

SPIRITUAL
GROWTH

by Charles Willis

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The Need For Growth

Every Christian must grow. It is not natural to remain a babe in Christ. Everyone physically matures, and everyone should spiritually mature. This is how God has designed the physical body and it is His expectations spiritually. Paul writes *“When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.”* (1 Corinthians 13:11). We also must grow away from childish things and thinking. *“Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; At the head of the noisy streets she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings: ‘How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?’* (Proverbs 1:20–22). Some choose to be spiritually dead and some choose to be spiritually immature. Understand that is not God’s expectation of the Christian.

1. From 2 Peter 3:17–18 explain how we grow in grace and knowledge. Why is this important?
2. What has to change for us to become mature (1 Corinthians 14:20; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:20–24)?
3. What is the danger of remaining immature (Proverbs 10:21; Hosea 4:6)?

The Desire For Growth

No one will work to become mature until they decide they need to grow. Physical maturity naturally occurs, but spiritual maturity is a choice. It will not naturally occur. Just being a Christian a long time does not insure spiritual maturity. It is also true that a person can become spiritual mature at a relatively young age. Timothy *“was well spoken of by the brethren”* as a young man and *“Paul wanted this man to go with him”* (Acts 16:1–3). We must each choose to *“put on the new self”* (Ephesians 4:24).

4. How does Scripture describe our proper attitude toward growth (Matthew 5:6; Acts 17:11; 1 Peter 2:2)?
5. How does Scripture describe our proper attitude about knowledge (Colossians 3:16; James 1:23–25; 2 Timothy 2:15)?
6. Explain the phrase *“knowledge and all discernment”* in the context of Philippians 1:9–10.
7. How does David speak of the desire for growth in Psalm 119:105–112?

Can I Grow?

As stated above, God expects our growth. He never asks us to do things we cannot do. The problem for most Christians is the motivation to grow coupled with how to accomplish growth. God helps us to grow, but we must also help ourselves.

8. If motivated to grow, what we can we do to help accomplish it (James 1:5; Proverbs 1:7, 4:7, 23:23; Proverbs 2:1–11)
9. Explain the use of the phrase *“hold it fast”* and describe the *“honest and good heart”* in Luke 8:15.
10. In the context of Matthew 5:43–48, what is meant by the use of *“perfect”* in verse 48?
11. When have we grown enough? When do we get to stop growing?

Set Your Mind

Becoming mature is a decision and something for which you must be willing to work. It simply does not happen without effort. The effort begins by setting our mind on the right things and determining how we will serve God. For many Christians, service to God is acceptable when it is lacking, weak, even wavering with uncertainty. This leads many Christians to continually struggle with sin in their life and feel as if they are constantly tempted. They have not yet learned the basic tenant of maturity - I must set my mind.

1. What are the examples and teachings about setting our mind (Joshua 24:15; Daniel 1:8; Colossians 3:1–2)?
2. Discuss Hebrews 12:1–2 emphasizing how our mindset helps us as a Christian.
3. What else does Scripture say we are to be fixed on (1 Pet. 1:13; 1 Timothy 5:5; 1 Timothy 4:10)?
4. What is the commitment of the Christian (Romans 6:17; Luke 9:23; Matthew 22:37–38; 1 Timothy 6:12)?

Demand More Of Yourself

It is easy to accept that I have done enough or I do enough. People who are successful in sales, or as business owners, push themselves continually to do more. While a person can adopt unrealistic demands of themselves, most people easily recognize they can do more - they just do not want to. It is easier to be lazy. So we live in a society of apathetic contentment. There is no interest, enthusiasm, or concern about spiritual things. Some Christians feel as if they have done enough when they have obeyed the gospel and committed themselves to attending worship assemblies and giving of their means. They think they do so much more than the non-believer. *“Those who commend themselves... measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding”* (1 Corinthians 10:12).

5. Be prepared to discuss Paul’s personal attitude and how we apply it to ourselves (Philippians 3:9–15).
6. What was the teaching to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 4:1, 10)? Determine from the context if they were babes or mature in Christ when taught this.

Get To Work

The mental aspects of setting your mind and demanding more of yourself must be brought to life. It does no good to think these things without carrying them out in actions. After washing the disciples feet and saying the servant is not greater than the master, Jesus said *“if you know these things, you are blessed if you do them”* (John 13:17). Without the application in our life we will not grow spiritually.

7. Explain how to *“discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”* (1 Timothy 4:7).
8. Define *“walk”* and discuss the Christian walk (2 John 6; Colossians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1; 2:10; 1 John 1:6–7). Additional passages worthy of contemplation (Ephesians 4:17; 5:2; 5:8; 5:16; Philippians 3:17; Colossians 2:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:12)
9. What should be every Christian’s attitude toward work and service to God (Titus 2:14; Titus 3:14; Galatians 6:9)?

Effort Is Required

If a person wants to grow to be physically strong we all understand there will effort and pain in the process of diet and exercise. Many people are willing to put forth the effort for physical growth, but do not see the necessity to push themselves in a similar way spiritually. Spiritual growth requires effort, sacrifice, and constancy. If we will accept these truths and live them, we will spiritually grow. **Read James 1:22–27 and answer the following questions.**

1. What does this teach us with the use of the words “*doers of the word*” (v.22), “*abides by it*” (v.25), and “*effectual doer*” (v.25)?
2. How do we “*delude*” ourselves (v.22)? What does this look like in our life?
3. Discuss the examples of these principles are given in verses 26–27.
4. From James 2:14–26.
 - a. What other examples of the principles from chapter 1 are found in this reading?
 - b. What does it mean “*a man is justified by works*” (v.24)? What does this look like in our life?
 - c. What is faith without works?
5. What does Jesus teach us in Matthew 7:21–23?

Growth Through Experience

We speak of the wisdom of those who are older, yet the older will say they were once young and foolish. In business, the worldly even recognize how experience gives people wisdom, skills, and maturity in their job performance. Ephesians 5:15–17 says “*be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” Experiencing mistakes helps us grow (if we are wise). So does experiencing success.

6. How do we benefit from failure (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; Hebrews 4:11)?
7. How do we benefit from success (James 1:2–4, 12; Hebrews 12; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:6–8)?

Identifying Areas For Action

In raising children we want to insure they are “fully developed,” have “well rounded education,” and sufficient experiences to help them make good decisions and life choices at the point they are leaving home. It is a natural effort from all parents to identify areas to help the child and provide them the knowledge, activity or experience to “enrich” their life to help them mature. Many adults do the same about all aspects of their own life - deciding to diet, get more education, or change bad habits. Again, many struggle to do the same thing about spiritual matters, but we should not have to struggle in this for God helps us.

8. What does God tell us to do (1 Corinthians 11:28–30; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)? Discuss practically how we accomplish this and what it should lead to.
9. Galatians 5:13 says “*through love serve one another.*” From Scripture, identify areas for action in serving brethren.
10. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 says “*help the weak.*” From Scripture, identify areas for action in helping the weak.
11. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 says “*encourage the fainthearted*”, and Hebrews 3:13 says “*encourage one another day after day.*” From Scripture and experiences, identify areas for action in encouraging others.
12. Romans 15:2 says “*Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*” From Scripture and experiences, identify areas for action in edifying others.

Continuous Effort Is Necessary

Consider the concept of growing in your job. You have reached the age of adulthood, gained certificates to qualify you for employment, have been hired and are now content. Not really. Most people who have just been hired are hard at work learning procedures, software, policies, and many are learning how to do the job. To “grow” into their job takes a lot of effort. But even then we know we cannot stop growing. People attend seminars, take classes, read books and do all sorts of things to keep getting better and more qualified in their field of employment. We generally understand the concept of how to mature and get better. The same principle applies toward Christian maturity. **Read Hebrews 5:11–14 and answer the following questions.**

1. Describe someone who is “*dull of hearing*” (Heb. 5:11).
2. What must we do to keep from forgetting the things we have learned? (consider also James 1:24–25 and 2 Peter 1:9)
3. Scripture has a lot to say about our being reminded about truth (2 Tim. 2:14; Titus 3:1; 2 Pet. 1:12–13; 3:1; Jude 5). How can we help ourselves in being reminded of the truth? What kind of effort is involved?
4. Describe someone “*not accustomed to the word of righteousness*” (Heb. 5:13).

Elementary Principles Are Not Enough For Maturity

Someone has to teach us the “*elementary principles*” (Heb. 5:12) [King James says “*first principles*”.] This can mean the first thing in a series, or the origin of things. “Principles” refers to “any first thing, from which the others belonging to some series or composite whole take their rise” (Strong’s Concordance). We have developed what we call Elementary schools to teach the early foundational principles that will lead a person to be well educated (basic reading, math, science, social studies). We understand those are necessary before a person can mature in their understanding to subjects like Law, Ancient Literature, Trigonometry, or Physics. As a Christian we must also work through the elementary principles and then press on to more mature concepts and teachings. **Read Hebrews 6:1–2 and explain each elementary principle.**

5. The Christ (Heb. 6:1)
6. Repentance from dead works (Heb. 6:1).
7. Faith toward God (Heb. 6:1)
8. Washings (Heb. 6:2)
9. Laying on of hands (Heb. 6:2)
10. Resurrection of the dead (Heb. 6:2)
11. Eternal judgment (Heb. 6:2)

Press On!

Leave the elementary teaching about the Christ and press on to “*maturity*” (Heb. 6:1). The King James says “*let us go on unto perfection.*” The Greek word means “completeness” (Strong’s Concordance), and “the state of the more intelligent” (Thayer). It is speaking of more knowledge and application of truth in our life. Notice in the text in Hebrews 5 the people were old enough, had been a Christian long enough, that they should be teaching others. Some were likely of an older age who are being told to “press on.”

12. Discuss what imagery comes to mind with the concept of “press on.” What is this saying about our effort?
13. What is 1 Timothy 3:6 describing as a qualification for an elder? Consider a few different translations.
14. In light of this entire lesson, be prepared to discuss Luke 6:40 focusing on the phrase “*fully trained*”.

Dangers Of Spiritual Immaturity

Imagine you are shipwrecked and adrift at sea. You cannot control where you are going, being swept out into deeper water or being carried into rocks. Everyone quickly recognizes the danger of being adrift and subject to the currents carrying you. Even more when the winds have whipped the sea into large waves and you are being tossed as well as carried. No one wants to be in this position for it is terrifying. That is the image of the spiritually immature. **Read Ephesians 4:14 and answer the following questions.**

1. Describe the comparison of spiritual “*children*” (v.14) to a “*mature man*” (v.13).
2. What are the results of remaining immature in faith? Provide a “real-world answer” from the imagery.
3. Provide two examples of “waves” or “winds” of doctrine that can “toss” or “carry us.”

God Provides Help For Our Growth

God desires our growth but has not left us uninformed of how to grow. He has given us the written word. Additionally, God has provided people in our life to help us. In the example of the person adrift at sea, we look to knowledgeable people to safeguard us from such an event and to rescue us should it occur. **Read Ephesians 4:11–13 and answer the following questions.**

4. What is the God-given purpose of the roles in verse 11?
5. What does this phrase mean to you from verse 13 - “*to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ*”

Our Part In Growth

Returning again to the imagery from being adrift in the sea, everyone would do all they can to preserve their life. We look for anything floating to assist us. We will eat things we would not normally consume. We cover our body to protect from sunburn. We collect any rain water. We do all we can personally to survive. If we find ourselves spiritually immature we should have even more interest in preserving our soul. **Read Ephesians 4:15 and answer the following questions.**

6. What must we hear to “*grow up*”? (see also Romans 10:17)
7. How does this relate to “*unity*” (Eph. 4:13)?
8. How do we grow up “*into Him*”?

We Are To Help Others Grow

Helping others who are adrift is a concern of anyone who is adrift or has been at some time in the past. We understand the terror and helplessness. We have survived and have knowledge and experience, so we see how we can help someone else and are active in trying to help. **Read Ephesians 4:16 and answer the following questions.** (Recognize imagery in this verse changes.)

9. In regard to spiritual growth, what does “*every joint supply*” to the “*body*”?
10. What is the “*proper working*” of every Christian?
11. What does “*love*” have to do with growth?

Saved By Faith

Our society inundates us with the phrase “saved by faith” coming from those who call themselves Christians, but who in fact are not “in Christ.” We hear - “faith is all you need,” and “he who believes shall be saved.” Many of these type of statements are Bible quotations and are therefore truth; however, to believe salvation by faith only, a person must ignore many passages and reject any passage that does not agree with that understanding. A lot of passages must be ignored to continue believing the false doctrine. All of lesson 6 and 7 in this workbook would have to be rejected because 2 Peter 1 says we are to “add” to our faith (King James) or “supply” things to our faith (NAS). “...*faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself*” (James 2:17). If we are saved by faith only, why does anything need to be added or supplied? Read 2 Peter 1:2–4 and answer the following questions.

1. How can God’s grace and peace be multiplied to us (v.2)?
2. Describe what is meant by God granting to us everything pertaining to “*life and godliness*” (v.3).
3. How does God grant these things to us (v.3)?
4. What “*precious and magnificent promises*” has God granted to us? How did He do this (v.4)?
5. What is the “*Divine nature*” (v.4) and what is meant by we becoming “partakers” of that nature (v.4)? How is this accomplished? Is it a one-time partaking or a process of growth?
6. Summarize these concepts in a short answer to describe what is meant by the phrase “*for this very reason*” (v.5).

The Importance Of Diligence

7. What is diligence and how do we apply or grow it (v.5)? (see also Proverbs 4:23; Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:11)
8. What do each of these passages say we are to apply diligence to?
 - Deuteronomy 4:9; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 13:24
 - Deuteronomy 6:17; Psalm 119:4
 - Isaiah 26:9
 - Ephesians 4:3
 - Hebrews 4:11; 2 Peter 3:14
 - What prevents us from being diligent?

In Your Faith Supply

For each character attribute below, give a definition and answer how we supply this (where and how do we learn it).

9. Supply moral excellence (v. 5).
10. Supply knowledge (v.5)
11. Supply self control (v.6)
12. Supply perseverance (v.6)
13. Supply godliness (v. 6).
14. Supply brotherly kindness (v.7).
15. Supply love (v.8).

Review of Lesson 6

"If these qualities are yours..." (2 Peter 1:8). Please provide a short answer of what is being discussed by this phrase (from 2 Peter 1:2-7) and how we make these qualities ours. **Read 2 Peter 1:8–9 and answer the following questions.**

1. How do we increase in these qualities (v.8)?
2. What are the results for us if they are ours and are increasing (v.8)?
3. What are the results if we are lacking these qualities (v.9)?
4. How do we become blind or short-sighted (v.9)? Is there a difference between these?
5. What is our *"purification from his former sins"* and how do we *"forget"* it? (Titus 2:14; Hebrews 10:10, 12)
6. What must we do to not forget? (Hebrews 10:23–25, 35-36)

Be All The More Diligent

By inspiration Peter has already written in 2 Peter 1:5 *"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence."* Now in verse 10 this is emphasized again when he writes *"be all the more diligent"* (NAS) [*"give diligence"* (KJ)].

7. How do we make certain about God calling and choosing us (v.10)? Can anybody do this?
8. How do we keep from stumbling (v.10)? (Compare with Matt. 5:30; 18:6-9; James 3:2; 4:7)
9. What *"entrance"* is being considered in 1 Peter 1:11? What is *"this way"* that results in this *"entrance"* (v.11)?

Practical Applications To Accomplish Growth

10. Please provide a "take-away" from our study of 1 Peter 1:2-11. Some ideas, suggestions, well-understood avenues in which we need to be diligent to grow in the qualities found in this text. In other words: How do I accomplish what this passage is teaching? Why do I need to do?

11. Please also provide a handful of things that prevent you from accomplishing these things.

Do Not Deceive Yourself

We have studied in recent lessons the need to be diligent, and this is an indicator of growth. The opposite concept teaches us the same principle: we need to be obedient without neglecting any command of God. Jesus speaks of obedience this way in Matthew 23:23–24 saying *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”* They allowed themselves to neglect some things and failed to be diligent. We must not blind ourselves and neglect to obey God. Just because we have been faithful in a few things does not mean we have obeyed all things. Jesus said commanded the apostles to make disciple *“teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”* (Matthew 28:20). **Read Hebrews 2:2–3 and answer the following questions.**

1. What is meant by *“pay much closer attention”*?
2. How do we *“drift away”* from what we have heard?
3. How do we *“neglect”* salvation?

For each of the following passages, identify where God has specifically said we should obey without neglect.

4. Hebrews 13:2
5. Hebrews 3:12
6. 1 Timothy 5:8
7. Hebrews 10:24; Hebrews 13:16; Titus 3:8; James 2:15–16
8. 1 Timothy 4:16
9. Luke 12:35–48

The Connection between Neglect and Self-Deception

People get swindled all the time. Their loss of money or property most often is a result of their own failure to give diligence to what they are doing. They trust someone who is a deceiver, they believe their assets are safe when they are in fact vulnerable, or they consider themselves savvy and able to detect a swindler when in fact they have been duped. The same is true in regard to religion. False teachers deceive others to take advantage of them. They failed to investigate the truth and be certain of the truth and chose to believe the lie. Souls continue to be lost because they were deceived.

If we can understand the connection between neglect and deception, we must also recognize in regard to self deception. We can deceive ourselves in many different areas and convince ourselves to believe a lie. We must not neglect our own salvation, but must continue to be diligent about ourselves. **What specific things are we warned to not be deceived of?**

10. James 1:22, 26
11. Romans 1:20–23
12. Luke 16:15; 2 Corinthians 10:12; Ephesians 4:13
13. 1 Corinthians 6:9–10
14. 1 Corinthians 3:18–20
15. Galatians 6:3
16. Galatians 6:7; 1 John 1:7
17. 1 Corinthians 15:33

Self-Motivated To Obey

While a babe in Christ we desire and need to be taught the elementary teachings. We depend and lean upon mature Christians to help us grow in knowledge and application of God's truth. While the mature can be motivated and encouraged by others, a mature faith does not fade when there is no one who motivates and encourages. The mature do not depend upon others to uphold their faith. **Describe how this can be seen in the following examples.**

1. Genesis 6:9–11 (and following)
2. 1 Kings 18:20–35
3. Daniel 1:8
4. Discuss the meaning of “steadfast” as seen in Colossians 1:11, 23; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Self-Motivated To Encourage

All Christians have been encouraged by others, but not all Christians become an encourager. To not encourage others is disobedience: *“encourage one another and build up one another”* (1 Thessalonians 5:11); *“encourage one another day after day”* (Heb. 3:13). The mature Christian understands this, has applied it to his life, and is purposefully encouraging others - looking for and making opportunities to encourage others. **Read Hebrews 12:12–17 and describe our efforts to encourage others.**

5. Who are we to *“strengthen”* (v.12)? How do we do that?
6. How do we *“pursue peace”* and *“sanctification”* (v.14)?
7. What does *“see to it”* mean (v.15)?

The New Man

Romans 12:2 says we are to *“not be conformed to this world, but be transformed.”* Ephesians 4:24 says we are to *“put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”* In this life we can accomplish the transformation. In this life we can become the new man in Christ. We CAN grow to maturity. God has not set before us a goal that is unachievable, rather, He has given us instruction (in Scripture) and examples and help (in our brethren) that we can become the mature. **For each of the following passages, discuss what the mature are doing.**

8. Romans 7:4 (Matthew 7:15-20; Galatians 5:22)
9. James 3:18
10. Romans 15:1

From James 1:2–4 define the following words and tell the meaning of the context.

11. Perfect
12. Complete
13. Lacking in nothing

Leaders Don't Just Happen

It is true that some people have a natural ability to lead, but that is not enough to be a spiritual leader. Elders and Deacons must meet qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Evangelists must be knowledgeable of Scripture, dedicated to serving God, and willing to undergo rejection and harsh treatment for their stance on God's truth. All of these spiritual qualities must be developed and grown. We must work at these things to become a spiritual leader. The traits given in Scripture of Elders, Deacons, and Evangelists are traits all Christians are to grow to possess but they must be seen in these men.

How do we accomplish the attainment of these things? It requires effort. Paul conveys this to Timothy saying, *"Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things"* (1 Timothy 4:15–16). **Discuss how we apply 1 Timothy 4:15-16 to each of the following attributes.**

1. Hospitable (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
2. Gentle and Peaceable (1 Timothy 3:3); Not quick tempered (Titus 1:7)
3. Free from the love of money (1 Timothy 3:3)
4. Manages his own house (1 Timothy 3:4)
5. Men of dignity (1 Timothy 3:8)
6. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)
7. Holding fast the faithful word (Titus 1:9)

Spiritual Leaders Are Humble

"Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you" (James 4:10). No one can be full of pride and please God. The one who is a spiritual leader has learned this truth, applied it, and accomplished it in his thinking and actions. **For each reference below discuss the mindset and actions of the humble.**

8. Philippians 2:3
9. 1 Peter 5:5
10. John 3:30

Spiritual Leaders Are A Servant Of All

"Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant" (Matt. 20:26). Becoming a servant to others is accomplished before he becomes the spiritual leader. Galatians 5:13 says of all Christians, *"through love serve one another."* Those who apply what Scriptures and works to bear the fruit of righteousness in their life, are those who become spiritual leaders. Serving others is a large part of God's purpose for all believers. **Discuss how we are to think like a servant.**

11. Philippians 2:3–4
12. John 10:11; Mark 10:45

Spiritual Leaders Are Examples

Elders are to be *"examples to the flock"* (1 Peter 5:3). They have been living an exemplary life prior to becoming an elder, and that godly character will continue. A man doesn't become godly because he became a leader, he becomes a leader because of his godliness. They are a *"model"* for us (2 Thess. 3:9). **Discuss what we are to learn from the example of a spiritual leader.**

13. Philippians 3:17
14. Hebrews 13:7

Overview of the Psalm

David, the author, states “*now I am old*” (v. 25). The Psalm is about the prosperity of the wicked and the affliction of the righteous, and what the attitude of the righteous should be. Of all men who could write about the affliction of the righteous, none is more qualified than David. The wisdom and maturity of faith from David is shown throughout the Psalm in how to think and relate while being afflicted. **Read Psalm 37 and answer the following questions.**

1. How will the spiritually mature think about those who afflict them (v.1, 7–8)?
2. What do the spiritually mature understand is the fate of the evildoers and those who afflict them (v.2, 9–10, 13, 20, 35–36, 38)? How does this help us?

How To Grow In Maturity

Embedded in this Psalm are attributes of maturity that the old man David is teaching to us. He tells us how to mature in our thinking and conduct. They are simple concepts that lead to profound results. As Romans 12:1 says, we are to be “transformed by the renewing of your mind.” **From the following verses tell what our attitudes and thoughts should be about God.**

3. 37:3–4
4. 37:5
5. 37:23
6. 37:27
7. 37:31

Maturity To Trust God

The word in Hebrew translated “trust” means “to trust, be confident or sure” (Strong’s #H982). From the perspective of age and spiritual maturity, David teaches the strong need for trust when we are under affliction. Where we would want to take matters into our own hand, he says we should trust God. The concept of trust is coupled with the concept of patience. If we give up waiting on the Lord, it is a lack of trust in God. **What does the Psalm teach us?**

8. What will God do for those who trust in Him (v. 5–6, 9, 11, 18–19, 22, 24, 28, 33–34, 40)?
9. Compare these statements with Proverbs 3:5–6. Why do we sometimes fail to trust in God? How does this relate to maturity?
10. Why should we trust (have confidence) in God (Numbers 23:19; Psalm 89:34; Isaiah 14:24; 1 Kings 8:56)?

What indicators of maturity can be seen in the following verses? Try to provide a New Testament reference teaching our need for the trait.

11. 37:3
12. 37:8
13. 37:11
14. 37:16
15. 37:21
16. 37:39