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THE JOURNEY

Paul the apostle describes the stages of the life of a Christian. We start out as babies that need milk, then grow into little children, then young people, then mature adults. Each stage of growth is determined by what we are fed.

If we are continuously fed milk through preaching and never read the word of God for ourselves then we will be spiritual babies even when we are old and gray haired. The same is true in the children and young adult stage. Only studying the scriptures and being taught by good spiritual leaders will bring you to maturity.

Mature Christians study the word of God and glean all they can from it. They sit under seasoned teachers to learn from their "experience" of faith. They are willing to admit when they fail, but they don't stay down. They are determined to be like Paul and finish their course winning the race.

I have seen all stages of growth. I see some start out joyfully and full of life but soon fail because they become offended or wounded and give up. I have seen some that have had tremendous miracles in their life and walked with God, only to be drawn back into the world and become worse than they were before they were saved.

Very few really become spiritually mature. Many think they are, but they get offended very easily and are often unteachable. They think they have arrived, and that is pride.

I find that every day that I study the word that I learn something new. Something fresh always is revealed every time I read scripture. I expect this to happen. I have found that the more I learn the less that I really know. It is humbling to really say this, because the knowledge of God is so vast that we will never know it all. God is the only "know it all" that I know of.

We often compare ourselves to others in their walk, and that is foolish, because there is only one you, and you are on this walk with God individually. The only person to compare yourself with is God, and in so doing, we all find that we are "diamonds in the rough" waiting for the one to polish us into his likeness.

Don't be too hard on yourself as you go through the spiritual growth needed to mature. You will make mistakes but learn from them rather than be defeated by them. Find a good mentor that can help you in your walk but know that ultimately the one that will guide you into all truth is Holy Spirit. We can always trust Him to lead us. He will be with you all the way on your journey.

The journey is exciting for those that know their destination is seeing Jesus, face to face. I would say do all you can to be ready for that day so you will have no regrets.