



... Heart to Heart ...

It's sad to see brethren not mature in the Lord. God wants us to mature spiritually (Heb. 6:1). Our idea of maturity and God's idea is not always the same. We approach spiritual maturity like one ages. I've known men, who served as shepherds in the Lord's church, who are as immature spiritually as they come. I've known preachers, who have preached for many years, still immature in their thinking and actions. You've heard Bible teachers, after all their years of service and teaching, still teaching the very same elementary lessons they always taught, with little forward progress. I've sat in Bible classes where I can almost tell you exactly what is going to be said next (and the book they got it out of) because they are still on the same level they were years ago. Still others are involved in the same old issues they discussed 20 years ago, with the same old arguments and insights. It's a sad state of spiritual insight. These very ones believe their years of service in the Lord have given them spiritual maturity. I even had one brother in Christ tell me he didn't need to read the Bible anymore because he had read it so many times, he knew what it says! I couldn't believe my ears, as he revealed his level of spiritual immaturity and arrogance.

What is spiritual maturity? It's not like maturity as we age. Spiritual maturity is where Christ is leading you more and more into His nature, understanding His world and how He operates. It's where you understand His love in a deeper sense and growing into His attitudes and desires. You become less self-centered and more God centered. We sing a song, "Let The Beauty Of Jesus Be Seen In Me." When the beauty of Jesus comes out in us, we are maturing spiritually. As we mature spiritually, we gain deeper understanding into His word and are able to use it to help others. I've known relatively new converts to Christ surpass many of those with many years in the Lord because they desire and want the word to richly dwell in them. Their eyes aren't just fixed on facts; but by faith, their heart takes from the word, acts upon that word, and it changes their lives. Paul said it this way, **"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."** (II Cor. 3:18)

What about you? Being honest in your heart toward the Lord, are you maturing spiritually or approaching things through intellect? There is a major difference. Think about it!!!

Brent