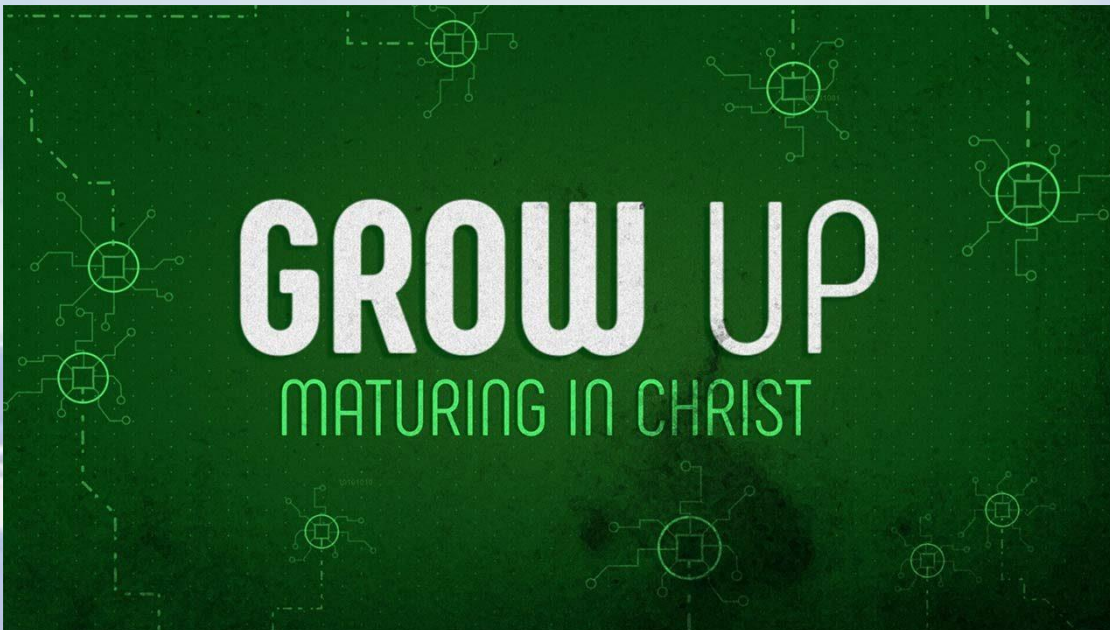
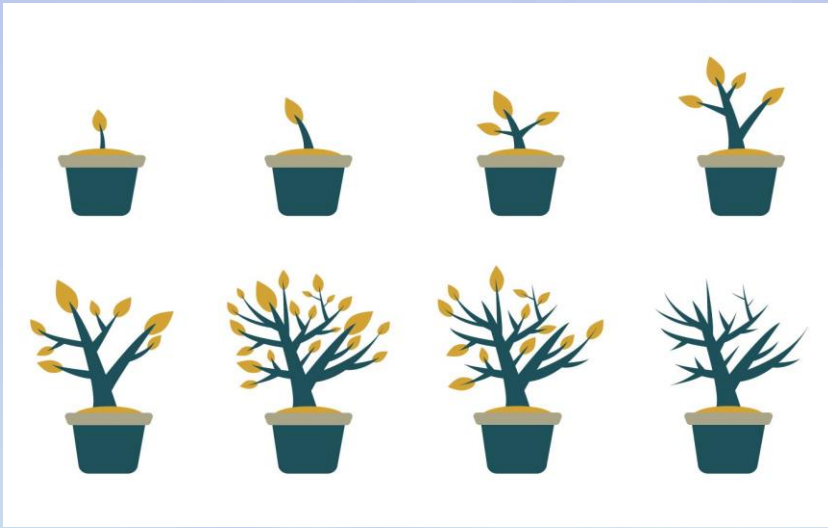




Growing in Spiritual Maturity

**Book of
James**





**I gave you milk,
not solid food, for
you were not yet
ready for it.
Indeed you are
still not ready.**

1 Corinthians 3:2

**You are still
worldly. For since
there is jealousy
and quarreling
among you, are
you not worldly?**

**Are you not
acting like mere
humans?**

1 Corinthians 3:3





What is Spiritual Maturity

**First, let's
look at
what's not!**



**A. Spiritual
maturity is
not a matter
of AGE**





**And Jesus grew in
wisdom and
stature, and in
favor with God
and man.
Luke 2:52**

**“I don’t want to
grow up, I am a
Toys R Us kids.”**

**B. Spiritual
maturity is
not a
matter of
APPEARANCE**



**Talk the Talk
Walk the Walk**



**C. Spiritual
maturity is not
a matter of
ACHIEVEMENT**



**Spiritual
maturity is a
matter of
ATTITUDE
and
CHARACTER**



**“Character is
what you are in
the dark.”**

1. A spiritual mature person is positive under PRESSURE



**Consider it pure
joy, my brothers
and sisters,
whenever you face
trials of many
kinds, because you
know that the
testing of your faith
produces
perseverance.**



James 1:2-3

**Let perseverance
finish its work so
that you may be
mature and
complete, not
lacking anything.**

James 1:4





**“Do I have the
right attitude as I
approach the
problems of life?”**

**“Count it all joy
when you fall
into various
trials.”**



**A spiritual
mature person
is positive
under pressure.**

2. A spiritual mature person is sensitive to the needs of PEOPLE



**If you really keep
the royal law
found in
Scripture, “Love
your neighbor as
yourself,” you are
doing right.**

James 2:8



**If I have the gift of
prophecy and can
fathom all
mysteries and all
knowledge, and if I
have a faith that
can move
mountains, but do
not have love, I am
nothing.**



**1 Corinthians
13:2**

“I can build churches, I can write theological articles, I can put out Christian CDs, I can give all my money for international mission work – but if I don’t have love – all I’m doing is tooting my own horn.



It really doesn’t amount to much – in fact it is worth nothing.”

**The second test
of spirituality
maturity is how
I treat other
people.**



3. A spiritual mature person is master of his MOUTH

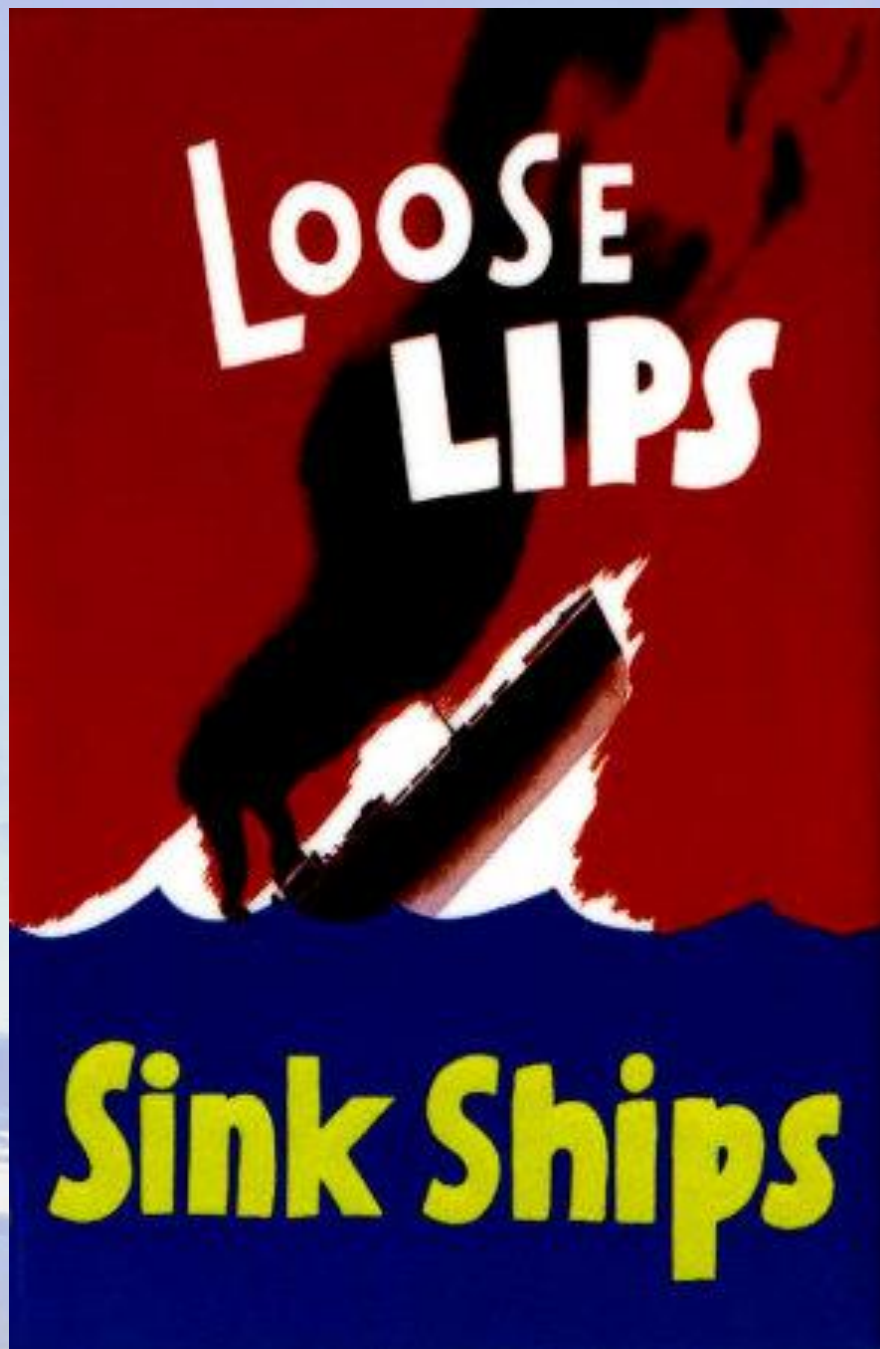


**We all stumble in
many ways.**

**Anyone who is
never at fault in
what they say is
perfect, able to
keep their whole
body in check.**



James 3:2



**‘Loose Lips
Sink Ships’**



**“Sticks and
stones may break
my bones and
words will hurt
my feelings.”**

**“sticks and
stones may
break my bones
but words will
never hurt me”**



**Hearing
something you
like about
someone you
don't.**

Gossip



**Tongue is like a
rudder, a horse's
bit, a spark, a
wild animal, and
a spring.**

**I just say what's
on my mind!**

**“Watch the way
you talk. Let
nothing foul or
dirty come out of
your mouth. Say
only what helps,
each word (is) a
gift.”**



Ephesians 4:29

**Managing your
mouth is the
third test of
spiritual
maturity.**



**4. A spiritual
mature person
is a peacemaker
not a
TROUBLEMAKER**



**“Where do you think
all these appalling
wars and quarrels
come from? Do you
think they just
happen? Think again.
They come about
because you want
your own way, and
fight for it deep
inside yourselves.”**



James 4:1

**“Make it your
ambition to lead
a quiet life and
attend to your
own business and
work with your
hands.”**

**1 Thessalonians
4:11**





A. SELFISHNESS

B. JUDGEMENTALISM



**Brothers and sisters, do
not slander one
another. Anyone who
speaks against a brother
or sister or judges
them speaks against the
law and judges it. When
you judge the law, you
are not keeping it, but
sitting in judgment on it.**



James 4:11



**There is only one
Lawgiver and
Judge, the one who is
able to save and
destroy. But you—
who are you to judge
your neighbor?**

James 4:12

**Being a
peacemaker is
the fourth test
of being
spiritually
mature.**





**5. A spiritual
mature
person is
PATIENT**



**Be patient, then,
brothers and sisters,
until the Lord's
coming. See how
the farmer waits for
the land to yield its
valuable crop,
patiently waiting for
the autumn and
spring rains.**



James 5:7



**You too, be
patient and stand
firm, because the
Lord's coming is
near.**

James 5:8



**Patience is the
fifth mark or
spiritual
maturity.**



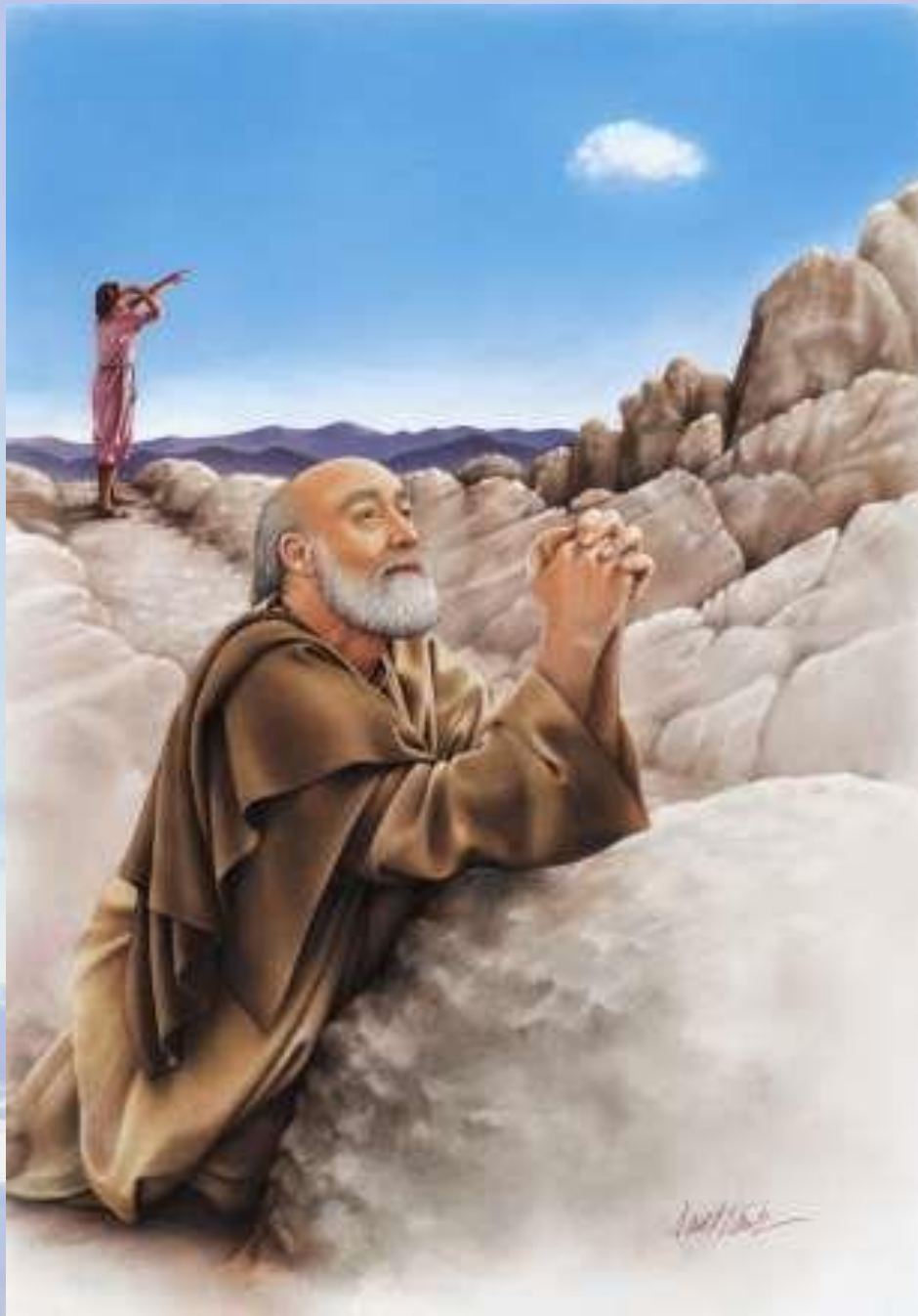
**6. A spiritual
mature
person is
PRAYERFUL**



**Therefore confess
your sins to each
other and pray for
each other so that
you may be
healed. The prayer
of a righteous
person is powerful
and effective.**



James 5:16



Elijah



**those who are
spiritually mature
– understand the
power of God.**

**If there are
problems in
your life – go to
Him in prayer.**



How do you handle your problems? Are you positive under pressure?

Are you sensitive to the needs of others around you?

Are you mastering your mouth – keeping control of what you say?

Are you a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker?

Are you patient and are you prayerful?