

- Grace and EFFORT are not opposites; grace and _____ are opposites!
- Working FOR your salvation is heresy, but working _____ your salvation is basic Christianity!

There are several New Testament scriptures that tell us that because God has already given us all things, we must ...

- Make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification (Romans 14:19)
- Make every effort to enter through the narrow door (Luke 13:24)
- Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3)
- Make every effort to live in peace with all men and be holy (Hebrews 12:14)
- Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him (2 Peter 3:14)
- Make every effort to enter His rest (Hebrews 4:11)

2 Peter 1:3-10 (NIV) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, MAKE EVERY EFFORT to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall.



First Church ~ Sunday Morning, November 15, 2002

1 Peter 2:2 (KJV) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to mature Christians. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. I had to feed you with milk and not with solid food, because you couldn't handle anything stronger. And you still aren't ready,

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NLT) You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food. And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right.



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

1. IT IS NOT _____

John 8:31 (NLT) You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings.

2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1 (NLT) Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete purity because we fear God.

2. IT IS A _____

Proverbs 8:5 (TEV) Learn to be mature.

2 Peter 3:18 (TEV) But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

3. IT TAKES _____

1 Timothy 4:7 (PHI) Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.

1 Timothy 4:7 (NAS) Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

Growing OLD without growing UP is a tragedy!

Mature believers are called _____

I can't be a disciple without being _____

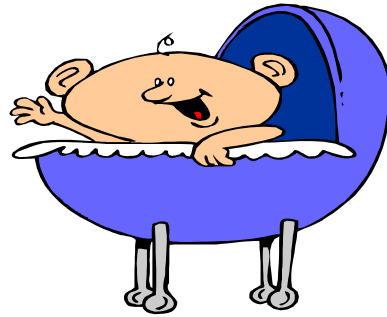
The mark of a true disciple is _____

This means denying my desires to _____

Luke 14:27 (NIV) And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

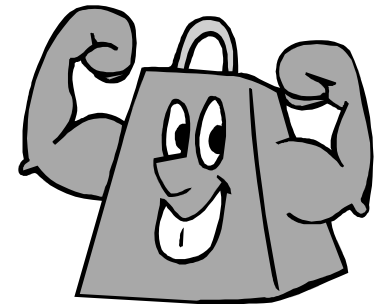
Luke 9:23 (NIV) If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

MILK



- Milk is given to the child by the _____
- Milk is a _____ food
- Milk is a _____ food
- Milk builds up the _____
- Milk is the truth of what Jesus _____
- Nothing has to _____ to produce milk!

MEAT



- Meat is hunted and prepared by _____
- Meat is an energy or _____ food
- Meat must be digested, so it takes more _____
- Meat builds up the _____
- Meat is the truth of what Jesus is _____
- Something has to _____ to produce meat!