

MATURITY (New International Encyclopedia Of Bible Words)

The Greek words translated “maturity” are *teleios* (used 19 times in the NT) or *teleiotēs* (used twice in the NT). The root expresses an important Greek concept: that of end or goal. The thought is that a mature individual has reached the goal of the process of growth as a person.

The NT gives us insight into the process by which a Christian becomes mature. Maturity should come as a natural process of our being among a group of believers who are functioning properly (Eph 4:12–13), as we face trials and persevere (Jas 1:4), and through the constant exercise of our faculties by applying God's Word to guide our daily choices (Heb 5:14).

Why is maturity important? Because those who are mature Christians:

1. Are able to grasp and apply spiritual truths (1 Co 2:6),
2. Are able to establish right priorities in life (Phil 3:15),
3. Stand confident and firm in the will of God (Col 4:12).

Proverbs 4:18 [NKJV]

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

Hebrews 10:38-39 [NKJV]

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

The five WARNINGS

1. Neglect and carelessness [Heb 2:1-4]
2. Hardness of heart and unbelief [Heb 3:7 - Heb 4:13]
3. Being lazy, standing still, falling away [Heb 5:11-
Heb 6:20]
4. Deliberate disobedience and sin [Heb 10:26-39]
5. Falling short of God's grace and refusing to hear what He says [Hebrews 12:15-29]

Hebrews 3:7-8 [NKJV]

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness...”

Hebrews 4:1 [NKJV]

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:11 [NIV]

Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

Hebrews 5:11 [NKJV]

of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain,
since you have become dull of hearing.

Hebrews 6:7-8 [NKJV]

or the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

Hebrews 10:18 [NKJV]

Now where there ... no longer an offering for sin

Hebrews 10:28-29 [NKJV]

²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 12:28-29 [NKJV]

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

1 Corinthians 2:9-13 [NKJV]

⁹ But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 [NKJV]

⁹ But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 [NKJV]

¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12 [NKJV]

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:13 [NKJV]

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Hebrews 8:4-5 [NKJV]

⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

Hebrews 9:23-24 [NKJV]

²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

