

**GREEK WORD STUDY OF  
THE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH**

## Introduction: Inspiration for this study

1) 1 John 2:13 – “I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, **children**, because you know the Father.” (Children, Young Men, Fathers)

2) 6 Greek words – describes the stages of spiritual growth

A) Children (**Brephos, Nepios**)

B) Young Men (**Paidion, Teknon**),

C) Fathers (**Huios, Teleios**)

3) 2 Peter 2:5-7 – “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**, and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love**.”

(**7 Virtues** describing the stages of spiritual growth)

## I. **Children** (1 John 2:13) (**Brephos** and **Nepios**)

### A. **Brephos** (New born babies or infants) (**8X**)

Strong's – 738 Artigennotos (new born) +  
1025 Brephos (babies)

1 Peter 2:2 – “like **newborn babies** (Artigennotos + Brephos), long for the **pure milk of the word**, so that by it you **may grow in respect to salvation**,”

## 1. **Characteristics** of new born babes

- a. **Know very little** – need someone to teach the elementary principles

Hebrews 5:12 – “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.”

- b. **Very vulnerable** – easily deceived and led astray

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

## 1) Should understand the **content of the gospel**

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 – “Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

## 2) Should understand the **truth of the gospel**

Galatians 2:14-16 –“ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the **truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? *We are* Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing that a man is **not justified** by the **works** of the Law but through **faith** in Christ Jesus, even we have **believed** in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith** in Christ and **not by the works** of the Law; since **by the works** of the Law **no flesh will be justified.**”

3) Should understand the **grace of the gospel**

Ephesians 2:8-9 –“ For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the **gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.”

## 2. **Brephos need:** constant attention – need daily **nurture** and **encouragement**

a) **Nurture** – milk is source of elementary principles and only way to grow spiritually

Hebrews 5:12 – “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.”

1 Peter 2:2 - “like newborn **babies** (Brephos), long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may **grow** in respect to salvation,”



b) **Encouragement** - to prevent deception of sin

Hebrews 3:13 – “But **encourage** one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called ‘Today,’ so that **none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**”

- c) Most important need is to **stay in fellowship with God**  
(1 John 1:9)
- 1) To be **forgiven** of daily sins and **cleansed** of all unrighteousness
  - 2) To **perceive** the milk they are drinking to encourage and benefit them
  - 3) To **protect** them from the deceitfulness of sin and from going astray

### **3. Summary of Brephos**

- a. Know very little, should know the content, truth and grace of the gospel
- b. Need nurture and encouragement of the word and most important need is to stay in fellowship

**B. Nepios** (Infant, babe, little child without power of speech)  
(Strong's – 3516) (**14X**)

1. **Characteristics** of immature stage of spiritual infancy

a. **Childish**

1 Corinthians 13:11 –“When I was a **child** (Nepios), I used to speak like a **child** (Nepios), think like a **child** (Nepios), reason like a **child** (Nepios); when I became a man, I did away with **childish things** (Nepios).” (5 times in one verse he uses the word Nepios)

b. **Still led by the flesh** (not all the time but much of it)

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 – “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** (pneumatikos) *men*, but as to men of **flesh** (sarkinos), as to **infants** (Nepios) in Christ. 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, for you are still **fleshly** (sarkinos). For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **fleshly** (sarkinos), and are you not walking like mere men?”

c. **Unstable and easily led astray and deceived** by false doctrine

Ephesians 4:14-15 – “As a result, we are no longer to be **children** (Nepios), **tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine**, by the **trickery** of men, by craftiness in **deceitful scheming**; but speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even Christ*,”

d. **Unskilled & unwise in the Word**

Hebrews 5:13-14 – “For everyone who partakes *only* of **milk** is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an **infant** (Nepios). But solid food is for the **mature** (Teleios), who because of practice have their senses **trained** to discern good and evil.”

2. **Nepios need:** Teaching, Reproof (Conviction),  
Correction, Training

a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 –“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate (or complete), equipped for every good work.”

**(Enforced Humility)**

b. Learn the difference between **carnality** and **spirituality**

1. Learn the habit of confessing sins to stay in fellowship  
(1 John 1:9)

2. Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) –  
control of Holy Spirit and not the flesh (Old Sin Nature)

3. Learn to walk by the Spirit (**spirituality**)  
not the flesh (**carnality**) (Galatians 5:16-17)

c. Learn the difference between:

The fruit of carnality (**dead works** - Hebrews 6:1) and

The fruit of spirituality (**divine good** (Ephesians 2:10)



### **3. Summary of Nepios**

a. Are childish, led by the flesh much of the time, unstable, easily led astray and deceived, and unskilled and unwise in the word of God

b. Need enforced humility, teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness from scripture, learn the habit of staying in fellowship, learn the difference between carnality with its fruit of dead works and spirituality with its fruit of divine good and learn to walk by the Spirit

## II. Young Men (1 John 2:13-14) (**Paidion** and **Teknon**)

### A. **Paidion** (Young child before stage of academic training) (**51X**) (Strong's – 3813)

#### 1. **Characteristics** of immature stage of young spiritual child

Mark 10:13-15 –“And they were bringing **children** (Paidion) to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Permit the **children** (Paidion) to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the **kingdom of God belongs to such as these**. Truly I say to you, whoever does not **receive the kingdom of God like a child** (Paidion) **will not enter it *at all*.**”

#### a. **Trusting** – how to enter the kingdom

b. Can still be **rebellious** against principles of the word

Proverbs 22:15 – “**Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child**; The rod of **discipline** will remove it far from him.”

c. Can still be **easily lead astray** by deception, sensuality and greed of false teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3 –“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce **destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. **Many will follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of the **truth will be maligned**; and in *their* **greed** they will **exploit you with false words**; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

d. 1 Corinthians 14:20 –“Brethren, do not be **children** (Paidion) in your thinking; yet in evil be **infants** (Nepios), but in your thinking be **mature** (Teleios).”

(**Nepios- #2, Paidion- #3, Teleios- #6**)

## 2. Paidion need:

### a. Discipline

Hebrews 12:5-6 – “My son, do not regard lightly the **discipline of the Lord**, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; For those **whom the Lord loves He disciplines**, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

1 Corinthians 11:3-32 –“ For this reason many among you are **weak** (warning discipline) and **sick** (intensive discipline), and a number **sleep** (dying discipline). But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are **disciplined by the Lord** so that we will not be condemned along with the world.”

b. **Genuine Humility** grows out of **Enforced Humility** of **Nepios** which is necessary to receive the word implanted in our cardia

James 1:21 – “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in **humility** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

James 4:6 –“ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the **humble**.”

**#1 Foundational Virtue: Humility (Submit to Authority)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

c. **Objectivity** and **teach-ability** come from **Genuine Humility**

1) **Grow in grace and grace orientation –**

2 Peter 3:17-18 –“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, 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.”

2) **Grace orientation** keeps one free from extremes of **legalism** and **antinomianism**

**Positive volition** - able to grow in grace and knowledge

**Negative volition** causes **matnotes** (vacuum in soul  
sucks evil of the world into it)

**#2 Positive Volition Virtue: Knowledge**  
**(Objective & Teachable)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)



### 3. Summary of Paidion

a. Trusting, but can still be rebellious against principles of the word and easily led astray by deception, sensuality and greed of false teachers

b. Need discipline, genuine humility (submit to authority), objectivity and teach-ability, and continue to grow in grace and knowledge and grace orientation

c. Developed first two Virtues (#1 Genuine Humility and #2 Positive Volition)

B. **Teknon** (Older child at teenager stage; a student or disciple) (**99X**)  
(Strong's – 5043)

1. **Characteristics** of teenager student training stage –  
**potential for tremendous growth**

a. **They are strong, knowledge of the word of God abides in them and they have overcome the evil one**

1 John 2:14b –“ I have written to you, **young men**, because you are **strong**, and the **word of God abides in you**, and you have **overcome the evil one.**”

b. **Can become arrogant “puffed up”** with much knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:1b – “we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes **arrogant**, but love edifies.”

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 – “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, **to keep me from exalting myself**, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — **to keep me from exalting myself!**”

c. **Can still yield to temptation, be led astray or deceived** by false doctrine

Galatians 2:11-12 –“But when **Cephas** came to Antioch, I **opposed him** to his face, because **he stood condemned**. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, **fearing the party of the circumcision.**”

(hypocrisy of legalism and fear of legalists)

## 2. Teknon need:

### a. To be strong in grace and in the Lord not in themselves

2 Timothy 2:1 – “You therefore, my son, be **strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Corinthians 12:10 – “Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

**b. Continue to be diligent in studying the Word of God**

2 Timothy 2:15 – “Be **diligent** (spoudazo) to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.**”

**#3 Discipline Virtue: Self-Control (Diligence)**  
(2 Peter 1:5-7)

c. **Continue to be transformed by the renewing of the mind**

Romans 12:1-2 –“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. 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.”

1 Peter 1:14-15 –“As obedient **children** (Teknon), do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;”

#### d. **Replace Human Viewpoint with Divine Viewpoint**

1 Corinthians 2:14 – “But a **natural man** does not accept the **things of the Spirit of God** for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

Colossians 3:2 – “Set your mind on the **things above**, not on the things that are on earth.”



### e. Learn to consistently apply divine viewpoint by practicing Faith Rest

Hebrews 4:1-11 – “Therefore, let us fear (**Now**) if, while a **promise remains (PPPart) (Now) of entering His rest**, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not **united by faith** in those who heard. For **we who have believed (AAPart) enter (PMInd) that rest (Now)**, just as He has said, “As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh *day*: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; and again in this *passage*, “They shall not enter My rest.” Therefore, since **it remains (Now) for some to enter it**, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. **So there remains (PPInd) (Now) a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered (AAPart) His rest has himself also rested (AAInd) from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent (AASubj) (Now) to enter (AAInf) (Now) that rest, so that no one will (might) fall (AASubj) (Now or later), through following the same example of disobedience.”**

## How to Practice Faith Rest

- 1) Claim a promise to be stabilized in the midst of difficult circumstances
- 2) Trust in the promise over the circumstance by adding related principles
- 3) Make doctrinal conclusions which bring rest in the midst of the trial

**#4 Stabilizing Virtue: Perseverance  
(Faith-Rest Application) (2 Peter 1:5-7)**

f. **Continue to overcome the evil one** – 1 John 2:14b

1) Resist the devil – James 4:7 –“Submit therefore to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.”

2) By putting on the full armor of God may stand firm against the devil

Ephesians 6:11-17 –“**Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having **girded** your loins **with truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.”

g. **Prove to be blameless, innocent, above reproach** without complaining and disputing

Philippians 2:14-16 –“Do all things **without grumbling or disputing**; so that you will **prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children** (Teknon) of God **above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, **holding fast the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”

h. **Walk in love, purity, goodness, righteousness and truth pleasing the Lord**

Ephesians 5:1-11 –“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved **children** (Teknon); and **walk in love**, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But **immorality** or any **impurity** or **greed** must **not** even **be named** among you, as is proper among saints; and *there must be* **no filthiness** and **silly talk**, or **coarse jesting**, which are not fitting, but rather **giving of thanks**. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no one deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore **do not be partakers with them**; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk as children** (Teknon) of Light (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**), trying to **learn what is pleasing to the Lord**. **Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness**, but instead even expose them;”

### 3. Summary of Teknon

a. Strong, knowledge of the word of God abides in them and have overcome the evil one but can be arrogant “puffed up” with knowledge, still vulnerable to temptation and being led astray or deceived by false doctrine

b. Need to be strong in grace and the Lord and not themselves, continue to be diligent in studying the word, be transformed by the renewing of the mind, learn to apply divine viewpoint, practice faith-rest, continue to overcome the evil one, prove to be blameless above reproach and walk in love, purity, goodness, righteousness and truth pleasing the Lord

c. Develop 3rd and 4th virtues (#3 Diligence to study and  
#4 Perseverance to apply Faith Rest)

### III. **Fathers** (1 John 2:13-14) (**Huios** and **Teleios**)

#### A. **Huios** (Adult sons of God) (Strong's – 5207) (**382X**)

##### 1. **Characteristics** of adult sons – Greater and greater percentage of time

###### a. **Continually putting to death the deeds of the flesh increasingly**

Romans 8:12-13 – “So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if **by the Spirit you are putting to death** (Present Active Indicative) **the deeds of the body**, you will live.”

###### b. **Continually being led by the Spirit of God increasingly**

Romans 8:14 – “For all who are **being led** (Present Passive Indicative) by the Spirit of God, these are (Present Active Indicative) **sons** (Huios) of God.”

c. **Continually living and walking by the Spirit**

Galatians 5:24-25 –“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we **live** (Present Active Indicative) **by the Spirit**, let us also **walk** (Present Active Subjunctive) **by the Spirit.**”

d. **Continually bearing much fruit of Spirit**

John 15:2 – “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that **bears** (Present Active Participle) fruit, He prunes it so that it may **bear more fruit.**”

Galatians 5:22-23 –“But the **fruit of the Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law.”



## 2. **Huios need:**

### a. **True love “for” God** in serving God

Matthew 22:37-38 – “And He said to him, ‘You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment.’”

John 14:15 – “If you **love Me**, you will keep My commandments.”

2 Timothy 3:2-5 –“ For men will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

## #5 Motivational Virtue: **Godliness (Love for God)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

- 1) Love for God is motivation behind service and good works  
**(divine good)**
- 2) Free of **false motivations** of praise of men  
**(human good, dead works)**

Romans 2:29 –“ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his **praise is not from men, but from God.**”

**b. Personal Phileo love of the brethren**

Romans 12:10 –“ *Be devoted to one another in **brotherly love** (philadelphia); give preference to one another in honor;*”

1 Peter 1:22a –“ Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere **love** (philadelphia) of the brethren,”

**#6 Personal Love Virtue: Brotherly Kindness (Phileo Love)**  
(2 Peter 1:5-7)

**c. Personal sense of destiny** – true spiritual esteem  
Know who you are in Christ (Son, Priest, Ambassador)

d. **Clearly understand the purpose for life**

1) **To become like Christ**

Romans 8:29 – “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;”

2) **To produce divine good works**

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

### 3) **To serve others** – through function of spiritual gift

Ephesians 4:11-12 – “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service**, to the building up of the body of Christ;”

### 4) **To glorify God**

Ephesians 1:12 – “to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be **to the praise of His glory.**”

### 3. Summary of Huios

- a. Continually putting to death the deeds of the flesh, being led by the Spirit, living and walking by the Spirit, and bearing much fruit a greater and greater percentage of the time
- b. Need true love “for” God, personal love of the brethren, understand their personal sense of destiny and purpose for life to become like Christ, produce divine good works, serve others and glorify God
- c. Develop 5th and 6th virtues (#5 Love for God – Motivation and #6 Brotherly Kindness)

## B. **Teleios** (Mature spiritual adults) (Strong's – 5046) (**19X**)

1 Corinthians 14:20 –“Brethren, do not be **children** (#3 Paidion) in your thinking; yet in evil be **infants** (#2 Nepios), but in your thinking be **mature** (#6 Teleios).”

Colossians 1:28 –“We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man **complete** (Teleios) in Christ.”

Ephesians 4:13 –“until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature** (Teleios) man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness (Pleroma) of Christ.”

## 1. **Characteristics** of mature spiritual adults

### a. **Senses trained to discern good and evil**

Hebrews 5:14 – “But solid food is for the **mature** (Teleios), who because of practice have their **senses trained to discern good and evil.**”

### b. **Self-controlled** – able to bridle tongue and whole body

James 3:2 – “For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone **does not stumble** in what he says, he is a **perfect** (Teleios) man, able to bridle the whole body as well.”



c. **Relaxed mental attitude and unconditional love for the brethren** in spite of how treated – **true agape love** (from mentality and volition not emotions)

1 John 3:16-17 –“We know **love** (agape) by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren**. But whoever **has the world’s goods**, and **sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him**, how does the **love** (agape) of God abide in him?”

**#7 Unconditional Love Virtue: Love (Agape Love)** (1 Peter 1:5-7)

## 2. **Teleios Need:**

### a. **To learn to stay occupied with Christ**

1) **Not distracted** by preoccupation with self, things, circumstances, other people

2) **Free from the slavery to the details of life** (family, work, money, family, recreation, everyday activities, etc)

Matthew 6:32-34 –“For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ‘But **seek first His kingdom\_and His righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you. **So do not worry about tomorrow**; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.’”

### 3) **Know and live by God's priorities**

Colossians 3:1-2 – “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth.”

#### 4) **Live by divine viewpoint**

1 Corinthians 2:14 – “But a **natural man** does not accept the **things of the Spirit of God** for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

Colossians 3:2 – “Set your mind on the **things above**, not on the things that are on earth.”

#### 5) **Apply faith rest in all circumstances of life**

Hebrews 4:11 – “Therefore let us be **diligent to enter that rest**, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.”

b. **Be united in Spirit in the body of Christ**

Ephesians 4:3 – “being diligent to preserve the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.”

Philippians 2:2 – “make my joy complete by being of the **same mind**, maintaining the **same love, united in spirit**, intent on **one purpose**.”

c. **Practice unselfish love toward others**

Philippians 2:3-4 – “**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit**, but **with humility** of mind **regard one another** as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the **interests of others**.”

d. **Have the attitude of Christ in all circumstances of life**

Philippians 2:5,8 – “**Have this attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,.....He **humbled Himself by becoming obedient....**”

e. **Maintain a godly positive attitude**

1) **Rejoice in the Lord always**

Philippians 4:4 - “**Rejoice in the Lord always**; again I will say, rejoice!”

1 Peter 1:6-9 – “ In this you **greatly rejoice**, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

2) **Be gracious and kind to all**

Philippians 4:5 – “Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.”

### 3) **Be not anxious for nothing but pray with thanksgiving**

Philippians 4:6-7 –“ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

### 4) **Think on excellent things worthy of praise**

Philippians 4:8 –“Finally, brethren, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is **any excellence** and if **anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.**”

## f. **Learn contentment in spite of circumstances**

Philippians 4:11-2 – “Not that I speak from want, for I have **learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am**. I know how to get along with **humble means**, and I also know how to **live in prosperity**; in **any and every circumstance** I have **learned the secret of being filled and going hungry**, both of **having abundance and suffering need**.”



g. **To be strong and have power to endure, overcome and have victory in all things**

Philippians 4:13 – “I **can do** (ischuo – to **be strong and have power**) all things through Him who strengthens me.”

1) **Endure and persevere**

2 Timothy 2:12 –“ If we **endure**, we will also **reign with Him**;”

James 1:12 – “Blessed is a man who **perseveres under trial**; for once he has been approved, he will **receive the crown of life** which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

2) **Become Overcomers** (Revelation Ch. 2 & 3)

2:7 – Will be granted to eat of the tree of life

2:11 – Will not be hurt or harmed by the second death

2:17 – Will be given hidden manna, a white stone with a new name on it

2:26-28 – Will be given authority over nations, rod of iron, morning star

3:5 – Will be clothed with white garments and name remains in book of life

3:12 – Will be made a pillar in the temple and given His new name

3:21 – Will be granted to sit down with Jesus on His throne

#### h. **Pass thought, people, system, prosperity and disaster testing**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for **power is perfected in weakness.**” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am **well content** with **weaknesses**, with **insults**, with **distresses**, with **persecutions**, with **difficulties**, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

#### i. **Learn to glorify God in all situations**

John 15:8 – “**My Father is glorified** by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”

j. **Become partakers** (metachoi)

Hebrews 3:1 – “Therefore, holy brethren, **partakers** of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;”

Hebrews 3:14 – “For we have become **partakers** of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,”

Hebrews 6:4 – “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made **partakers of the Holy Spirit,**”

Hebrews 12:8 – “But if you are without **discipline**, of which all have become **partakers**, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

2 Peter :1:3-11 –“ Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that **His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us **His precious and magnificent promises**, so that **by them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all **diligence**, in your faith supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**, and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**. For if **these qualities are yours and are increasing**, they **render you neither useless nor unfruitful** in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the **more diligent** to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for **as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble**; for in this way **the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.**”