

Knowing and Embracing The Spiritual Stages of Development

Key Point: *If we are going to maximize our life for Christ, we must know and embrace the spiritual stages of development.*

(1 John 2:12-14)

Stage One of Spiritual Development: A child knows he is a child of God and is forgiven of His sin, but has not yet developed in overcoming the evil one and abiding in the Word of God.¹

Stage Two of Spiritual Development: A young man is one who is strong in the faith, overcoming the evil one and his opposition, and abiding in the word of God.²

Stage Three of Spiritual Development A Father is one who has a deep personal knowing of God beyond intellectual insight; along with being strong in the faith, overcoming evil one, overcoming opposition, and abiding in the word of God.³

We can move through the major stages as we learn and practice:

A. The Distinctive Elements We are to grow in:

1. We are to develop in godly thinking patterns and motives (Romans 12:2).
2. We are to develop in godly desires (Matthew 6:19-22, Colossians 3:1-5).
3. We are to develop in godly communication patterns (Ephesians 4:29).
4. We are to develop in godly behavioral patterns (Ephesians 4:17-32).
5. We are to develop in godly relational patterns (Colossians 3:12-14).
6. We are to develop in godly serving patterns (John 13:1-17).

B. The Determined Steps We are to take:

¹ Berg, Jim, *The Pursuit of Manhood: Discovering the Journey and Joys of Biblical Masculinity* (Greenville, SC: 2009), Syllabus from teaching), 19.

² Ibid. 20.

³Ibid. 20.

1. **Realization** – We must come to see truth and understand how it applies to our lives (2Timothy 2:24-26).
2. **Remorse** – We must come to feel godly sorrow in relation to our sin and desire to make things right with God and others accordingly.(2 Corinthians 7:10).
3. **Renounce** – We must come to confess our sin to God and to others when appropriate (Psalm 32:1-11, James 5:16).
4. **Repentance**– We must come to turn away from our sin towards God and towards others accordingly (Proverbs 28:13, 2Corinthians 7:10-11).
5. **Renewal** – We must come to meditate on the truth so that we may learn the new direction by which we are to obey God and love others accordingly (Ephesians 4:17-23).
6. **Replacement** – We must comes to obey God and love others in the areas where he has disobeyed God and been unloving towards others (Ephesians 4:17-23).

C. The Devoted Life We are to have:

1. **Membership** – We should be devoted to a local church so that we may experience love and enjoy the blessings of God-honoring relationships.(Hebrews 10:19-24)
2. **Maturity** – We should be devoted to discipleship in a local Church that would lead us into loving God, loving others on a consistent basis and living a life that reflects the character of Christ. (2Timothy 2:15-22)
3. **Magnification** – We should be devoted to appreciating, valuing and adoring the character of God through heart-felt genuine worship of Him in a local Church. (John 4:23-24)
4. **Ministry** – We should be devoted to serving in a ministry where we can develop in bearing burdens and meeting needs according to the various relationships we will develop through the local Church. (1Peter 4:10-11)
5. **Missions** – We should be devoted to working with and supporting the Church in sharing and defending the Christian faith. (2 Corinthians 5:15-21, 1Peter 3:15)

D. The Doctrines, Disciplines, Duties, and Demographics We are to train in:

Doctrines To know about	Disciplines How To:	Duties How To:	Demographics How To:
<p>God Bible Christ Man Sin Salvation</p>	<p>Confess Sin Repent of Sin Study/Meditate on the Word of God</p>	<p>Bear Burdens Meet Needs Proclaim the Gospel</p>	<p>Function In Marriage As a Man As a Woman</p>
<p>Holy Spirit Church Last Things Angels Spiritual Leadership</p>	<p>Forgive Others Apply Truth Serve Others</p>	<p>Defend the Gospel Give Monetarily to support the Church</p>	<p>Function As a Senior Citizen As a Young Adult As a College Student</p>
<p>Spiritual Gifts Sanctification Old Testament New Testament Stewardship Judgment/ Rewards</p>	<p>Pray Worship</p>	<p>Corporately Fellowship & Worship</p>	<p>Function As a Teenager As a Child</p>