

ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY MATURE?

*Evaluate yourself. Do you feel that you are **spiritually mature**? Why or Why not?*

As we attempt to build a stronger, better relationship with Christ, we must set spiritual goals for ourselves. Becoming **spiritually mature** should be a goal that all Christians strive for...



Signs of Spiritual Maturity

A Look at the Life of Abraham

What do you think it means to
be spiritually mature?

Write down the characteristics
that you feel are necessary to possess
when considering oneself to be
spiritually mature.

What does it mean to be spiritually mature?

Spiritual Maturity is effectively using God's Word to guide you in situations you face in everyday life.

What Spiritual Maturity is *Not*

- Being an older member of the Church
- Being able to “quote scripture”.
- Having been a member of your Church a long time
- Having a big title or level of responsibility in your Church
- Having family members who are leaders in the Church

Now that we've looked at what spiritual maturity is not, let's look at some signs of *spiritual maturity...*

Signs of Spiritual Maturity

#1 Having faith that the Lord will intervene in your situation...

Abraham and Sarah desire to have a child, but they are of old age... Only the Lord can help them achieve that which is impossible for them to achieve alone.

- Genesis 17: 15-17
 - Abraham and Sarah laughed when told they would be parents in their old-age. What does their laughing tell you about their faith? Do we sometimes “laugh” when it comes to the odds that God will intervene in our situations?
- Genesis 18: 10-15
 - The Lord didn't intervene in Abraham and Sarah's situation immediately. For His own reasons, He waited awhile and then intervened. What does this tell us about our situations? The question, “*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*” is asked of Abraham. *A sign of spiritual maturity is knowing that there is nothing the Lord is unable to do.*

As promised, the Lord delivers...

Genesis 21: 1-7

Isaac has been born to Sarah and Abraham *despite their old age*. The Lord delivered as He promised. Life Lesson: The Lord will always do what He says He will do. In His Word, He makes many promises to us. We can be sure that He will 'make good' on the promises He has made.

Question for Thought: *What kind of attitude should we have as we wait on the Lord to deliver on our requests?*

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#2 Doing your best to keep the peace.

What can we learn from Abraham as he deals with a potential conflict with his nephew Lot?

- Genesis 13: 1-12
 - Abraham humbled himself and allowed Lot to choose first. Abraham did what he could to avoid conflict.
 - As mature Christians, we ought to be humble and do what we can to avoid conflict and confrontation.



I John 4: 7-8

You can tell whether a person is spiritually mature by the love they show to others.

Signs of Spiritual Maturity

#3 Doing the right thing—even when its tough to do.

Lot is kidnapped, but Abraham does the right thing and rescues him.

- Genesis 14: 11-16
 - Lot demonstrated his selfish nature when he chose what he thought was the best land for himself. Despite seeing the selfishness of Lot, Abraham still rescued him when he was in trouble (because it was the right thing to do).

Life Lesson: Always do what is right by your fellow man, even when your fellow man doesn't do what is right by you.

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#4 Obedience and Endurance

Abraham is tested. He is asked to sacrifice the son the Lord has given him.

- Genesis 22: 1-8
 - Abraham was obedient in extremely difficult circumstances.
 - Despite the difficulty of the situation, Abraham doesn't fall apart. He stands tall in the midst of the *biggest storm* of his life.
 - Our goal should be to be obedient to the will of God and to stand tall in the midst of adversity. *A sign of spiritual maturity is when you feel confident in the Lord, even in the midst of the biggest problems of your life...*

What are some things you need to work on in order to become more spiritually mature?

List some things you can and will do to improve your walk with the Lord?