

The Characteristics of a Mature Believer

1A Consistent spiritual disciplines:

1B Identifies self as a creature of God, in Christ.

1C 2 Corinthians 5:17 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2C Romans 6:11 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3C Galatians 3:26 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

2B Consistent in the Word, both in intake and application: 1 John 2:3-6, 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

3B Lives on the assumption of Scriptural orientation to life, filtering experience and evaluating potential words and deeds through God's Word:

1C Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2C Deuteronomy 8:3, 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

3C 2 Peter 1:3 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4B Orients his life to the grace of God, seeking only the merit of Christ's righteousness, the wisdom of God's Word, and power of the Holy Spirit: 2 Corinthians 8:6-7, 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

5B Consistently avoids and resists temptation, living both private and public life in integrity;

1C 2 Timothy 2:22, 22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2C James 4:7, 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

3C 1 Peter 1:15, 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

6B Swiftly recovers from sinful failures;

1C 1 John 1:9, 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2C Philippians 3:13-14, 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

7B Has a consistent prayer life, praying each day and on each occasion in the Spirit for the legitimate needs of self and others;

1C 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 17 pray without ceasing,

2C Hebrews 4:16, 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2A Christian character:

1B Has the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no

law.

- 2B** Consistently models the communicable attributes of God: love, justice, grace, faithfulness, truth, order.
- 3B** Operates consistently from the motivation of personal love for God: Deuteronomy 6:5, 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- 4B** Loves other Christians with *agape* love, showing patience and giving encouragement;
- 1C** John 13:34-35, 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- 2C** 1 Peter 1:22, 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
- 3C** Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 4C** Ephesians 4:32, 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
- 5C** 1 Peter 4:8, 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”
- 6C** 1 John 4:11-12, 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.
- 5B** Is able to endure undeserved suffering without negative emotional overreaction, willfully rejoicing instead, and living in peace:
- 1C** James 1:2-4, 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
- 2C** 1 Peter 4:12-13, 12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
- 6B** Looks to testify to the Lord’s goodness and greatness through all the phases of life, in both blessing and adversity;
- 1C** Job 1:21 21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”
- 2C** Philippians 4:11-13 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- 7B** Functions without fear of loss or exclusion of anything in this world;
- 1C** 1 John 4:18 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
- 2C** Psalm 27:1 1 A Psalm of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
- 8B** Lives in the world, enjoying both spiritual and worldly blessings, yet does not love the world; 1 John 2:15-17 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- 9B** Is ambitious toward God’s plan of eternal reward and content with what he has in this world;
- 1C** Hebrews 1:2 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- 2C Ephesians 1:13-14 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- 3C Ephesians 1:17-18 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- 3A Christian service:
 - 1B Has a consistent life as an ambassador for Christ, looking for opportunities and generating opportunities to present the Gospel to others: 2 Corinthians 5:20, 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
 - 2B Identifies his spiritual gift and finds a Christian service niche and refines his spiritual life to serve there.
 - 1C Ephesians 2:10 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - 2C Colossians 1:9-10, 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
 - 3B Looks for opportunities to speak to the truth in love to his fellow believers and to be refined in turn by their encouragement;
 - 1C Ephesians 4:15, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
 - 2C Colossians 3:16, 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
 - 3C 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.
 - 4C 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
 - 5C Hebrews 3:13, 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
 - 6C Hebrews 10:24-25 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
 - 4B Is confident before God and man, waiting expectantly and with love for the appearing of Christ at the rapture
 - 1C 1 Peter 5:4, 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.
 - 2C 2 Timothy 4:8, 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
 - 5B Has humility toward the established authorities of divine institutions.
 - 1C Ephesians 5:22 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
 - 2C Ephesians 6:1 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
 - 3C Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
 - 4C 1 Timothy 2:1-4 1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a

quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- 6B** Has a personal sense of destiny as a warrior of the angelic conflict, recognizing his life is a testimony in the arena of angels.
- 1C** Daniel 4:13, 13 “I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven.
- 2C** Ephesians 3:10, 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,
- 3C** 1 Peter 1:12, 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.
- 4C** Luke 15:10, 10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- 5C** 1 Timothy 3:16, 16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.
- 6C** Psalm 8:1-9, 1 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. 9 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!
- 7C** Psalm 110 1 A Psalm of David. The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool
- 8C** 1 Peter 3:21-22 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.
- 9C** Job 1:6-11 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” 9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”