

Kingdom Living Digest

Encouraging the Body of Christ to Live for What Lasts



Upper Room
DELIVERANCE
Ministries

Stepping Into What God Is Developing

By Bro. Terrence Powell

Every season carries an assignment, and this moment in our walk with God is no exception. The days we are living in require more than surface-level belief or routine faith practices. God is drawing His people beyond familiarity and into formation; shaping hearts, strengthening convictions, and preparing lives for greater **Kingdom** responsibility. Spiritual growth is not optional in this hour; it is essential for standing firm, discerning truth, and walking with purpose.

Maturity is revealed not by how long we have known God, but by how deeply His life is being expressed through us. When faith moves from knowledge to practice, and from intention to obedience, it begins to impact every area of life. This season invites us to examine what is being developed within us, what is being surrendered, and what must be strengthened. God is faithful to complete His work in those who are willing to grow, and He is calling His people forward. Ready, rooted, and responsive to **His** leading.

**FROM PERFORMANCE TO POWER:
GROWING INTO SPIRITUAL
MATURITY**

Faith moving from routine into
spiritual strength

GROWING BEYOND CONVENIENCE

Maturity requires obedience
beyond comfort

**FROM INFORMATION TO
TRANSFORMATION**

Truth lived produces lasting
spiritual change

**KINGDOM LIVING TIPS
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CLOSING REMARKS

From Performance to Power: Growing Into Spiritual Maturity

By Pastor Lillie P. Powell

One of the greatest differences between present-day Christians and those we read about in Scripture is that, for them, faith was a living reality. They did not simply believe in God. They were **fully persuaded** of His truth and remained obedient and faithful to what they had received. Today, however, Christianity is often reduced to a Sunday-morning routine. Salvation has become attendance, programs, and memorized verses. Yet too often there is little evidence of real transformation in our lives, character, or conduct. Peace is missing. Victory is absent. And sinful strongholds still exert control where freedom should reign.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples that it was better for them if He went away, so that the Holy Spirit could come and dwell within them. That promise remains true today. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit takes residence within us. Not simply to comfort us, but to grow and mature us so Christ can live His life through us. Yet many believers continue trying to live the Christian life through their own strength, ignoring the spiritual power God has made available. This season calls us to make spiritual growth and maturity a priority.

Scripture reveals that there are **three** spiritual conditions people live in today, just as in Jesus' time. **First** is the natural person: the unbeliever who has not received Christ and has no desire for the things of God. Spiritual truth seems foolish to them because they are governed by their own understanding and control their own lives, while Christ lovingly stands at the door, calling them to repentance and salvation.



Second is the carnal Christian: a believer who has been saved but remains spiritually immature. Though Christ is present in their life, self still reigns. Worldly desires dominate, prayer and Scripture are neglected, and fellowship with God is inconsistent. These believers struggle with unbelief, frustration, and defeat because they rely on fleshly effort rather than spiritual power. Like infants, they require spiritual milk and are unable to grasp deeper truths, having not yielded fully to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Third, there is the Spirit-filled, Christ-controlled believer. This mature Christian has surrendered their will, desires, and direction to the Holy Spirit's leadership. No longer self-centered, they are empowered to follow Christ faithfully, bear spiritual fruit, and live in obedience. Their life is not governed by self-effort but by divine power. Through the Holy Spirit, they experience transformation, victory over sin, unity with Christ, and the strength needed to fulfill the Great Commission.

This season calls us to move beyond surface-level faith and into genuine spiritual maturity. God desires a church that grows up, not just shows up. Believers who are nourished by His Word, led by His Spirit, and equipped to reach the lost with power, purpose, and love.

Kingdom Living Tips

Practical ways to prepare hearts & minds for meaningful worship.

By Pastor Jonnie M. King

Growing From Milk to Meat

- ✝ **Practice what you learn:** Spiritual maturity develops when truth is applied, not just heard.
- ✝ **Feed your spirit daily:** Consistent prayer & Scripture strengthen discernment & stability.
- ✝ **Choose obedience over comfort:** Growth often requires letting go of what feels familiar.
- ✝ **Stay accountable:** Mature believers grow best in community, not isolation.
- ✝ **Yield to the Holy Spirit:** Spiritual strength increases when self-effort decreases.

Growing Beyond Convenience

By Pastor Jonnie M. King

Spiritual maturity is often revealed not by what we say we believe, but by what we are willing to endure for the sake of obedience. In a culture shaped by convenience, speed, and comfort, faith can quietly become something we fit into our schedules rather than something that shapes our lives. Yet Scripture consistently shows that growth requires stretching; moments where obedience costs us comfort, familiarity, or control.

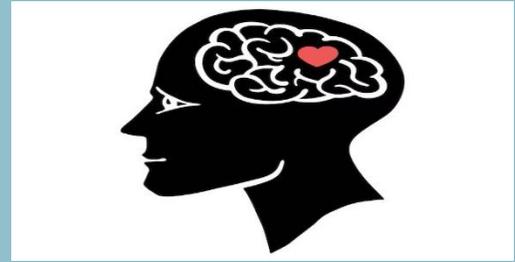
Many believers long for deeper spiritual power while resisting the disciplines that cultivate it. Prayer becomes optional when life is busy. God's Word is postponed until emotions align. Service is embraced only when it feels manageable. But maturity is formed when faith moves beyond preference and becomes commitment. Growth happens when obedience is chosen even when it is inconvenient, unseen, or uncomfortable.

God often uses pressure to produce perseverance and responsibility in His people. Just as muscles strengthen through resistance, faith matures when it is tested and exercised. When we choose obedience over ease, we discover that God supplies strength where our comfort ends. The season of growth calls us to let go of spiritual shortcuts and step into a faith that is rooted, resilient, and ready.



From Information to Transformation

Pastor Jonnie M. King



Access to spiritual knowledge has never been greater. Teachings, sermons, devotionals, and Scripture are available instantly, yet access alone does not guarantee growth. Spiritual maturity begins when truth moves from being something we hear to something we live. Information can inspire, but transformation requires surrender.

Many believers are well-informed but underdeveloped. Knowing Scripture without applying it leads to stagnation rather than strength. Maturity requires intentional alignment; allowing God's truth to confront habits, reshape priorities, and challenge long-held patterns. Growth happens when the Word is not only studied but submitted to.

Transformation is a process, not an event. It is formed daily through repentance, obedience, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. God's desire is not simply to educate His people, but to shape them into reflections of Christ. This season invites believers to move beyond accumulation of knowledge and step into the work of becoming. Living evidence of God's truth at work within.

Reflection & Application

Align your life with God's Kingdom through self-examination & action.

By Pastor Jonnie M. King

Spiritual maturity requires more than time. It requires intentional obedience and daily surrender. This season invites us to examine whether our faith is producing discernment, stability, and lasting fruit. Growth happens as we yield to the Holy Spirit and commit to deeper engagement with God's Word. Choose to move beyond comfort and into the fullness God is developing within you.



The Spiritual Thread

Connecting monthly insights that weave together wisdom for daily life.

Developing Your Kingdom Mindset

Knowing God Fully: The Foundation of Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth and maturity begin with knowing who God truly is. Many believers remain spiritually immature not because they lack sincerity, but because they lack understanding. To grow beyond spiritual infancy, we must move from surface-level knowledge to a deeper, clearer grasp of God's nature and how He works. Scripture reveals that God has chosen to make Himself known through what we call the Trinity: one God, eternally existing as three distinct yet co-equal Persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God is one in essence, yet three in person. This is not a contradiction, nor does it suggest three gods. Rather, it reveals the richness and completeness of God's being. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one" ([Deuteronomy 6:4](#)). At the same time, Scripture consistently presents the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as distinct persons, each fully God, eternally existing and working together in perfect unity.

One God, Three Persons

First, the Bible affirms that there is only one God. Christianity is firmly monotheistic. However, this one God is revealed in three eternal persons:

- ✝ The Father
- ✝ The Son
- ✝ The Holy Spirit

Each person is not a part of God, nor a temporary role God plays, but fully God in essence and nature. They share the same divine identity, glory, and power. This understanding guards us from polytheism while preserving the truth revealed in Scripture.

One Essence, Distinct Roles

Although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share the same divine essence, they carry out distinct roles in God's work. Spiritual maturity grows when believers recognize how God operates in order and purpose.

God the Father is the source and initiator of all divine work. He is the architect of creation, the planner of redemption, and the giver of divine purpose. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." ([John 3:16](#)).

Jesus Christ the Son is the divine agent through whom the Father acts. Through Him, the universe was created, God was revealed, and salvation was accomplished. "Through Him all things were made" ([John 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:16](#)).

The Holy Spirit is the divine power and presence by whom God's work is carried out and applied. He hovered over creation, reveals truth, convicts hearts, and brings spiritual life to believers. "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" ([Titus 3:5](#)).

Why This Matters for Spiritual Maturity

Understanding the Trinity is not merely theological, it is transformational. Spiritual immaturity often stems from an incomplete or distorted understanding of God. When believers know only about God but not how He works, they struggle to grow, to trust, and to live empowered lives. Mature faith recognizes the Father's authority, the Son's sacrifice, and the Spirit's power working together in perfect harmony.

This month marks the beginning of a deeper exploration. In the coming issues, we will take an in-depth look at God's role, Jesus' role, the Holy Spirit's role, and our role in God's redemptive plan. Growth begins with clarity, and clarity begins with knowing the God we serve.

Spiritual maturity is not accidental, it is intentional. As we learn who God is and how He works, we position ourselves to move from spiritual infancy to spiritual strength, equipped to live, serve, and grow in the fullness of Christ.

365-Day Bible Reading Plan

February

1	Day 32	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	2:11-25
2	Day 33	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	3:1-22
3	Day 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	4:1-17
4	Day 35	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	5:1-23
5	Day 36	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	6:1-13
6	Day 37	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	7:1-14
7	Day 38	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	7:15-9:7
8	Day 39	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	9:8-10:29
9	Day 40	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	11:1-10; 12:29-36
10	Day 41	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	13:17- 14:31
11	Day 42	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	15:22-27; 17:1-7
12	Day 43	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	16:1-36
13	Day 44	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	18:1-27
14	Day 45	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	19:1-25
15	Day 46	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	20:1-22
16	Day 47	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	32:1-29
17	Day 48	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exo	40:1-38
18	Day 49	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num	12:1-16
19	Day 50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num	13:1-14:4
20	Day 51	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num	14:5-45
21	Day 52	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num	21:4-9
22	Day 53	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num	22:5-38
23	Day 54	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deut	29:1-29
24	Day 55	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deut	30:1-20
25	Day 56	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deut	31:1-8
26	Day 57	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deut	34:1-12
27	Day 58	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh	1:1-18
28	Day 59	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh	2:1-24

Next Month...

Developing Your Kingdom Mindset, part 2.

Church Events

Click Photo/Link for More Information

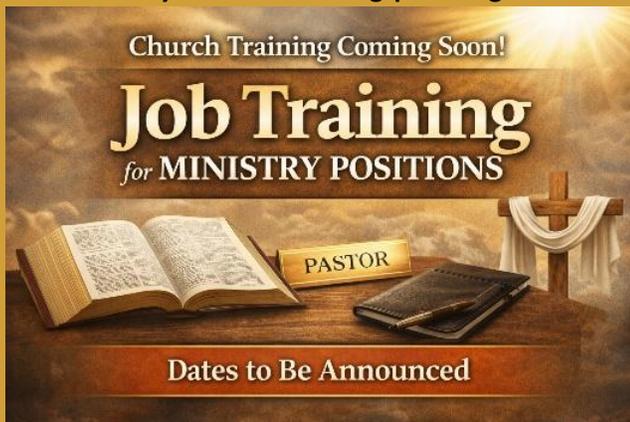
Pastors' Appreciation Fundraiser



Philippines Relief Fundraiser



Ministry Position Training | Coming Soon



Weekly Events

Click Photo/Link for More Information

Bible Study | Wednesdays | 6-7



Empowerment Service | Thurs | 7:30



[Worship Service | Sundays | 11:30](#)

[Past Sermons | Updated Weekly](#)

[Daily Bible Verses | Updated Monthly](#)

[Newsletter | Updated Monthly](#)

Announcements

Key church updates, service changes, and important community information.

No announcements this month.

From the Pastors' Desk



Personal messages from the pastors to the reader; offering encouragement, spiritual guidance, and timely reflections for the month.

This section helps strengthen the connection between the pastors and readers by offering wisdom, direction, and inspiration for daily living and spiritual growth.

Here the pastors can share their heart, provide biblical insight, and highlight the vision God has given for the church community.



Actions Speak: Aligning Words and Deeds

Pastor Jonnie M. King

The year 2026 offers us a new and exciting season in God, and with it comes a divine opportunity for reflection and growth. This is a time to take honest inventory of our spiritual lives and to accept responsibility for our personal walk with God. Spiritual growth does not happen by accident. It requires intention, accountability, and a willingness to mature. God is calling us to grow into the sons and daughters He has destined us to be, moving beyond spiritual infancy into Christlike maturity.

As we grow, we are invited to mature into the image of Christ, filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit and clothed in the full armor of God. This spiritual maturity enables us to stand firm, resist the enemy, and engage confidently in spiritual warfare. God has already provided everything we need for victory, but we must choose to prepare ourselves. Jesus reminded us that the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but He came that we might have abundant life. Mature, Spirit-filled believers are a powerful force against darkness. Let us take up our spiritual weapons, walk in God's strength, and put the enemy to flight in this season.

A Fresh Start: Living Out God's Word

Pastor Lillie P. Powell

As believers, we must acknowledge the dual reality of our earthly existence. We are physical beings living in a natural world, yet we are also spiritual warriors engaged in a spiritual battle. Becoming a Christian does not exempt us from the struggles, pressures, and challenges of life. However, it does change how we face them. Scripture reminds us that walking in the flesh means living according to our own desires, emotions, and human reasoning rather than being led by the Spirit of God.

God calls us instead to live Spirit-led lives. Lives that are intentionally guided by the Holy Spirit. This is a daily choice to follow the path of the Spirit, producing godly fruit, renewed thinking, and transformed living. We must guard our hearts and minds against spiritual complacency and resist becoming spiritually reprobate. A reprobate mind is one that has repeatedly rejected God's truth and no longer functions as it should, becoming bent toward sin. When God is continually resisted, He allows individuals to follow their own desires. Let us choose obedience, remain in step with the Spirit, and walk in the life and freedom God has provided.

Closing Remarks



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Scripture of the Month

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

Closing Prayer

Father God,

We thank You for calling us into growth and maturity.

Help us move beyond what is comfortable and into what is purposeful.

Strengthen us by Your Spirit, shape us by Your Word, and develop us into believers who live to honor You.

May our lives reflect Christ, and may we walk boldly in obedience and truth.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Connect with us!



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