

Spiritual Maturity – Where Are You Up To?

Five stages of growing up in faith. Have an honest look — where are you right now, and where is God inviting you next?

STAGE 1 Just Getting Started

Nēpios "infant" — new to faith, or new to really engaging with it

Everything is fresh and a bit shaky. You need a lot of support right now — and that's exactly right for where you're at.

1

Nēpios

↑ Signs you're growing

- Craving Scripture and wanting to keep learning
- Attaching to a church community instead of drifting off alone
- Starting basic habits: prayer, Bible, gathered worship

↓ Signs you're stuck or regressing

- Staying fully dependent — expecting others to spoon-feed you
- Treating faith like a consumer: what's in it for me?
- Disappearing once the initial excitement wears off

STAGE 2 Learning the Ropes

Paidion "young child" — building the basic habits and rhythms of faith

You're showing up, serving, learning. It can still feel like following the rules more than living from the heart, but that's how the foundations get laid.

2

Paidion

↑ Signs you're growing

- Consistent habits of prayer, Bible, worship, and community
- Receiving correction from leaders without pulling away
- Starting to serve rather than just receive

↓ Signs you're stuck or regressing

- Faith stays external — rule-keeping with no inner change
- Belonging to the group but never truly owning your own faith
- Reading correction as rejection instead of hearing it

STAGE 3 Being Shaped

Teknion "dear child" — in close relational formation under a mentor

Someone is investing in you and it's changing you. Your gifts are growing, but so is the deeper question of who you're becoming underneath the ministry and the busyness. Increasingly listening to and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.

3

Teknion

↑ Signs you're growing

- Teachable and responsive to a mentor or spiritual parent
- Asking 'who am I becoming?' — not just chasing output
- Willing to be known deeply, not just seen serving

↓ Signs you're stuck or regressing

- No mentor — quietly growing (or drifting) in isolation
- Gifting racing ahead of character, unchecked
- Ministry becoming your identity instead of your relationship with God

STAGE 4 Through the Wall

Huios "mature son / daughter" — Spirit-led, no longer performance-driven

Loss, testing, or disillusionment has stripped some things away — or is stripping them away right now. This is the hardest stage, and also the one that produces the most depth.

4

Huios

↑ Signs you're growing

- Led by an internal compass, not external pressure
- Secure in the Fathers love rather than performance or approval
- Committed to relationships of mutual accountability that grow and develop you holistically
- Letting hardship deepen you rather than push you out

↓ Signs you're stuck or regressing

- Walking away from community or faith when the crisis hits
- Refusing to let the inner life be examined
- Staying performance-driven, burnout keeps repeating

STAGE 5 Pouring Into Others

Patēr "spiritual father / mother" — reproducing life and faith in others

You've moved from being fed to feeding others. Your focus now is who you're building into — and you're doing it without needing the credit.

5

Patēr

↑ Signs you're growing

- Intentionally investing in the growth of specific people
- Giving away platform and opportunity instead of holding on
- Not threatened by someone else's gifting or growth

↓ Signs you're stuck or regressing

- Still functioning as a consumer — never moving to giving
- Holding tightly to roles and control, no succession in view
- Wisdom that stays unspoken and never becomes ministry to others

For group discussion: Which stage do you see yourself in right now? What's one honest sign from that stage that's true of you? What would it look like to take one step toward the next stage this year?