

### **Three Stages of a Believer's Spiritual Growth**

**Story:** “A little girl dressed in her Sunday best, was running from her parents car towards her bible class. While running she was praying, ‘Dear Lord, please don’t let me be late!’ When all of a sudden she tripped, stumbled and fell, getting her dress dirty and scratching her arms. She got up and brushed off her dress and checked her arms and began running again towards her bible class and praying, “Dear Lord, please don’t let me be late! And don’t push me either!””

Many of you remember Art Linkletter’s T.V program, “Kids say the darndest things.”

Paul makes the point that it’s cute when it’s naturally childish but not when it is the immaturity of an adult it’s a different story.

“When (hote) I was a child (nepios), I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when (hote) I became (ginomai / perf.a.ind) a man (aner), I did away with (katargeo / perf.a.ind) childish things.” (1 Cor.13:11).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our lesson will study three stages of a Believer's Spiritual Growth. The process of becoming Spiritually Mature.</b></p>
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#### **1<sup>st</sup> stage is spiritual birth and baby (brephos).**

This is a baby on the mother’s breast of pure milk – “Like newborn (antigenetos) babes (brephos), long for (logikos) the pure (adolos) [without guile] milk (to gala) of the word, that by it you may grow in respect (auzano / a.p.subj) to salvation.” (1 Pet.2:2)

“For everyone who partakes (ho metecho / p.a.ptc) only of milk is not accustomed (apeiros) [unskilled; inexperienced] to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe (nepios).” (Heb.5:13)

The nepios must be weaned from mother’s milk to cup milk (Ps.131:2). The pure milk doctrines are the foundation doctrines of salvation [essence of God, The Gospel, The Faith Cycle, Grace Salvation, The 50 things received at Salvation and the Doctrines covering the Assurance of their Salvation and Security of Eternal Life.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> stage is spiritual childhood (nepios)**

A nepios (ne / epos) [no word] is like unto a “preschooler” and a (paidia) is a “school age” child. Both still on milk, but not the mother’s. Partaking of a Special Cup, of Milk Doctrines - with assistance by others (Heb.5:13).

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.” (Heb.5:12)

“Therefore leaving (aphiemi / a.a.ptc) the elementary teaching about Christ, let us press on (phero / p.m.subj) to maturity (teleiotes).” (Heb.6:1; Matt.21:16)

The nepios and paidia are advancing in the elementary doctrines of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) [Dealing with the lusts of the Old Sin Nature (OSN), Carnality, The Filling of The Holy Spirit (FHS), The Doctrines of Spirituality, The Faith Cycle, The Confession of 3 categories of personal sins, Positional Truth, Ambassadorship and The Eucharist] (1 Cor.3:1-3)

### **3 rd stage is spiritual adulthood (teleios aner).**

“But solid food (trope) is for the mature (teleios), who because of practice (exis) have their senses (ta aistheterion) [perception] trained (gumnazo / perf.p.ptc) to discern (diakrisis) good (kalos) and evil (kakos).” (Heb.5:14)

A Believer capable of teaching other Believers in stages 1 and 2 of their spiritual growth (Heb.5:12). They are accustomed to the word of righteousness (Heb.5:13; Rom.2:20). They have put away childish things. (1 Cor.13:11).

“Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man (teleios aner), to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children (nepios), tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.” (Eph.4:13-14)

Spiritually Mature Believers possess exercised faculties of perception towards God, self, the world, Satan, and life (discern good and evil) (1 Cor.14:20 – children (paidia), babes (nepios), and mature (teleios)).

Spiritually Mature Believers need meat doctrines of the CWL like: The Angelic Conflict (AC), putting on the full armor of God, the three categories of suffering, reversionism, the sin unto death, spiritual gifts and the function of the church body, i.e. grace giving and receiving, divine production, rewards, crowns, evangelism, missions and eschatology.

### **WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?**

- We have bible study Tuesday night at 6:30pm and Wednesday night at 7pm as well as two services Sunday morning.
- We have a Theological School "lite" program called Chaplaincy Training School for training for local / community ministries and for the mission field. [www.doctrinalstudies.com/mainTS\\_CT.shtml](http://www.doctrinalstudies.com/mainTS_CT.shtml)
- We also have a School of Biblical Theology for men with the gifts of evangelism and pastor-teacher. [www.doctrinalstudies.com/mainTS.shtml](http://www.doctrinalstudies.com/mainTS.shtml)
- We will come to your community and conduct a bible study.

**I can tell you with confidence that you are in the right church at the right time to excel in your Spiritual Growth! Now it is up to you!**

### **ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE THIRD SPIRITUAL AWAKENING?**

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