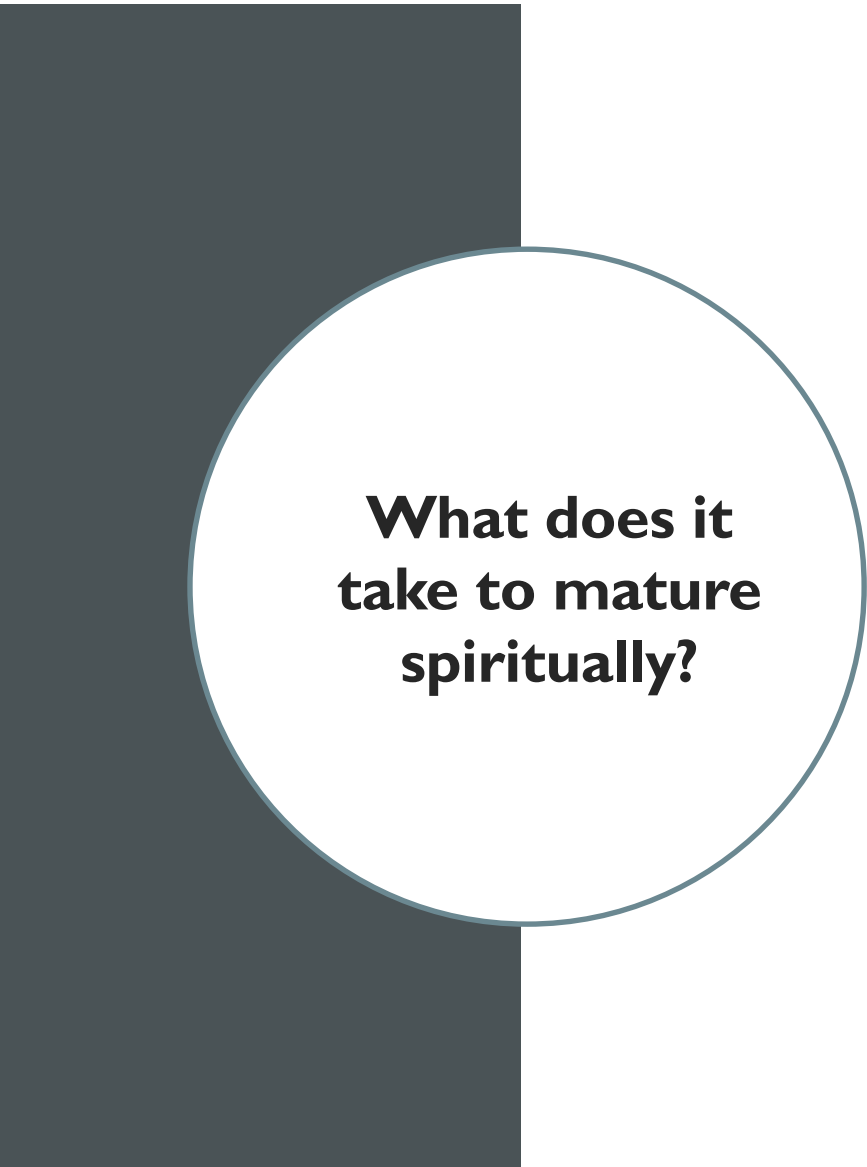
Hebrews 6



MOVING
FORWARD...



6 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites (**baptism**), the laying on of hands (**healing and calling**), the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (**just learning spiritual head knowledge**) ³ And God permitting, we will do so.



**What does it
take to mature
spiritually?**

- Self-awareness
- Learning from experience
- Encounters with God
- Effort
- Curiosity
- Humility
- God dependent

What is the risk of
not maturing
spiritually?

⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened (**self awareness**), who have tasted the heavenly gift (**interest**), who have shared in the Holy Spirit (**encounter**), ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age (**interest**)⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. **AMP [for as far as they are concerned, they are treating the death of Christ as if they were not saved by it]**

I Timothy 6:10

Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

John 10:28–29

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Concentrate on
growing in God

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. ¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love (spiritual fruit) you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence (effort using God's strength) to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized (do you want all of what God has for you or only a part of it?). ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (spiritual effort is fueled by love, faith, and hope)

I Thessalonians 1:3

³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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graph LR; A[Relationship with Jesus] --> B[Love, Faith, Hope]; B --> C[Effort with God's strength]; C --> D[Maturity and growth];
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Relationship with
Jesus

Love, Faith,
Hope

Effort with
God's
strength

Maturity
and growth

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham (**God has made promises to you!**), since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, (**a time of spiritually maturing**) Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things (**promise and oath**) in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged (**by God's promises!**). ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It (**our hopeful self**) enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Key components to your next steps of spiritual maturity:

- God's promises to you: Do you know what they are?
- Exercising patience as you wait for God to act.
- Are you taking hold of the hope God extends to you every day?
- Are you entering into the inner sanctuary to be with God (are you learning to worship God and enter into His holiness)?



The background of the image is a photograph of a field of tall, golden-brown grain, likely wheat or barley, reaching towards a pale, overcast sky. The image has a soft, slightly desaturated quality, giving it a serene and contemplative feel. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Blessing:

May you move forward in spiritual maturity

May you never slip back, away from God

May you always be fruitful for God

May you put forth an effort to draw close to God

Life Application

What is the main thing that helped you on Sunday?

What is one thing you are going to do differently on Monday morning?

Write down how you changed this week.