

“Spiritual Maturity to Immortality”

Background: Phil 3:13-21; 1 Cor 15:44, James 1:6-7; 1 John 5:14; Eph 4:8-14; Heb 6:4-6

1. When a thing is given to you of the Spirit and you see a light you don't walk in. As you see the light, walk therein.
 - a. Some will say, 'oh that's not for me.'
 - b. Some of us have been chosen and predestined.
 - c. I don't think we can overstate the fact that we have been chosen and predestined.
 - d. You must remind people they have been chosen before the foundation of the world.
 - e. If you don't get that firmly rooted and grounded in your mind, when you run into difficulties it will make you weary, despondent, and discouraged.
 - f. This is why we have people going back. They don't know they have been predestined.
2. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people.
 - a. We have to continue to encourage them of this.
 - b. Some call it brainwashing, but this is what the TV commercial does.
 - c. I don't think we should be concerned of this if it is in the scripture.
 - d. Now we do have to be careful if it doesn't line up with scripture and the rest of the church.
 - e. This is how cults begin.
3. We have to keep convincing people that they are chosen. What we're in is not simply by our choice.
 - a. The Almighty God prearranged where I would be.
 - b. If God knew I was going to be a bishop, was I locked in before I accepted the call?
 - c. The Spirit reminded me that I wouldn't want a God who didn't know everything.
4. Muslims are very strong and entrenched in their belief of their god.
 - a. They are anti-Jesus and anti-Holy Ghost.
 - b. They have their mind made up about Allah. I can sense it in my mind.
 - c. They have no problem not taking a job if they will not allow them to wear their garb.
 - d. If you have your mind made up about your predestination, that you were called to be an elder or bishop, you will give off this as well.
 - e. They are 100% convinced.
5. Some of us don't give off like the Muslims do.
 - a. Those of us who are firmly convinced notice that you don't give off that sensing or gift of discernment.
 - b. This sensing comes when you've made up your mind; no more wavering.
 - c. James 1:6-7, a man that is double-minded is like a wave of the sea.
 - i. If that man should ask anything of God, God will not give it to him.
 - ii. We have to make up our mind and be confident.
6. 1 John 5:14, this is the confidence we have in him.
 - a. A Muslim wearing garb on her head doesn't offend you.
 - b. You have not made up your mind.
 - c. When you make up your mind, this will offend you.
 - d. What's the difference between brainwashing and being rooted and grounded? None.
 - e. Would you have rather been predestined in the Jehovah Witness church?
 - f. We must have confidence in him according to His will.
7. Your faith should be at a conversational level.

- a. You must over learn the word of God. You should learn with such great depth that you're comfortable discussing it. It's like how we prepared for a college exam.
 - b. There's no wonder why we don't gain more progress in our ministry.
 - c. It's according to what we think about our God.
 - d. You can say the right thing and go out believing something else.
 - e. We go back 2-3 notches in our think time whether or not we believe God called us.
 - f. Your life shows it.
8. When we doubt, we move around. You call it relocating, but God looks at why.
- a. We commit sin, but God looks at why did we commit the sin.
9. One saint sow seeds and another waters.
- a. I'm not the only farmer in CLGI. We are workers in the field together.
 - b. We're laborers together. Whatsoever is right, the Lord will reward you.
 - c. Who are you working for? You must know He is going to come and reward every man.
10. We know he hears us, whatsoever we ask.
- a. We know he is not vapor.
 - b. It's in our mind that God is a spirit. I wish it wasn't.
 - c. This does not mean God does not have a body. God has a spiritual body.
 - d. You learn after a while what to ask and what not to ask God.
 - e. We try to bypass God by asking others to pray to God for us.
 - f. Does this mean I can ask for a promotion? Yes, but you should examine why you want the promotion. You already know if you will pay tithes.
 - g. Babes in Christ, who don't know God, try to deceive or trick God by making promises they don't plan to keep.
 - h. You have to come to a place where we say 'He knows.'
 - i. We must come to the conclusion my God knows everything.
 - j. If you serve idol gods, you will need many gods to cover all your bases. You will need infielders and outfielders like a baseball team to cover all your bases.
11. Perfect means spiritually mature and immortal.
- a. We want to become spiritually mature so we can become immortal.
 - b. The opposite of spiritual maturity is a babe in Christ.
 - c. We become spiritually mature because your goal for what you want to apprehend is immortality.
12. You must come to a point where you have given up the thought of going back into the world.
- a. Timothy was a young man. Young people struggle with this.
 - b. You must maintain this level of spiritual maturity until Jesus changes your vile body (Phil 3:21) from mortal to immortality.
 - c. When we're changed, we will receive a spiritual body.
 - d. We were sown a natural body and will be raised a spiritual body. (1 Cor 15:44)
 - e. We shall be like Him when we shall see him as He is. (1 John 3:1-3)
 - f. Jesus has a spiritual body. It's really there.
13. Until we all come into the unity of the faith...
- a. You are perfect if you are spiritually mature.
 - b. You are perfect if you have abandoned the idea of ever going back into the world.
 - c. We do a lot of backsliding in our mind.
 - d. Your mind is your inner self, thoughts, emotions, and mind.

- e. The devil will tell you there is a way. You start slowly fading away.
 - f. He tells you don't show yourself at every meeting.
14. General McArthur said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."
- a. Every time you have an escapade in your mind, you start fading away.
 - b. The devil says just give up.
 - c. You can't say this won't work. If you spend any time doubting your ministry negatively, this works against you.
 - d. Thinking and feeling this is not going to work causes you to lose ground when you could be gaining ground.
 - e. You should never sit around thinking of how to get out of this.
 - f. We should be like Brer Rabbit and Tar Baby. We should have both hands and both feet in the ministry.
15. If you want to be successful, you must become a man or woman who never entertains giving up or going back.
- a. This is what God called me to do.
 - b. I have never sat around and thought 'I wished I hadn't started the Church of the Living God International.'
 - c. When this thought comes to you, you must stop it immediately.
 - d. You have to pull up and give up. It's too late now.
 - e. No one knows what you're thinking.
16. You know you have a mood. It comes from what you've been thinking about.
- a. This could be from what disturbs you in your sleep.
 - b. This can make you become an angry person.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is peace when you're awake and peace when you are asleep.
 - d. I never sit around and have a pity party.
17. When I started, God told me most certainly I will be with thee. He knew what he wanted me to do.
- a. This is what he did for Paul. He gave Paul an experience like no other.
 - b. We like people to know our calling was like no other.
 - c. When God calls you and it is that dramatic, where is your 30 churches and jurisdiction?
 - d. When he called you, I know you heard a voice and saw a light. You didn't go blind though.
18. We must get this made up mind.
- a. Some things you have to pray out. You have to go to noon prayer and get some tissues.
 - b. Once your mind is made up, you will get into orbit.
 - c. You must pray and break through.
 - d. There is a prayer and a way of praying that you can learn and become successful. You have to push.
 - e. We must pray earnestly. The feeling will come you don't want to push today.
 - f. You have to groan and moan in the Spirit.
19. The evil Spirit will choose your church and not allow people to come.
- a. You must get up from prayer with confidence and people will come.
 - b. You must break through for your jurisdiction to grow. A leader must lead!
 - c. Evil spirits control you when you're on the other side of town when you should be in prayer.
 - d. Evil spirits make you feel justified in your wrong.
 - e. They whisper in your ear and say, "noon prayer." You must resist it immediately.
 - f. Evil spirits will give you a lawful and legal reason not to get there until prayer is nearly over.

- g. Prayer is the key to my success so Satan fights in this area. He wants to rob us of our success.
20. Those who are spiritually mature have made immortality their #1 objective or #1 goal above all others.
- a. This goal must super cede all other goals.
 - b. Phil 3:21 should be our goal above all other goals in life.
 - c. This makes you become spiritually mature.
 - d. You must keep your priorities in order. Anyone who thinks this way is perfect.
 - e. These people bear fruit. God helps them do it.
21. We must forget those things behind.
- a. All other goals are secondary.
 - b. When you start reaching for this goal you become spiritually mature.
 - c. Paul shares all the things in his life before the Lord saved him in Phil 3.
 - d. Paul never committed adultery. He mentions that he was the chief of sinners because he persecuted the church but not because he was a fornicator.
 - e. He said he never lived in sin. He never got high on opium. They had opium in his time.
 - f. God called very few men out of idolatry.
22. It's good to bring up a child in the church.
- a. When Paul chose a successor, he selected Timothy who was brought up as a child.
 - b. Timothy's mother and grandmother were in the faith.
 - c. We must put requirements in place to become a bishop to see if you have been productive.
 - d. Paul didn't know he would be blind for 3 days. He thought it would be forever.
23. We're looking for more people with this mind to become spiritually mature.
- a. How do you look at what you are in life, where you are, and what you have in relation to being changed?
 - b. Do you have the wrong goal?
 - c. We focus too much of our attention and even preaching about things in the world.
 - d. You must go back home and reorder yourself.
 - e. Stop all this 'who shot John.' (tendency to preach about things not pertinent to the gospel)
 - f. Don't get wrapped up in your successes.
24. Eph 4:11, there are five types of ministers who must come to this spiritual maturity.
- a. These people should have a one track mind.
 - b. We have not apprehended so we must reach for it.
 - c. Reaching for this makes you spiritually mature.
 - d. Bishops, Dist Supts, and Pastors should be spiritually mature for the perfecting of the saints.
 - e. Even deacons should bring the saints into the unity of the faith.
 - f. Unity of the faith means that we look for immortality.
25. Spiritual maturity brings the anointing and gifts of the spirit.
- a. The unity of the faith means that we are like minded.
 - b. When we come into the unity of the faith there are no more thoughts of going back.
 - c. You have come too far to go back. The Lord gives you a rest.
26. Heb 6:4-6, there is a down side to all this.
- a. Paul said that it is impossible for those who have tasted of the powers of the world to come.
 - b. For those who move in gifts, anointing, and power, it is impossible if we fall away to be renewed again unto repentance.
 - c. The goal of immortality brings you to spiritual maturity.
 - d. When you come into the unity of the faith, you have reached the point of no return.