

GROWING UP IN GOD'S FAMILY

Growing-Up Goals for Diligent Disciples

2 Peter 1:1–11



LET'S BEGIN HERE

We've been thinking about growing toward spiritual maturity for quite some time. The series has taken us through the stages all of us must pass (infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood) as we mature in our walk with Christ. Even though we can never say that we have "arrived," there are some check-points by which we are able to measure our maturity. Let's focus our attention on them as we wrap up the series. They are set forth in the beginning of Peter's second letter. Spend a few minutes reading them. Starting with faith (2 Peter 1:5) and ending with love (1:7), you will find *eight* qualities which deserve our diligent effort.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. A Review of the Ages and Stages of Growth (see chart)

- Birth and infancy: "Help me!"
- Childhood and discovery: "Tell me!"
- Adolescence and irresponsibility: "Show me!"
- Adulthood and maturity: "Follow me!"

2. A Plea for Balance and Obedience (2 Peter 1:3–5)

- Divine Power
- Human Diligence



Quotable

*I rely not on my
own logic but on
God's truth.
He says it, I believe
it, and I can count
on Him to keep
His word.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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3. A List of Goals and Objectives (2 Peter 1:5–11)

Expectations (2 Peter 1:5–7)

- Faith
- Moral excellence
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly kindness
- Christian love

Exhortations (2 Peter 1:8–11)

- One peril paralyzes us: high-tension poles of reality
- One peril immobilizes us: low-vision poles of identity



LET'S LIVE IT

Your maturity depends upon what you believe and how you behave. How can you make a commitment to grow spiritually from this time forward? Write in the spaces provided some resources and the names of individuals you can bring alongside you to help in your “growing up” process. Close this time by writing down three spiritual growth goals you hope to move toward accomplishing this year.

Resources I will use:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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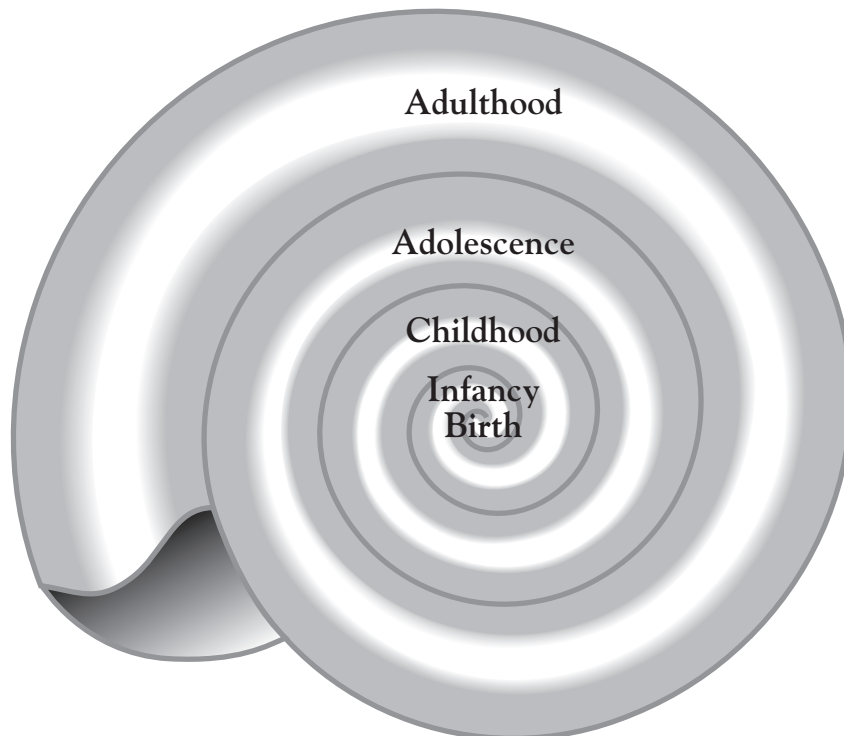
Individuals I will invite to help me grow spiritually:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Spiritual growth goals I will pursue:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ages and Stages Toward Christian Maturity



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2 Peter 1:1–11

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe—
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He—
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same;
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph thro' us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him—
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Thro' Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also—
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

A mighty fortress is our God.

Amen.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

TEXT: Martin Luther (1483–1546); translated (1852) by Frederick H. Hedge (1805–1890); based on Psalm 46

MUSIC: Martin Luther; Last stanza setting and Choral ending by Bruce Greer

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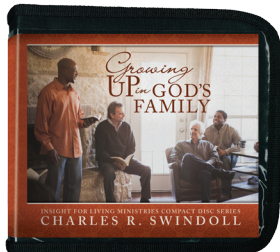
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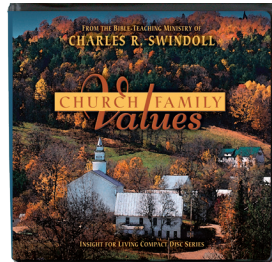
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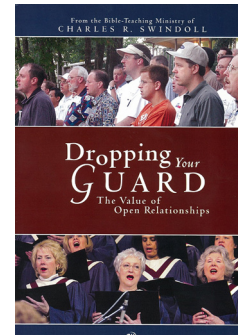
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Growing Up in
God's Family**
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CD series



Church Family Values
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**Dropping Your Guard:
The Value of Open
Relationships**
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