

In what ways can you grow your gifts and skills to share in leadership within the Church?

♦ **Stage Five – Spiritual Parent**

Spiritual parenting consists of making disciples and creating disciple-making environments. It entails the acknowledgement of spiritual responsibility in growing the Kingdom and building others up. Paul’s goal is that every believer is trained up to use their gifts for the Kingdom and glory of God.

Who do you know who is a Spiritual Parent? What do they do?

♦ **Stage 6 – Spiritual Grandparent**

Spiritual Grandparents guide other parents through ongoing wisdom, coaching, and mentoring. They have a “multigenerational” perspective of the Church that longs to equip future generations for the ongoing work of the Kingdom.

**Who are the Spiritual Grandparents in your life?
What do they do?**

Col 1:28-29 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

**THIS WEEK, I WILL REPENT OF CONSUMERISM
AND SEEK TO INVEST IN THE KINGDOM BY...**



**WEEK 11 – MATURING DISCIPLES
COLOSSIANS 1:28-29
(AND HEBREWS 5:12-13)**

TODAY’S VERSES:

- Colossians 1:28-29
- Hebrews 5:12-13
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- Romans 6:23
- John 3
- 1 Peter 2:2
- 1 Corinthians 3:1
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 1 Timothy 1:5
- Ephesians 4:11-14

RESOURCES:

One Eighty (Free eBook):
[exponential.org/product/
one-eighty-book/](http://exponential.org/product/one-eighty-book/)



5 Stages of Spiritual Maturity:
[ourelement.org/downloads/
maturity.pdf](http://ourelement.org/downloads/maturity.pdf)



After finishing Chapter 1 of Colossians, today we take a side excursion to jump deeper into Paul's understanding of discipleship. The Bible contains truths that, when lived out, can yield deeper fulfillment than we could have ever imagined. What we look at today will hopefully help us honestly figure out where we are on our discipleship journey and hopefully be excited for the next steps.

♦ Stage One – Spiritually Dead

We all start here; no one starts spiritually alive because we are dead in our sin. Our hope is not to stop committing “sins”; our hope is to be made alive by only what happens in Christ. God, in Christ, freely gives us a new spiritual relationship (eternal life). We desire to reach and serve those who are spiritually dead by practicing hospitality--creating spaces for non-Christians to be who they really are and serving them like we were served by Jesus. We pray for them to experience the loving mercy of God as we share the Gospel, that in Jesus, we can have new life.

If you are spiritually dead, how is God speaking to you even now? If you have moved beyond death to life, do you remember your life before knowing Jesus? How does that give you compassion for others? Take some time to pray for those who are “spiritually dead” in your life by name.

One framework of everyday rhythms of life that helps us reorient our lives around Jesus and His mission is B.L.E.S.S.:

- ♦ **Begin in prayer:** Pray for spiritually open people in your life by name, directly and often, and for faith and opportunities to...
- ♦ **Listen:** with intentionality. Get to know their heart, story, needs, goals, disappointments, etc. Listen for next steps.
- ♦ **Eat:** share table meals. Invite and engage at your table or a 3rd space (coffee shops, sports event, etc.).
- ♦ **Serve:** others in tangible ways based on their actual needs.
- ♦ **Share:** the Good News of the Gospel in contextualized ways so it truly is good news to them, after relational equity has been established.

♦ Stage Two – Spiritual Infant

When we trust what Jesus did, when we surrender to His lordship with our lives, we become born again...but that makes us like an infant. According to Jesus, the first thing we do with spiritual newborns is establish them in the faith through baptism. Newborns need milk; they need someone else to feed them the basic nutrients for spiritual growth. There are practices like silence before God, solitude, fasting, resting, etc.; these are all things we can train one another in so we learn to abide in Christ.

What practices do you desire to grow in to more fully abide in Jesus?

♦ Stage Three – Spiritual Child

After baptizing new believers, Jesus says to “teach them to obey” everything He commanded them. Obedience does not make God love or save us; it is a natural response to His love first given to us. We don't just want people to “adopt a new moral code”; we want to lead them to depend on Jesus' power to live their life for Him. We desire increasing surrender to Christ. Children (“younger” believers) can't do this on their own; they need help (as we all do). Jesus said the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another.

Are you living life in community with others that help you grow?

♦ Stage Four - Spiritual Young Adult

Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs to practice everything He had demonstrated and taught. When they returned, He created space to reflect on what they experienced, and then He gave additional training and correction where needed. Church communities should have a shared leadership model so everyone knows there is space for them to grow in being equipped.
