

Pr Mark Turner: Breaking Through to Spiritual Maturity (22/2/2020)

The goal that we are to be growing toward is maturity.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” **Ephesians 4:11-13**

Five Keys to Spiritual Maturity:

1. We must seek to know God and walk in right relationship with Him (**Acts 17:24-27; James 4:7,8**).

God's purpose in creating humanity was that we would see the Lord. Not that He is hiding from us, but that we would grow in Him.

- Proverbs 2:4,5
- Hebrews 11:3-6
- Jeremiah 29:13
- Deuteronomy 4:29
- 2 Peter 1:2,3



The command to seek God is scattered all throughout the Bible.

If God is the great initiator, as some suggest, why would we need to seek after Him? Because relationships are not a one way street. It takes two!

2. We must grasp our true identity in Jesus Christ (**1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 3:17**).

Does what I do determine who I am? Or does who I am determine what I do?

Our identity as children of God is not determined by who we are - children of God.

If you were going to go toe to toe with the Devil in combat, what armour would you want to take into battle with you?

When Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, the only thing He is given to take with Him was assurance of His identity before God.

3. We must acknowledge the reality of Satan, his kingdom and his design to deceive and destroy the people of God (**Ephesians 6:11,12**).

- The World
- Self
- The Devil



Three things generally recognised as against us.

It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent God and lead us away from Him.

4. We need to distinguish between spiritual maturity and spiritual freedom (**2 Peter 1:3**).

Satan is the father of lies. That is the way that he controls us. Conversely, it is the truth that sets us free (**John 8:44, 31-36**).

Maturity is a process of growth that continues throughout our lives as we apply ourselves to knowing God and His word.

Freedom is a position we take in response to Christ's victory over sin and Satan.

Therefore, spiritual maturity is a lifetime process, whereas spiritual freedom can be obtained in a relatively short time.

5. Each of us must assume personal responsibility for our own spiritual maturity and freedom (**Galatians 5:1 Philippians 3:13,14**).

Once freed, we need to make a conscious decision to remain free. God's work is to free us, our work is to live free.

Spiritual maturity and freedom will remain elusive unless each of us is committed to pursuing them.