

## CHRIST-CENTERED



## BIBLICAL TRAINING

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;

1 Chronicles 16:9

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## SUMMARY

**THE SKILL LEVEL OFF OUR  
SPIRITUAL MATURITIES WE HAVE  
AT DEATH, WE WILL HAVE  
FOREVER**

(Need to know by all Christians)

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**HERE IS A DISCUSSION THAT OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITIES  
IN CHRIST-LIKENESS ARE MOST LIKELY FIXED FOREVER  
AT DEATH.**

Here is a discussion with the Scriptures I could find. Our topic is indirectly taught, so we have to compare Scripture with Scripture together to gain the teachings. In any case, we are commanded to pursue maturity, regardless of our situation in heaven.

There is no Scripture that states (teaches) directly whether or not our maturities will or will not increase in heaven. But the Bible signals indirectly that it will not increase.

Apart from gaining maximum maturity in Christ-likeness now on earth so we can relate to God, there is no other reason for being here. Realizing God's infinite Greatness, we should search the Bible for all that God wants to become and for all the steps we must live out experientially to get there and do nothing else. We should record our search results in a computer and update when we learn more.

(I believe that God did not tell us that our maturity is fixed at death because if we knew, we would walk by sight trusting ourselves to work all together for good, instead of walking by the faith trusting God needed to gain this maturity. We will still need to walk by faith in heaven to trust God to fulfill His promises.)

We are commanded now to walk as Christ walks. Christ was (is) a maximally mature person. We are to learn to walk His way with everything coming from God the Father as a source - now only from the Bible. Walking His way now in a maximum amount, we will become maximumly mature in Christ-likeness.

*1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

*John 5:19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is*

***something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.***

***John 14:10-11 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.***

Our sin natures, being removed from us as we enter heaven, will not be in heaven, so we cannot sin make learning mistakes (1 John 3:9). The testing and development environment of the world, flesh, and the devil will not be in heaven to help us gain more maturity (Revelation 20:10). We receive new resurrection bodies. We enter heaven with our divine natures, trained for maturity now in our lifetime, that cannot sin. There will be no sin or curse for sin in heaven (Revelation 21:27; 22:3; See all of Revelation 21 & 22). We are commanded to pursue maturity now for whatever reasons God may have.

***1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.***

***Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

***Revelation 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it (heaven), but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

***Revelation 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;***

When we became Christians we were placed spiritually into Christ where we died with Him, were buried with Him, and were raised from the dead with Him. We were raised into newness of life (with a new divine nature). (Romans 6:1-7) The divine nature now legally represents us. Because we do not (it does not) sin, we have eternally security in Christ. We now still have our sin natures, that they no longer legally represent us, by which we still sin. so we use 1 John 1:9 for forgiveness.

When we go into heaven with a resurrection, we will have a new body like Christ.

***Romans 6:1-7 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have***

***been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.***

If we pursue maturity we will have the best we can have now and in heaven. But if our maturity is fixed forever at death, and we do not now pursue maturity, we are paying a most terrible eternal price of not knowing and fellowshiping with our perfect God as we otherwise could throughout all eternity. Apart from walking with God with its benefits, there is nothing.

The main reason we are on the earth is to gain maximum maturity so we can relate to our perfect infinite God throughout eternity. Apart from this, there is nothing.

Thus, we must pursue maximum maturity as commanded, and then will excellence.

## **REASONS WHY OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY MAY BE FIXED FOREVER AT DEATH**

There is, in my understanding (as introduced earlier), no direct Bible teaching that states or teaches whether or not our maturity in Christ-likeness will (can) increase in heaven or remain what it is at our death. We have to go on faith and obey God's command to become mature.

However, the Bible implies or signals loudly (does not directly teach) our maturity in Christ-Likeness can and most likely will be fixed at death forever in the following ways:

1. God commands us to pursue this maturity now (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4. It is important to Him that we pursue it for whatever reason He may have. To us, it includes having the ability to know and relate to God in His Greatness and Great Glory especially in eternity. It allows us now to have a greater ministry using greater love and faith. Living this way, we can more greatly glorify God. (Glorifying self is sin because, as created beings, we have no inherent value.)

## **SOME RELEVANT SCRIPTURES**

***Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity .....***

***Ephesians 4:11-13 - 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; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.***

***Colossians 1:28 - And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.***

***James 1:2-4 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

***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. The Biblical events over all Biblical history from Genesis to Revelation, such as salvation in the Cross and growing in discipleship, are designed to lead us to gain this maturity in Christ.**

***(See my web site reports: *God and His Greatness Must be Central*, and especially *God's Plan Over History for Man to Become Mature in Christ-Likeness Needed to Eternally, Know and Relate to Our Perfect God in His Greatness.*)***

**3. The current developing environment of the world, flesh, and the devil (in spiritual warfare) is not allowed and will not be in heaven. The devil will not be in heaven. There are no trials and testings in heaven, as we have them now. We can only follow the leading of God using our divine natures that we received at salvation to the degree we have trained in this lifetime to follow God's leading. God will direct every thought and action we will ever have commensurate with our spiritual ability to follow.**

***Revelation 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning,***

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*or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."*

*Revelation 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

*Revelation 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*

*1 Corinthians 15:27-28 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.*

*1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

*1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

*2 Peter 1:4 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.*

*Romans 6 & 7 we are freed from the law of sin and death. This gives us eternal life.*

**THE DEVIL WITH THE WORLD WILL NOT BE IN HEAVEN.**

*Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

4. No sin (no spiritual mistakes) is allowed or will occur in heaven. The spiritual mistakes we make now in our development are sins. When we go to heaven,

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**our depraved natures are removed from us. We are unable to sin. We will live perfect lives without sin with our divine natures at the skill level we gained now on earth as God leads and directs us in all things.**

**Christ died now on the earth for sins we have now on earth. He does not die again. Thus, we will no sin in heaven - no way to make development mistakes.**

**5. God chose to create us immature and a need for this maturity development.**

**6. We, in analogy, are planted in the ground as a seed that must be planted and then, die, sprout, grow to a mature plant or tree. The more it is watered and fed, the higher and stronger it will become (gaining more maturity). We cannot gain new life without dying to self.**

***7. 1 Timothy 4:8 - but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.***

***Hebrews 11:35 - Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection;***

**8. If our maturity could increase in heaven, God could have just created us with some maturity and not have to send anyone to the Lake of Fire. But it appears that we might not learn the greatest sacrificial love there is that was demonstrated by God through Christ on the Cross. (We must hedge about being wrong if we do not believe this to be true and pursue maturity as God commands or we can be making a most terrible eternal (forever) mistake to our people.)**

**If we will pursue maturity with commitment and excellence as God commands, it most likely does not matter what we believe about whether or not our spiritual maturity is fixed forever at death. We will have the best that God plans for us. But the important thing is to pursue this maturity as God commands. But, if we do not as I observe many (most?) churches are doing today? (Church and family leadership should take action to help train their people so that they indeed become maximally mature in Christ. They should set the example.)**

**What if our maturity is fixed forever at death? Not responding to God's command to become mature, then, can be, as previously stated, a most terrible eternal (forever) mistake. As far as we understand, there is no recovery after death. Apart from knowing and relating to God, there is nothing. We must alert our Church people to this possibility and provide them the needed training and highly encourage them to take it.**

**As stated, God may use our maturity in eternity in a way or ways we cannot know**

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now.

***Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.***

If we appreciated God's infinite and absolute Greatness and had great love for Him, would we not pursue becoming mature as He now commands with great commitment, excellence, and diligence so we could now know and relate to God in the best (the greatest) that is possible - having all that He has for us? Would we not search for His instructions (commandments) throughout the Bible and obey Him (them), thus glorifying God. I would think so. What else is there?

***2 Corinthians 10:5 - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,***

***Ephesians 3:16-19 - that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.***

***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 man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.***

***Colossians 1:28 - And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.***

***James 1:2-4 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

### **SUMMARY:**

## **INDICATORS, NOT PROOFS, ARE MATURITY CAN BE FIXED FOREVER A DEATH**

Some indicators that our spiritual maturity can be fixed forever at death include: (1) all of biblical history is designed to mature us in Christ; (2) the sinful environment of the world, flesh, and the devil used to develop and test our maturity (spiritual ability) is not allowed in heaven; (3) we make mistakes which are sins as we develop maturity, and there is no sin in heaven (Our sin natures are removed from us as we enter heaven. We will be unable to sin with our divine

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**natures); (4) God commands us to become mature and live as Christ lives; (5) we were created immature beginning with Adam and Eve; (6) there are many stations in heaven - for example some will reign over 10 cities and some over 5; (7) we are given rewards in heaven based on our works in this life; and (8) there are Scriptures that this life has benefit for both now and for the life to come - we can have a better resurrection. (We wonder that if it could increase in heaven by some manner, then why this earth period. If it could, God could have created us with a minimum maturity and not send anyone to the Lake of Fire. He has given us a choice of the degree by which we will follow Him. And of course God may mature us in different ways than we can know now. But we should pursue maturity as God commands to have the best of God we can have. There is nothing else.)**

**Of course being more mature in Christ allows more opportunity for the elect to believe and accomplish God's work as part of the spiritual warfare.**