**11-15-15**

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**An Authentic Believer: Is Maturing**

1 John 4:9-21

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10  This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11  Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12  No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and ***His love is brought to full expression in us***. 13  And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. 14  Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15  All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16  We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17  And as we live in God, ***our love grows more perfect***. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18  Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19  We love each other because he loved us first. 20  If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? 21  And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

What The Bible Says

## 1. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to grow and mature

12  . . . His love is brought to full expression in us.

* Phil 1:6
* Culture of Increase

## 2. We will someday be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17  And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect.

**Perfect:**

* mature
* finish
* accomplish
* fulfill
* complete

Application

**Qualities or Characteristics of a Maturing Believer:**

* The battle with sin seems more and more impossible
* Greater concern for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* More willing to use my gifts/talents to serve others
* Sees victories (over sin and bad habits) once in a while
* Focus is changing from pursuit of worldly pleasures and things to the pursuit of the Kingdom of God
* Understands that although family is important . . . our greater purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* We are willing to lay down our dreams for His dream
* Has priorities in order
* Understands more and more that our “struggle” is not carnal but spiritual
* Understands more and more that our “weapons” are not carnal but spiritual
	+ Name of Jesus
	+ Blood of Jesus
	+ Word of God
* Is allowing God to heal their past hurts
* Is learning to forgive in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Is more and more willing to use resources for the Kingdom
* Moving from DESIRE to DISCIPLINE to DELIGHT in their time with the Lord (word/prayer)
* Is less and less concerned with what man thinks and more and more concerned with what God thinks
* Is becoming more unified with and identified with the body of Christ (the Church)
* Is responsible to finish what they committed to do
* Is willing to wait/, rest in God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Understands more and more that God must be working something in me during times of adversity
* Understands that the god of this world is constantly bombarding us with false philosophies, deception, and lies
* Has an increasing understanding and fear/respect for God’s authority and His delegated authority
* Is not shaken during tough times – knowing God is in control
* Has an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Owns up when they blow it – no excuses
* Their identity is in Christ – not looks, abilities, $$
* FINALLY: Becoming more like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Deut. 7:21-22

 Do not be terrified by them, for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. 22 The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

Hebrews 6:1-2

 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity . . .

Response:

## What is God speaking to me?

## Specifically, how will I obey Him?