



**SERIES: DEEPER LIFE**

## **Maturing In Christ**

### **Holiness: Lesson Three**

**Life Reference: II Peter 1:5-8**

**Focus Verse:**

***"Be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless ... Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:14, 18).***

It is impossible to live a godly life without the new birth. The provision for being born again was made at Calvary. Listen to this wonderful promise in Acts 1:8:

**"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me."**

The evidence of Christian maturity is not just in what we know, but how our lives and words speak to others. When we allow God complete control in our lives, we become mature in Him.

**Matthew 16:24**

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man [or woman] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." The world around us will judge whether we have "the goods" as they watch us carry our cross. But His grace is sufficient.



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**I Timothy 4:6-16** Paul said, "to give thyself wholly" to the things listed in these verses, that our "profiting may appear to all."

**Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven." Now that is maturity!

Our heavenly Father is a king. Our life can be one of many privileges, but we must remember that our works should glorify Him. With the call of God upon our lives, we are able to live in a spiritual realm that many never experience. What does the world see in us? Do they see a direct descendant of the King, gladly modeling holiness? Or are we just a member of the court, carrying around the King's robe of righteousness but afraid to put it on and distinguish ourselves as blood-bought?

This brings to mind the logo tee-shirts so many wear today proclaiming their Christianity. Should we worry about someone who must wear a placard to advertise his Christianity? What do they advertise with their lives once the placard is removed?

We should so exemplify the love of God that not only our mode of dress, but also our countenance reflects the king. Our very being should testify of the family to which we belong. Privileged? Yes. Every day we must live as a constant representative of Him. There is no time that we are not a child of the king. Every move we make—every action, step, word, and deed—is a reflection on the King.

We become members of this family to serve. The greatest servants in all of history were those who served the people with their whole lives.

On her twenty-first birthday, Elizabeth, of the House of Windsor and daughter of King George VI, addressed her countrymen with these words:

*"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."*

She understood that everything she did reflected on her father and his reign as king. She was very aware of what was required of the royal family. She was in the position of future queen because her uncle, the Duke of Windsor, abdicated the throne to his brother George when the love for a woman meant more to him than the kingship.





Too many Christians today are not willing to make the sacrifice to serve the Lord. By their actions they say, "Don't ask me to serve God — I'm too busy serving myself!" As long as we serve according to the will of the King, we have all the power of the throne supporting us.

**"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us"  
(Hebrews 12:1).**

We "know God" when we are born again. The "laying aside" of things that are detrimental to a child of God is up to the individual. We must be sure we example a life totally dedicated to God, and that we do it for His Glory.

Romans 12:1-2 says it well.

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

Why would we insist on doing things our way instead of God's way? This is not a matter of one opinion versus another; we are challenging the unchangeable Word of God.

## **Life Response:**

As we mature, wisdom increases, credibility grows, and we have more influence on those around us. The world wants example, but they also want reality. Jesus came to be our supreme Example and then gave Himself for us. As followers of Christ, we must model Him to others.

Many today are seeking godly mentors. They are looking for someone willing to disciple them, to lead them to something meaningful, fruitful, and yet exciting. We cannot be complacent in our walk with God but must invest in others by teaching the wonderful love and ways of Christ.



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**I Timothy 4:7-16**

If we heed the instruction of this passage, not only will we be saved, but those who hear us will be saved also. If we are to be a pattern we must be careful to example the Word. Once we have influenced people with our life they will begin to hear our words.

**Colossians 3:16**

This verse tells us to, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." The Word of God must be read, studied, and meditated upon until it dwells richly within us. When we do, our thoughts, motivation and actions will be influenced and controlled by Christ.

Real Christianity brings with it life change. When holiness is present in the believer's life, it indicates that a transformation has taken place. Maturing in Christ also brings with it responsibility. We become accountable to make known the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A life devoted to holiness is an external sign that an authentic work of salvation has taken place.

We could say it no better than the Word of God:

**"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy"  
(I Peter 1:15-16).**

**"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).**

## More Deeper Life References:

I Corinthians 13:11  
Ephesians 4:13-14  
Hebrews 5:11-14  
Hebrews 12:14  
Ephesians 4:15  
I Peter 2:2  
II Peter 3:18

*Bible Study written by Gwyn Oakes*



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**SERIES: DEEPER LIFE**

# Maturing In Christ

## Holiness: Lesson Three Study Sheet

### Life Reference: II Peter 1:5-8

**Focus Verse:**

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It is impossible to live a godly life without the new birth. The provision for being born again was made at Calvary.

The evidence of Christian maturity is not just in what we know, but how our lives and words speak to others. When we allow God complete control in our lives, we become mature in Him.

**What do these verses tell us about maturity in Christ?**

Matthew 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
I Timothy 4:6-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Our heavenly Father is a king. Our life can be one of many privileges, but we must remember that our works should glorify Him.

### Life Reflection:

Describe how you feel being a child of the king should affect the way we live? As His representative, how will it change your actions, words, and deeds?



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- Too many Christians today are not willing to make the sacrifice to serve the Lord.
- As long as we serve according to the will of the King, we have all the power of the throne supporting us.
- Every day we must live as a constant representative of Him.
- We become members of this family to serve.

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).**

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I Timothy 4:7-16

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Colossians 3:16

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### **Life Reflection:**

Do you feel that your life is an example of Christian maturity?

How do you feel you are influencing those around you for Christ?



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**Real Christianity brings with it life change.**

- When holiness is present in the believer's life, it indicates that a transformation has taken place.
- A life devoted to holiness is an external sign that an authentic work of salvation has taken place.

**"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).**

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