

Spiritual Immaturity

SB - Do you remember the day you surrendered your life to Christ?

It was a special day for me; one I'll never forget.

But being baptized is only the beginning of the spiritual journey, not the end. Like anything else, I have to work to cultivate and develop my spiritual life.

But what if you aren't as mature as you should be?

1. Just because one has been a Christian for many years, does not mean they are "mature"
 - a. They may be like the person who had been teacher for twenty-five years...
 1. When she heard about a job that would mean a promotion, she applied for the position. However, someone who had been teaching for only one year was hired instead.
 2. She went to the principal and asked why. The principal responded, "I'm sorry, but you haven't had 25 years of experience as you claim; you've had only one year's experience 25 times."
 - During that whole time the teacher had not improved!
 - b. So it may be with many Christians; they have not grown, but simply repeated their first year of spiritual life many times!

Paul talks about spiritual immaturity in 1 Cor. 3:1-3 and Heb. 5:11-14. Let's see how Paul sees the spiritually immature:

1 Cor. 3:1-3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Heb. 5:11-14

¹¹ Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

1. This prevented the Paul from continuing with his argument at the moment
1. While the material he had to share was "hard to explain"..
 - a. It wasn't so much the difficulty of the material itself
 - b. As it was their own inability to receive it!

SB – What does dull of hearing mean?

2. That they had "become" dull of hearing may implies going backward
 - a. At one time they were not "dull of hearing"

- b. Indeed, most converts are truly "sharp" in their listening at the first
 - 1) They are excited about what they are learning
 - 2) They listen with great "readiness", and spiritual growth occurs
- d. But it is not uncommon for apathy to set in, making one "dull of hearing"
 - When one becomes "dull of hearing", they begin to fall into a state of spiritual immaturity

B. ARE YOU "DULL OF HEARING"?

1. Ask yourself these questions:
 - a. Is the Bible dull?
 - b. Are the Bible classes dull?
 - c. Are the sermons dull?
 - d. Is anything that is spiritual in nature (like singing, praying) dull?
2. If so, then it is possible that you have become "dull of hearing"!
 - a. If you listen at all, it will be to those who are willing to "tickle your ears"
 - b. And you will be susceptible to being misled - **2Tim. 4:3-4**
 - c. ³ For *the* time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

[When one is "dull of hearing", it is only natural that the next "mark of spiritual immaturity" will be evident...]

II. THE INABILITY TO TEACH OTHERS (12a)

A. THE HEBREWS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS...

1. They had been Christians for some time ("by this time you ought to be teachers")
 - a. They had time to learn, to grow
 - b. A natural response to growth is to bear fruit
 - c. One way we bear fruit is by teaching others
2. In one way or another, they should have been able to teach others
 - a. Not in a formal sense, for not all are gifted to teach- **Ep 4:11**
- b. ¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, some *as* prophets, some *as* evangelists, some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ;
- c. But all can share the good news and hope they have with others - **1Pe 3:15;**
 - d. ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;

-- Their need for someone to teach them again "the first principles" demonstrated their spiritual immaturity

B. SB - ARE YOU ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS?

1. Assuming that sufficient time has passed, are you teaching others?
 - a. Either formally as a teacher instructing others in the faith?
 - b. Or informally by sharing your faith with others?

2. Do you find yourself saying "I don't know what to say?"
 - a. Then it sounds like you have forgotten "the first principles"
 - b. And you need to have someone teach you again!

[If one has not progressed to the point where they are somehow teaching others about Christ, then they are still spiritually immature! One reason why this may be true is also another indicator of spiritual immaturity...]

III. A DIET OF "MILK" (12b,13)

A. NOW, A DIET OF "MILK" IS OFTEN NECESSARY...

1. Certainly it is needed for those who are "babes in Christ" - e.g., **1Co 3:1-2**
 - a. And I, brothers *and sisters*, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but *only* as fleshly, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to consume it*. But even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like *ordinary* people?
2. Also for those who have regressed - cf. **He 5:12b**
3. Such a diet includes what is described as Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **He 6:1**)

B. BUT OUR DIET MUST ONE DAY INCLUDE "SOLID FOOD"... 12b, 13

1. Just as a physical baby must graduate to solid foods in order to grow to maturity
 2. So a "babe in Christ" cannot mature unless the diet goes beyond the "first principles"
 - a. "milk" refers to what Jesus did on earth: His birth, life, teaching, death, burial and resurrection
 - b. "solid food" refers mature actions like – discipleship, a transformation from flesh to spiritually minded, servants heart, etc.
- SB – What other signs are there of spiritual maturity?
3. If our diet remains "milk only"...
 - a. Then we will be unskilled - without experience - in the word of God
 - b. We will remain "babes" in Christ - cf. **He 5:13**

C. SB - WHAT HAS YOUR "DIET" BEEN LATELY?

1. Has it been limited to "milk"?
 - a. Has it even included "milk"?
 - b. Some Christians may not even be getting the "milk" of the Word!
2. Are you getting any "meat"?
 - a. Studying portions of God's Word that challenges your understanding?

[A "milk only" diet leaves one immature, and by default one who is "unskilled in the word of righteousness". This will in turn produce another trait of spiritual immaturity...]

IV. THE INABILITY TO DISCERN (14)

A. NORMAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH EXERCISES THE SENSES...

1. Even the "milk" of the word is designed to train one's faculties
 - a. By exposing us to the difference between right and wrong
 - b. In this way our spiritual sense is "exercised"
2. Then "by reason of use" we learn to "discern both good and evil"
 - a. With clear examples set before us in the Scriptures, we learn right from wrong
 - b. We thereby develop the ability to "distinguish" between good and evil
 - c. We become able to apply general principles to specific situations
 - 1) Specific condemnation of a practice is not always necessary
 - 2) We can discern when something is more like the good, or more like the bad

B. SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY LACKS THIS ABILITY TO DISCERN...

1. A babe in Christ often has difficulty discerning the difference between:
 - a. Good teaching - truth -) and bad teaching - lie
 - b. Good conduct (righteousness) and bad conduct (wickedness)
2. Inability to discern leaves them open to being...
 - a. "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" - cf. **Ep 4:14**
 - b. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
 - c. ⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." - **James 1:8**

C. SB - DO YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO DISCERN?

1. Can you apply general principles to a specific situation, or do you require a clear "Thou shalt not" to determine if something is wrong, or right?
2. Are you able to recognize when a doctrine is true to God's word?
3. Or are you dependent upon someone else...
 - a. To "spoon feed" you?
 - b. To "take you by the hand and lead" you?-- I.e., to tell you what is right and wrong, what is truth and what is a lie

CONCLUSION

1. There are certainly other indicators of spiritual immaturity...
 - a. E.g., behaving in a fleshly/worldly way
 - b. E.g., possessing strife, envy, and jealousy
 - c. And I, brothers *and sisters*, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but *only* as fleshly, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to consume it*. But even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like *ordinary* people? ⁴ For when one person says, "I am with Paul," and another, "I am with Apollos," are you not *ordinary* people? - **1Co 3:1-4**
2. But in our present text we have focused our attention on the four presented here...
 - a. Dullness of hearing

- b. The inability to teach others
- c. A diet of "milk"
- d. The inability to discern

SB – Do you have any of these warning signs of spiritual immaturity?

- All of these should serve as "warning signs" that something is amiss in our lives as Christians, for they are truly **"Marks of Spiritual Immaturity"**

1Cor. 10:12, ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

1. A spiritually immature person think they can stand on their own without Christ
2. Must realize that this will lead to a fall

2Cor. 10:12 - ¹² For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

SB – Do we look around and compare ourselves with other Christians?

1. We look around and say that I Am a better Christian than that person
2. This we do to give a false sense that we are okay in comparison to others
3. The comparison we need to make is how close are we to being like Christ
4. Unfortunately, many Christians spend the majority of their life in spiritual immaturity, rather than knowing the delight and joy of growing in their faith.
5. But the thing about our faith is that we can't stay stagnate.
6. If we're not actively working to grow more like Christ, we will inevitably begin to grow more like the world around us.

In light of that, here are 20 warning signs that you may not be maturing as a Christian:

1. You are Quick to Anger

1. Psalm 103:8 says, The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
2. If God can be more gracious and compassionate and less angry in light of all of our sin, then we should too.
3. SB - Do we find yourselves getting angry at the smallest things?
4. Being quick to anger means there are issues within my soul that I need to resolve.
5. Figure out what it is that is triggering your anger and work to get rid of it with the help of Holy Spirit.

2. You are Sensitive to Correction

Prov. 11:2, When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.

Prov. 15:32, He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

1. Humility is a character trait that all Christians should work toward displaying.

2. However, when conflict or correction arises, if your first reaction is to become defensive, you are not maturing in the faith.
3. SB - Ask yourself, “is there any amount of truth to what this person is saying?”
4. If the answer is yes, work on improving yourself.
5. If the answer is no, ignore it.
6. Correction is a part of maturing.

3. You Don’t Love Your Neighbor

Rom. 5:14-15, ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

1. It’s easy to love those who think and act the way you do.
2. SB - What is your attitude towards people who look, dress and talk differently than you?
3. How about those who are considered poor or downtrodden?
4. Is your first instinct to bestow compassion or to think they are getting what they deserve?
5. The Bible is clear: if you don’t love your brother, the love of God is not in you.
6. Work to meet the needs of those around you, regardless of others’ background or economic situation.

4. You Don’t Use Your Spiritual Talents

1. 1 Pet. 4:8-10, ⁸ Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
2. At conversion God equips us with special gifts tailored to our talents and abilities.
3. But not using your spiritual gifts to serve the church body is like opening a gift and putting up in your closet to collect dust.
4. Gifts are to be enjoyed, not hidden.
5. Using your gifts not only benefits the receiver but also you as a giver.
6. If you don’t know what your gifts are, search the Scriptures.
7. Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 are both good places to start.

5. You Don’t Practice Spiritual Disciplines

1. 1 Tim. 4:6-8, ⁶ In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. ⁷ But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

2. Runners don’t complete marathons without training their bodies, conditioning them to go the distance.
3. In fact, no musician, writer or artist perfects his/her craft overnight.
4. They must discipline themselves and put in the hard work to reap the reward.

5. It is the same with our spiritual lives.
6. We can't become like Christ by doing nothing.
7. Connecting with Him through the word and prayer, along with developing self-control

6. You Harbor Bitterness

1. Eph. 4:31-32, ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

2. SB – Do you have bitterness?

Anger is not a sin, but left unchecked can cause bitterness to take root in our hearts.

3. Bitterness crowds out genuine love and selflessness.
4. Bitterness forces us to turn our eyes inward looking at ourselves rather than outward, focused on others' needs.
5. Bitterness separates us from God because it drives a wedge between us and the perfect love God grants us through His grace.
6. If we have experienced love and grace of God, it is our duty to give that freely to others not bitterness.

7. You are a Slave to Fear

1. Rom. 8:15, ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

2. Fear is normal in certain situations.
3. Fear indicates if a person or situation is safe or unsafe.
4. But if fear has given way to anxiety, then it indicates something bigger: a lack of trust and surrender to God.
6. It's no mistake that God says, "do not fear" hundreds of times in the bible.
7. The way to get past a constant state of fear is to surrender your fears to God, trusting he will take care of them (and you) according to His will.

8. You are Not Bearing Fruit

1. John 15:2,6, ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

2. It's one thing to attend church, serve your community and read your Bible.
3. But if you are not allowing what you read or hear to transform your life, it's not worth much.
4. Christians know each other by the amount of the fruit of the Spirit they display in their lives.
5. Analyze your character.
6. None of us is perfect, but if you can't say you have increased in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

7. from year to year, you are not yielding fruit that is benefiting others, but rather allowing the little fruit you are producing to wither on the vine.

9. You are Not a Part of a Church Fellowship

1. Heb. 10:24-25, ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

2. From Genesis to Revelation, every person is in the assembling of Gods People with others.

3. Even God is not alone, but rather is triune, working in tandem with His Son and the Holy Spirit.

4. Being a part of a community helps keep us accountable and gives us the courage to become better people.

10. You are Not Making Disciples

1. In Matthew 13:8, Jesus warns that only the seed that falls on good soil will yield a good crop: ⁸ And others fell on the good soil and *yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

2. Great Commission Matt. 28:19, ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

3. Not only are we to tell the world about Jesus, but as we grow, we are to invest in others and equip them to make disciples.

4. In today's consumerist culture, however, it is easy to sit in church every Sunday, listen to a sermon and go home without ever making an impact on anyone's life.

5. Applying the knowledge, you learn on Sunday is the quickest way to become more like Christ.

6. Information doesn't lead to transformation but application, however does.

11. You find it difficult to forgive people

1. Eph. 4:32, ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

2. Perhaps unsurprisingly, forgiveness is not an easy task.

3. It takes a lot of strength to forgive, and it's not something that we should always do.

4. Matthew 5:7, ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

5. In simple words, when we forgive, God will forgive us.

6. When you are spiritually immature, you still cling to things that happened in the past.

7. You still keep your grudges and can't forgive yourself or others for their wrongdoings.

8. It's a sign of spiritual immaturity when you haven't learned that forgiveness is the key to living happily in this world.

12. You don't speak the truth to people

1. Eph. 4:14-15, ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is

the head, *even* Christ,

1. 1 John 1:8, If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
2. You don’t tell others the real reason why you do things.
3. You just tell them whatever you want to say or what you think they want to hear.
4. Sometimes, people think that you’re being honest and open-minded, but in reality, you’re just a liar.
5. Lying is a sin.
6. And that’s exactly why you’re spiritually immature if you avoid telling the truth.

13. You’re constantly seeking pleasure

1. 1 Pet. 2:11, ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.
2. Col. 3:2, ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
3. It’s normal to want to feel good, especially when you’re going through difficult times.
4. But if you think that you need pleasure or that pleasure is the only way to feel good, you might be wrong.
5. And I mean really wrong.
6. Well, the answer is simple. You need to wait before you meet your basic needs and gratify yourself.
7. Christianity values delayed gratification. Being able to delay your needs means having strong willpower.

14. You are not interested in growing spiritually

1. Col. 2:6-7, ⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.
2. A sign of spiritual immaturity is when you’re not interested in growing and when you constantly buy into deadly spirituality.
3. Unknowingly, we all pick up bad habits in this regard.
4. Satisfied with where you are
5. Don’t want to know more
6. No desire to grow in Christ
7. Happy where you are
8. SB - When it comes to your personal spiritual journey, which deadly habits have you unknowingly picked up?

15. You have a hard time asking for help

1. Gal. 6:2, ² Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.
2. Are you able to ask for help when you are in trouble?
3. Are you willing to accept and receive help from others when they offer it?
4. In fact, being willing to accept help is a sign of humility because it shows that we acknowledge our shortcomings and are willing to improve them.

16. You can't discern between good and evil

1. Rom. 12:2, ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. We all know that there is a difference between good and evil.

3. But if you're spiritually immature, you will not be able to discern what is right and what is wrong.

4. In fact, you will not even be able to tell between the two. Why?

5. Because it's hard work to discern between them. It takes spiritual maturity to distinguish God's voice from the voice of evil.

6. Thus, when we say that we can discern between good and evil, it means that we recognize what is right and wrong and are able to act appropriately on both.

7. It's easy to see good on the surface; it's more difficult to recognize evil when it's hidden beneath a veneer of goodness.

8. And this is why the Bible says that only those who can discern between good and evil are able to keep their minds steadfast.

17. You have a head knowledge vs. heart knowledge of Jesus

1. Matt. 7:21-23, ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

2. You have a great understanding of theology, of Jesus and history — that's the head knowledge.

3. SB - But how's your relationship with Jesus?

4. Are you praying?

5. A lack of heart knowledge is often a sign of spiritual immaturity.

6. The great news is that growing your heart knowledge — your relationship with Jesus — is a choice you can make.

18. A Lack of Concentration

1. Heb. 2:1, ¹ For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*.

2. Heb. 12:1-2, Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3. What is brought out by these exhortations is an inability to fix the heart and mind upon Christ and make Him the chief object of devotion and attention.

4. Lest at any time we should let them slip, drift away

5. That is a nautical phrase describing what happens to a craft that isn't anchored.

6. Without our hearts and minds fixed upon Christ we are carried away by the currents of the world around us.

19. A Lack of Appetite

1. Heb. 5:12-14 – earlier in seminar
2. John 8:47, ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God.”
4. 3. Once again an illustration from the natural realm illuminates the world of the Spirit.
5. Three periods of life when we cannot digest 'strong meat'.
 - At infancy.
 - During sickness because of some poison in our digestive system.
 - Near death, our system no longer has the strength or energy to turn solids into nourishment.
6. Three periods of our life spiritually when we cannot digest the 'strong meat' of the Word of God.
 - When we are spiritually immature - babes in Christ.
 - When the poison of sin enters our system.
 - When we are so controlled by sin and self that we become castaways in God's service.
7. An immature Christian will not have the desire to consume spiritual things
8. Loss of spiritual appetite

20. A Lack of Discernment

1. Eph. 4:14, ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
2. Discernment' - the ability to distinguish the transient from the permanent to determine the eternal value.
3. Sometimes the important distinction we need to discern is not between what is evil and what is good, but between what is comparatively harmless and what is actually valuable.
 - Cor. 10:23-24, ²³ All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own *good*, but that of his neighbor.
4. That we shouldn't be asking is it lawful to do such and such;
5. But will it edify? Will it help my Christian life? How will it affect those around me?
6. The believer who defends their action by saying 'What's wrong with it?' is still self-centered and carnal; certainly not spiritually mature.
7. Heb. 13: 9, ⁹ Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.
8. Immature believers are 'tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine' (Eph. 4:14)
9. These young Christians thought that they were being spiritual, but in fact what they were doing Heb. 10:14,
10. Christ is better than the law and the sacrifices of animals.

11. Rom. 14:13, ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.

Six Signs of Emotional Spirituality Immaturity

1. Emotionally Immature Christians Hate Change.

Change is a constant. You can’t avoid it.

Underneath this resistance, you typically find two drivers: fear and control.

2. Emotionally Immature Christians Don’t Have Many Close Relationships.

It’s possible—likely even—for an emotionally immature Christian to have a lot of connections.

They might know a lot of people on a first-name basis. But they know very few.

Emotionally immature Christians don’t know how to grow in intimacy, which is the stuff of relationships.

3. Emotionally Immature Christians Seek Immediate Gratification.

They’re highly impulsive and often run to quick fixes, especially in times of crisis or struggle or pain.

Emotionally immature Christians don’t know how to wait patiently on the Lord.

4. Emotionally Immature Christians Are Highly Sensitive and Easily Offended.

Immature Christians need something to be against because they draw energy from winning battles, proving others wrong and the like.

Because of this, they’re highly sensitive to opposing views, quick to throw up walls and often live a reactionary existence.

5. Emotionally Immature Christians See The World As “Black And White.”

They need the world to make sense, so they paint it with black and white.

You will often hear them speak in absolutes—never, always, etc.

Absolutes help immature Christians compress the world to a manageable size, one that’s both safe and void of unknown.

6. Emotionally Immature Christians Don’t Establish And Maintain Healthy Boundaries.

They don’t know how to take care of themselves.

They try to do it all.

They don’t know how to say no and become trapped into doing a bunch of good things at the expense of their personal and spiritual health.

2 Pet. 3:18, ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.