



LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY

Living the Abundant Life that is in Christ

Christianity is the love of God reaching out to humanity to reconcile us to God's original intention. The center of that love is the person Jesus Christ, who becomes the reconciler between God and humanity, and provides a new and living way for humanity to be restored to God the Father's original plan: plans for good and not for evil, to provide both a future and a hope. Jesus came that we might have life, and that more abundantly.

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The Cycle of Spiritual Growth and Transformation

That which we refer to as spiritual growth or transformation is actually the manifestation of the wisdom of God in our lives.

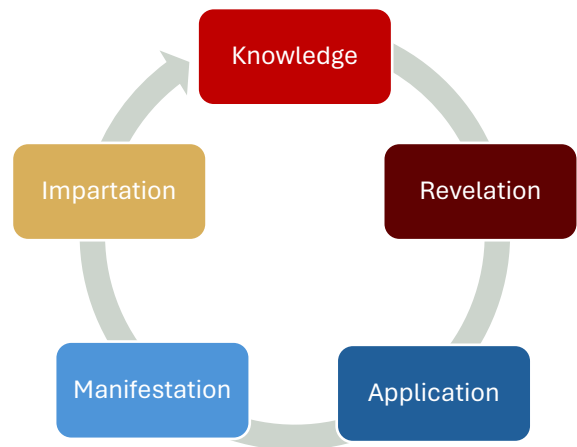
*“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” – **Romans 12:2***

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” – **Proverbs 1:7***

*But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – **1 Corinthians 1:30***

Kingdom transformation and spiritual growth occurs through a repeating cycle of stages as observed throughout the Bible. The cycle begins with challenging of our human knowledge (world system) with the knowledge of God and concludes with impartation of our experiences with God to others.

- **Knowledge** – Sense based knowledge or mental assent/agreement with information. **1 Corinthians 2:14** (the carnal mind cannot receive the things of the spirit)
- **Revelation** – Spiritual revelation of scripture or scriptural principles (Rhema word) personal in nature. **John 6:63** (The words[rhema] that I speak are spirit and life)
- **Application** – Applying the wisdom of scripture or scriptural revelation to one’s personal life or ministry. **James 1:22** (be doers of the Word)
- **Manifestation** – The fulfillment of scriptural promises, miracles, answers to prayer, or the manifestation of the presence or will of God. **1 John 5:14** (God will answer)
- **Impartation** – Teaching or communicating truth concerning the outcomes of God’s manifestation to those that have not yet experienced God in that way. **Matthew 28:20** (teach them what I taught you).

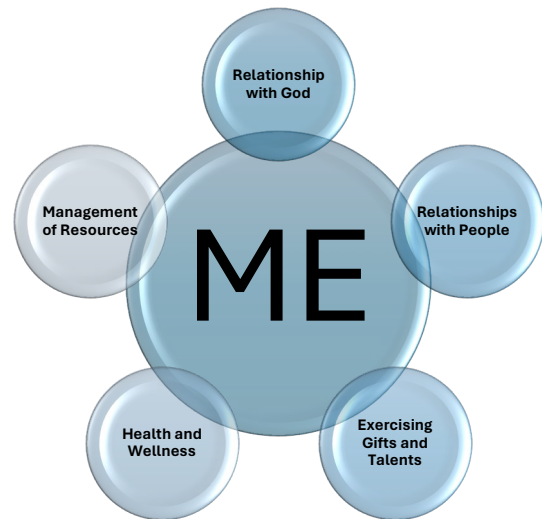


When we begin to impart to others, it opens the door for God to reveal new things to us and take us from faith to faith. This cycle of spiritual growth is applied to all areas of our life.

Five Areas of Spiritual Maturity and Transformation

The cycle of spiritual growth and transformation occurs in five distinct areas of the Christian life which represent life more abundantly, spiritual maturity, and the manifestation of Godly wisdom in our lives. Our goal should be to grow in Christ in a balanced way, avoiding neglect of any area. ***The outcome is an abundant life.***

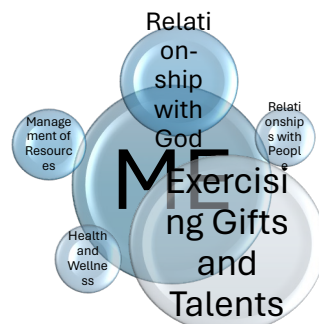
- Relationship with God – Attention to knowing Christ and His Word - **Matthew 22:37**
- Relationships with People – Attention to the Kingdom relationships around us and our expressions of Godly love - **Matthew 22:37-39**
- Exercising Gifts and Talents – Focus on worshipping God through the giving back our natural and spiritual gifts and talents - **Colossians 3:17, 23**
- Healing and Wellness – Maintaining the spirit, soul, and body in order to fulfill our God given mission - 1 **Peter 2:24**
- Management of Resources – Exercising stewardship of all resources entrusted to us by God. Possessions, money, time, name/reputation - **Matthew 25:14-30**



The goal of every believer should be to grow to a level of maturity in every area of their lives, recognizing that the ultimate maturity is to be fully in Christ. The outcome of all spiritual growth and maturity should be the ability to impart that which has been received from God to others.

The **Mature/Balanced Christian Life** allows our spiritual maturity in Christ to be manifested for others to experience our witness. They experience Christ in us the hope of glory – **Colossians 1:27**

The **Immature/Out of Balance Christian Life** has an emphasis on the development of one or two areas of spiritual growth and neglects growing to maturity in any of the other areas.



Key Confessions for Spiritual Maturity

- **Relationship with God** - I have a life-giving relationship with God the Father, through Jesus Christ, and my ongoing connection and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
- **Relationships with People** - I have thriving Kingdom Relationships with:
 - Individuals that invest and pour into my life,
 - A partnership community with the people of this church and with the Body of Christ, and
 - Individuals that I personally and intentionally invest and pour into, especially those that do not yet know Jesus.
- **Gifts and Talents** - I understand that all people (including me) are gifted beyond their comprehension and are anointed and empowered to be problem solvers. I am a problem solver.
- **Healing and Wellness** - My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and as I care for the temple God sustains the temple so that I can fulfill my purposes and destiny.
- **Management of Resources** - I have been entrusted by God with resources and by His anointing I am an effective steward and multiplier so that I am always free for Kingdom generosity.

Area 1: - Relationship with God

The first area of transformation in the life of the believer is relationship with God, which begins with knowing the truth of who God is and who we are in relation to Him. **Romans 8:23**

- Knowing God – His person, His Names, His Character, and His ways.
- Abiding in Christ – He is the vine, we are the branches, we bear fruit from Him. **John 15**
- Fellowship with the Holy Spirit – Our comforter, our guide, our source of power. **John 16**
- In Christ, you are a new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- Prayer, Worship, and Praise.

Area 2: - Relationships with People

The second area of transformation is walking the love walk with people in kingdom relationship with us. We must also remember that mindsets flow through communities.

- The Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. **Romans 5:5**
- Love is the character and nature of God, and therefore as we are transformed it becomes our character as well. **1 John 4:8**

- Walking in forgiveness. As you have been forgiven, you must also forgive. The source of forgiveness is faith and love. **Matthew 6:14-15**
- Walking in unity. As a member of the body of Christ, our aim is to walk in unity with the rest of the body. Avoiding strife at all costs. **Psalms 133:1, Ephesians 4:3, 13**
- Being a servant. Love requires service. Jesus came to serve us, and we have been created for good works. **Matthew 20:28, Ephesians 2:10**
- Three types of kingdom relationships:
 - Paul relationships – The spiritual father/ teacher
 - Barnabus relationships – The friend/co-laborer/partner in ministry
 - Timothy relationships – The son/daughter/disciple/ learner

Area 3: - Exercising our Gifts and Talents.

The third area of transformation is identifying and exercising our God given Gifts and Talents. We live from the harvest of how we have sown our gifts and talents.

- Three types of Gifts
 - Natural Gifts – Genetic in nature. All people possess a wide range of natural gifts.
 - Spiritual Gifts – Given as the Spirit wills. All believers are endowed with the Holy Spirit, and if yielded to the Spirit, the believer can be used as an instrument by God to fulfill God's purposes and plans.
 - Ministry Gifts – The specific “office” that a believer is called to that blends the operation of natural and spiritual gifts. All believers have an office, but believers should allow the office to be revealed by operating by faith and love.
- All members of the Body of Christ have all three types of Gifts.
- Everyone should use their Gifts in proportion to their Faith. **Romans 12:6**
- Exercising of Gifts leads to fulfillment of purpose.
- Exercising of Gifts is for the profit of the whole Body of Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:7-14**

Area 4: - Health and Wellness

God's desire is that our body be used and maintained to fulfill our purpose. Health and Wellness of the physical body, ensure the ability to fulfill purpose.

- The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
- Jesus, “Wilt thou be made whole?” **John 5:2-9**
- Divine healing is part of the New Covenant. **1 Peter 2:24**
- Divine health is a birth right of the New Birth.
- If you are healed, do what well people do. Divine healing is maintained through the cultivation of wise health habits. "Rise, take up your bed and walk". **John 5:8**

Area 5: - Management of Resources

God's direction to Adam was exercise dominion over the earth. Exercising dominion means to control, manage, take responsibility, and care for something.

- Every believer is a manager/steward of the things God entrusts us with (in the home, in the community, and in the marketplace). **1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes**
 - Family/Household/Business
 - Influence/Power/Authority
 - Name/Reputation
 - Talents (Work, Ministry, and Recreation)
 - Time
 - Treasure/Finances
- Godly Management/Stewardship requires:
 - Leadership of the Holy Spirit (self-control is a fruit of the Spirit) **Galatians 5**.
 - Divine Wisdom and planning based on guidance from the Word and Holy Spirit
 - Being diligent to know the state of your flocks (resources) **Proverbs 27:23-24**
 - Counting the costs and being intentional. **Luke 14:28**
 - Consistency & Diligence. **Proverbs 10:4, 12:24, 13:4, 21:5**
- Through effective stewardship of the blessings of God, I am generous and able to give into every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:7-9**

The Example of Jesus (Manifesting the Wisdom of God)

In the life of Jesus, we see the pattern of the five areas manifesting:

1. **Relationship with God** – At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends on Him, and the Father speaks, “this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” As Jesus fulfills all righteous through the obedience of baptism, the Father manifests to the crowd His relationship with Jesus. **Matthew 3:15-17**
2. **Relationships with People** – Jesus initiates kingdom relationships with Peter and Andrew, reaching out to them and offering to teach/disciple them. “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” **Matthew 4:18-20**
3. **Exercising Gifts and Talents** – Jesus begins exercising the God given talents by teaching, preaching, and healing the sick. Throughout Jesus’ ministry He manifested a variety of gifts to meet the needs of people as he was led with compassion. **Matthew 4:23, Matthew 5:1, Matthew 14:14**
4. **Health and Wellness** – During Jesus’ earthly ministry, he manifested healing for those in need that came to Him in faith. The ultimate healing of Jesus was His resurrection from the dead. **Matthew 4:24**
5. **Management of Resources (Responsibility)** – When the multitudes gathered because of the gifts of the operation of the gifts and healings, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away, but Jesus responded with charging them with the responsibility of stewardship. “They do not need to go away, you feed them.” Jesus

would not allow the crowds to be sent away until after their needs were met.
Matthew 14:15-22.

We will manifest the wisdom of God to our generations through the model of ministry that we have been given by God. Through the manifestation of our model of ministry, we will never have to send anyone away to have their needs met. We will feed them!

