

**UNION FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH, 404 NORTH BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH
BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE**

THEME: CHURCH RELATIONSHIP - Heb.10: 23 – 25.

TOPIC: SPIRITUAL MATURITY: Bedrock of

TEXTS: Acts 2: 42 – 46; Heb. 5: 12 - 6: 3.

INTRODUCTION: The Church in Jerusalem also known as the First Church of Jerusalem left a good template of what Christ's expectation is when He said, "I will build my church..." (Matt. 16: 18b) in terms of spiritual maturity and relationship amongst the brethren. The early apostles under the leadership of the Holy Spirit understood that good relationship is the basis for church power by which they were able to wage war against the "gates of hell." The question is what we are doing with the "seal of authority Jesus gave His people and Church? Today, let's discuss spiritual maturity as a prerequisite to sound church relationship.

What is Spiritual Maturity?

Apostle Paul described spiritual maturity as a state of being dead to self or complete self-denial (1Cor.15: 31; Gal.2: 20, 5: 24; Rom.12: 1). In His teaching, Jesus Christ referred to emptiness of self as condition for a genuine true disciple – John 12: 24; Luke 9: 23-24; Matt.10: 38.

Characteristics of Spiritually Matured:

1. They are motivated to seek God without Being Pushed – Ps.43: 45, Ps122: 1. such people see God as the source of joy and life, thus turn to god without being pushed.
2. More concerned about the inside than the outside – Matt.23: 3 – 5. Spiritually mature people know that if they make the effort to care for their insides (their heart, their emotions, their guilt, and their faith) then their outward actions will be right.
3. They search for the truth – Mark 10: 51; john 8: 31 – 32; Ps.32: 1-6.
What truths in our life is God trying to help you face? Daily examination of one's life – 2Cor.13: 5; 2Peter 1: 10 – 11.
4. Admission of truth to God – Ps.32: 5, 51: 1-5. Spiritually mature people understand that no person can relieve our guilt except God.
5. They also admit truth to others – James 5: 16. After admitting truth to God, spiritually mature people own up to their sins with others.
6. Involve continuous training for development Heb.5: 14. The Bible promises that those who constantly work at being righteous and honest will reap the benefits of spiritual maturity.

Spiritual Maturity and Church Relationship – Heb.5: 12- 14, 10: 23 – 25

What does it take to fellowship with other fellows?

- **It involves caring for others – Gal. 6: 10; 2Cor.8: 1-5.**
- **Large heart to accommodate and forgive – Eph. 4: 32; Col.3: 13.**
- **Manifestation of godly ‘fruit’ – Gal.5: 22 – 26; Humility – Phil. 2: 5; Compassion- Matt.9: 36.**
- **Selflessness – Lev.19: 18; Luke 6: 27 – 28; 1peter 3: 8.**
- **Worldliness – John 17: 13 – 19; 1John 2: 15- 17; Col.3: 2.**