

## OUR GOAL: SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*“... that you may become mature Christians and may fulfill God’s will for you.”*  
Colossians 4:12b

*“We are not meant to remain as children ... but to grow up in every way into Christ ...”*  
Ephesians 4:14-15

### WHAT IS “SPIRITUAL MATURITY?”

*“...In the unity of common faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity – the measure of development which is meant by ‘the fullness of Christ.’”*  
Ephesians 4:13

**Spiritual Maturity is being Christ-like.**

*“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him ... should become like his Son ...”* Romans 8:29

### FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

#### 1. IT’S NOT automatic.

*“You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead ... you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn’t very far along in the Christian life ... He’s still a baby Christian!”* Hebrews 5:12-13

#### 2. IT’S A process.

*“Learn to be mature.”* Proverbs 8:5

*“Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.”*  
2 Peter 3:18

There are no short cuts.

#### 3. IT TAKES discipline.

*“Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”* 1 Timothy 4.7b

*“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”* (NASB)

## UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Mature believers are called disciples.
2. I cannot be a disciple without being disciplined.
3. The more disciplined I become the more God can use me.
4. The mark of a disciple is bearing a cross. (dying to the things that take us away from Him)

(Jesus) *“Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”* Luke 14:27

5. How often am I to do this? daily

(Jesus) *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.”* Luke 9:23

6. What is involved in “cross bearing?”

Whatever it takes to give Christ first place in my life!

## SIX HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

**HOW CAN I GROW AS A CHRISTIAN?** Develop the habits that produce spiritual growth.

*“... You have put off the **old self** with its **HABITS**, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself.”* Colossians 3:9-10

### DEFINITIONS OF “HABIT”: (Webster II Dictionary)

- “A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition.”
- “An established disposition of the character.”  
“Sow a thought, reap an act.  
Sow an act, reap a habit.  
Sow a habit, reap a character.  
Sow a character, reap a destiny.”
- “A customary practice.”

## 1. GROWING THROUGH A DAILY TIME WITH GOD

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:4-5

## 2. GROWING THROUGH GOD’S WORD

*“If you **continue in my Word**, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* John 8:31-32

## 3. GROWING THROUGH PRAYER

*“If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will **ask for anything you wish**, and you shall have it ... in this way you become my disciples.”* John 15:7-8

## 4. GROWING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

*“Love each other just as much as I love you. Your **strong love for each other** will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”* John 13:34-35

## 5. GROWING THROUGH WORSHIP

*“But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God’s Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants.”* John 4:23

## 6. GROWING THROUGH GIVING

*“None of you can be my disciple unless **he gives up all of his possessions**.”*  
Luke 14:33

*“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always **put God first** in your lives.”*  
Deuteronomy 14:23