



## *How things fit together in the Kingdom*

### Putting Away Childish Things

We often hear this stated by Bible teachers: “Put away childish things”. It’s actual a quote from Paul in one of his letters to the 1<sup>st</sup> century believers.<sup>ii</sup> It’s not a very palatable thing to recite, as it causes adults to baulk at this reference to discipline by their parents. However, it is a very important point that Paul was making, so it needs to be properly understood.

Childishness is the opposite of maturity. As sons, we’re meant to mature, not remain as a babes in spiritual matters (viz. matters of the Kingdom). That being said, I find that there are very, very few believers who are thinking about their spiritual maturity, according to those I know and others I have spoken to. I believe this happens because the teaching they’ve received has been about becoming more involved in the church, gaining more head knowledge at Bible college, increasing the amount of religious activities they do or about striving to have their own ‘ministry’<sup>1</sup>. I know this, because it’s the teaching I received in my 50 years in the church system.

I’ll start this topic off by focusing on spiritual maturity according to the NT. The quotes I use were penned by leaders in the first *ekklesias* (ecclesiae) that were set up after the release of the Spirit in around 50AD. The content is from those who were taught by Holy Spirit<sup>iii</sup>, not those who had been swayed back into religion<sup>iv</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

**Philippians 3:14-16** (AMPC<sup>3</sup>) - *I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. So let those [of us] who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also. Only let us hold true to what we have already attained and walk and order our lives by that.*

**James 1:4** (NIV) - *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

**James 1:3-4** (AMPC) - *Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience. But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.*

From these it can be seen that there were mature believers and immature ones. The concept today which is not really taught, is that the mature ones had been following the Lord Jesus for a long time while those who were immature were new believers. That’s an assumption.

Notice in these next 2 passages that maturing is a process – “become” and “may” are the operative words used:

**Ephesians 4:11-15** (NIV) - *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be<sup>4</sup> built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become** mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in*

1 – I put this word in inverted commas because it’s a church term that doesn’t have the same meaning as it was used in the NT – therefore it’s not a Kingdom term. Ministry means ‘service’. The focus is on serving others, not making a name for yourself or becoming a professional Christian who lives off the donations of believers.

2 – VIZ. They weren’t members of the Judaizers and other supporters of religion

3 – The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

4 – The meaning of “may be” here is ‘it may come about’. Not ‘maybe’, indicating some doubt.

love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

**Colossians 1:28** (AMPC) - *Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One).*

So, there you have it, both James and Paul confirm that the expectation is that we mature in our spirituality so we are fully developed, with nothing lacking. That means that spiritual maturity is something that happens over time. To be effective then, it requires each of us to work at it and to desire to become mature. It's an active process, not a passive one.

## **What type of maturity are we talking about?**

Now the issue is this: What "full development" or "maturity" are they referring to? Is it knowledge of the Bible? That's never given as a mandate in the NT, so it can't be that.<sup>5</sup> Is it knowledge of the church and church ways? There was no church system back in NT times, only a community (*ekklesia*) of Kingdom citizens who gave allegiance to King Jesus. The church religious system was forming towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and was described by Justin Martyr in 155AD as fully functioning.<sup>6</sup>

What type of spiritual maturity is it then? It's maturing as Father would want us to mature. That's different to what men tell us our focus must be on. If our priorities have to be the King, the Kingdom and the King's plans, then maturity has to be whatever is their priority, not ours or anyone else's. As we've been informed by Father, that maturity is in our sonship. We're to grow up in ways that enable us to be more effective and useful for the Kingdom and its expansion around the world.

I must point out here that the expansion of the Kingdom is not about "getting everyone saved". That's a very stunted view of Father's plan, because it's much, much more extensive and complex than that. It involves aligning with the King so we can do our part in his plans, in partnership with him. It includes the manifestation of the sons of God<sup>7</sup> and the Restoration of All Things<sup>8</sup> in these Last Days. But there's more, but that'll have to wait for another teaching session.

It's interesting to note that believers were castigated<sup>9</sup> for being immature in some of the NT writings. That criticism should be a wakeup call for everyone who doesn't consider that their spiritual maturity is very critical. Note these ones:

**1 Corinthians 3:1-2** (TPT) - *Brothers and sisters, when I was with you I found it impossible to speak to you as those who are spiritually mature people, for you are still dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. And because you are immature infants in Christ, I had to nurse you and feed you with "milk"<sup>10</sup>, not with the solid food of more advanced teachings, because you weren't ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready to be fed solid food..*

**Hebrews 5:12-14** (NKJV) - *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles<sup>11</sup> of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age<sup>12</sup>, that is, those who by reason of use<sup>13</sup> have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

5 – The Bible as we know it wasn't put together until the 4<sup>th</sup> century when it was formalized by the Roman Catholic Church.

See their timeline here: [i.pinimg.com/originals/e3/17/a3/e317a3de0c80b04e11f0c13f761e09ca.jpg](http://i.pinimg.com/originals/e3/17/a3/e317a3de0c80b04e11f0c13f761e09ca.jpg)

6 – See historic details here: [www.facebook.com/SaintJosephStudios/photos/a.540899099307908/3968042593260191](https://www.facebook.com/SaintJosephStudios/photos/a.540899099307908/3968042593260191)

7 – "Time for the Manifestation of the Sons of God"

[canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/12b-Time-for-the-Manifestation-of-the-Sons-of-God.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/12b-Time-for-the-Manifestation-of-the-Sons-of-God.pdf)

8 – Read the information here: [canberraforerunners.org/?page\\_id=8976](http://canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=8976)

9 – i.e. Spoken to severely

10 – This "milk" would include the basic teachings of our faith. Even so, every newborn needs milk to survive and be sustained. See [1 Peter 2:2](#). The more advanced teachings Paul describes are spiritual "solid food"—something we can "sink our teeth into" and look for deeper meaning in. [classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%203:1-2&version=TPT#en-TPT-9733](http://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%203:1-2&version=TPT#en-TPT-9733)

11 – Sayings of God

12 – 'Mature'

13 – 'Practice'

**Hebrews 5:12-14** (TPT) - *For you should already be professors instructing others by now; but instead, you need to be taught from the beginning the basics of God's prophetic oracles! You're like children<sup>14</sup> still needing milk and not yet ready to digest solid food. For every spiritual infant who lives on milk is not yet pierced<sup>15</sup> by the revelation of righteousness.<sup>16</sup> But solid food is for the mature, whose spiritual senses perceive heavenly matters. And they have been adequately trained by what they've experienced to emerge<sup>17</sup> with understanding of the difference between what is truly excellent and what is evil and harmful.*

**Hebrews 5:12-14** (MIRROR<sup>18</sup>) - *By now you (Jews) should have been professors, able to teach the rest of the world, but you are still struggling with the ABC's of God's language in Christ.<sup>v</sup> The difference between the prophetic shadow and the real is like that between milk and meat in your diet. You cannot live on baby food for the rest of your lives!*

**Romans 2:19-20** (TPT<sup>19</sup>) - *You are also confident that you are a qualified guide to those who are "blind", a shining light to those who live in darkness. You are confident that you are a true teacher of the foolish and immature, all because you have the treasury of truth and knowledge in the law of Moses.*

The last one above relates to the fact that the Roman believers thought they were mature, but they were off-track. Their expertise was in the Law (Torah), not the things of the Spirit and the Kingdom. They were religiously and legalistically knowledgeable, but that's irrelevant in the Kingdom.

## **What about childish things, then?**

Anyone who's not mature or maturing properly we call 'immature'. Some immaturity is so immature that we label it as 'childish'. We should all be familiar with that way of reasoning. So, when Paul refers to "childish things", he's referring to those who are spiritually immature and are involved in activities and beliefs which are not in alignment with that type of maturity.

Here's a reminder of what Paul wrote about "childish things":

**1 Corinthians 13:11** (NKJV) - *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

**1 Corinthians 13:11** (TPT) - *When I was a child, I spoke about childish matters, for I saw things like a child and reasoned like a child. But the day came when I matured, and I set aside my childish ways.*

In context, Paul is writing about love<sup>vi</sup>, so that means his reference in verse 11 is all about love. The inference then is that mature believers operate out of love as their prime relational guide. This is not exactly stated by Paul, but in context, that seems to be the point. Those, of course, who can't operate out of love, but through their emotions, hate, envy, discrimination, etc., are immature or childish to use the translator's term.

Another instance where Paul references immature activities of believers is their desire to follow special days, months, seasons and years.<sup>viii</sup> Here's the Passion Translation of what Paul wrote, written in modern day English:

**Galatians 4:9-11** (TPT) - *But now that we truly know him and are intimately known by him, why would we for a moment consider turning back to those weak and feeble principles of religion, as though we were still subject to them? Why would we want to scrupulously observe rituals like special days<sup>20</sup>, celebrations of the new moon, annual festivals, and sacred years? I'm so alarmed about you that I'm beginning to wonder if my labor in ministry among you was a waste of time!*

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14 - The Greek word *nepios* means "still unfit to bear arms," that is, unprepared for battle.

[classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A12-14&version=TPT#en-TPT-11333](http://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A12-14&version=TPT#en-TPT-11333)

15 - Inexperienced

16 - The Aramaic can be translated "they are not unversed in the language [manifestation] of righteousness."

[classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A12-14&version=TPT#en-TPT-11334](http://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A12-14&version=TPT#en-TPT-11334)

17 - As translated from the Aramaic. [classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A12-14&version=TPT#en-TPT-11335](http://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A12-14&version=TPT#en-TPT-11335)

18 - The Mirror Study Bible [www.mirrorword.net](http://www.mirrorword.net)

19 - The Passion Translation

20 - "Probably Jewish Sabbaths and festivals, which Paul's opponents claimed must be observed to be saved" (Expanded Bible)

[classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+4%3A10&version=EXB](http://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+4%3A10&version=EXB)

These were most likely Jewish believers who believed Jewish feast days and Sabbaths, etc., were critically important as ways to live in the Kingdom.<sup>21</sup> Although it was proper for Jews to celebrate these occasions, because they were what identified a Jew, they were irrelevant for Father's sons. Their religious thinking was immature, so their desires should be considered as childish.

Let me explain how religion is childish. When little children play "house" they are copying what their family does, but it's their childish version of the reality. In their mind they're 'dead serious' that they're doing a great job in copying their parents, but parents who look on can see it's not real and bears little or no resemblance to real home life. The same occurs when they play "mothers and fathers" or "doctors and nurses" – they're childish imitations of the genuine. That's what religion is, in any of its forms. It's an immature (childish) misrepresentation of what's real in how the Kingdom of Heaven is meant to manifest on the Earth.

### **What are other childish things?**

If we consider maturity as being mature as a son with sound Kingdom thinking and lives, then anything that's outside of that is immature (childish).

Here's a short list of childishness from the perspective of the Kingdom. There are many, many more.

1. Being a busybody and caught up in other people's affairs when God has not asked you to be involved. This is done without being given access to do it and often behind people's back. It revolves around not minding your own business.
2. Being critical of the world, the "lost", the unrighteous, the unholy, the ungodly and the carnal and even other believers because you expect them to behave like mature sons of God.
3. Being legalistic, argumentative, defensive, protective, quarrelsome, and religious.
4. Quoting scripture at people. Also, quoting scripture in response to what they said, rather than trying to understand the spirit of what they are trying to convey.
5. Being focused on small things that don't matter. This is done without Kingdom understanding or without consideration of God's big picture. In other words, being focused on the immediate and short term, instead of also considering the medium and long term. It involves not seeing things from the Trinity's perspective.
6. Assessing and analysing everything through the base nature ('flesh'<sup>22</sup>) and soul. For example: Using your emotions to assess and analyse how things make you feel. Or, assessing and analysing everything against your knowledge and understanding of scripture &/or the world. That's instead of being open and standing in faith so that you spiritually hear and see from God, so he can speak to you. Failure to do that misses out on a rhema word, a word of knowledge, a prophesy, or a vision, dream, etc.
7. Unskilled in the art of "chewing the meat and spitting out the bones". That is: You can't read or listen to a message, picking up on what the Spirit has to say to you and discarding the rest of it. The reason is that you want everything to be perfect, and you won't change any of your theology – i.e. you won't discard any and won't consider any alternatives.
8. Learning is only achieved through one method, one perspective, one earthly lens to view everything. You are unable to see or assess things from multiple angles or perspectives. This prohibits you from being able to extract lessons and important points that are essential for you to understand and remember. In other words, do you have the ability to learn from the good and the bad in life. That is, can you learn from your mistakes and the mistakes and imperfections of others.
9. Being unable to conduct oneself properly in different settings because of the inability to discern the protocols of different environments.

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21 – "Paul's opponents claimed must be observed to be saved" (Expanded Bible)  
[classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+4%3A10&version=EXB](http://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+4%3A10&version=EXB)

22 – "The Flesh: Our Human Base Nature"  
[canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-Flesh-Our-Human-Base-Nature.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-Flesh-Our-Human-Base-Nature.pdf)

10. Emotions are triggered by what people say or do. This occurs with things that don't line up with your understanding, expectations or your way of doing things. You are triggered by things which are different to who you are or where you are. Emotions result from your lack of self-control, rather than remaining in rest, peace and joy.
11. Being overprotective and over-defensive instead of trusting God to be your protector, defender, blessing, provider, recompenser and vindicator.
12. Using you intellect and emotion to teach and convey the things of God instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to do it. You are unable to let your spirit-man speak to the spirit of others.
13. Not focusing on what's important. That is, focusing too much on the natural life and not the Kingdom life. That means not hearing from Father and not growing as a son.<sup>viii</sup>
14. Always operating and thinking out of a critical spirit.
15. Constantly being bitter towards others and/or about your life.
16. Always wanting your own way.

If sons have an intimate relationship with the Trinity and are developing oneness with them, they will be aligning themselves with their plan. They will understand the things of the Kingdom, as well as spiritual realities. These are the hallmark of Kingdom maturity. Anything outside of those parameters is immature, no matter how spiritual, logical or relevant they may seem. You see:

**everything has to be assessed from a Kingdom perspective.**

Laurence & Jose<sup>23</sup>

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**\*References are on the next page\***

## REFERENCES

ii – 1 Corinthians 13:11

iii – Galatians 1:16-18 (Paul wasn't taught by the Disciples); 1 Corinthians 7:25 (He was taught by the Spirit or by Jesus)

iv – Galatians 2:14 (Read it in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition or The Living Bible)

v – Hebrews 1:1-3

vi – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

vii – Galatians 4:10 (Expanded Bible, Young's Literal Translation, KJV, etc.)

viii – **Laurence's Prophetic Journal 16-8-2018**: "Focus on what's important. Don't let your mind drift onto things that are irrelevant for me and my Kingdom. Yes, irrelevant. You see, **what you do is 'infantile'**. You think on those things that are natural, not supernatural. I want you to grow up and be more like me. Yes, me – not you and not others. Don't compare yourself with others, that is futile. Remember? You already know that. That type of thinking brings you down and will not see you rise to who I want you to be. Yes, I want you to be.

Keep close to me. Danger lies ahead and faltering could be catastrophic for your growth and development. I say "catastrophic" because you have contracted to move ahead and not 'go around the mountain' again. You have committed to me full-time and fully-focussed, so do it.

I want you to hear more clearly. That means removing the 'noise' from your life. That noise over-shadows and masks your spiritual hearing. Quietly listening and communing with me is essential for all messages to come through at this stage. Later, it will be easier...

This is my message for you today. Learn it and learn it well."

[canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/45-Focus-on-what-is-important.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/45-Focus-on-what-is-important.pdf)