

III. THE **CURE** FOR SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

(Hebrews 6:1)

Practice The Five Steps For Spiritual Growth:

"...exercise yourself toward godliness." I Timothy 4:7b

A. Obey the final **command**.

*"18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."* Matthew 28:18-20

B. Observe the first **church**.

*"41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* Acts 2:41-47

Are you willing to commit to Ready, Set, Grow?

" but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18

GROWTH TRACK

Take Your Next Step

Ready, Set, Grow!

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Spiritual maturity means being like Christ. It begins with a decision to be saved and continues with a spiritual growth process called progressive sanctification. This process requires taking ongoing NEXT STEPS of obedience to the Bible. The key to rapid spiritual growth is to immediately say yes to God when He reveals a next step to you.

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B. The example of the first church, the church at Jerusalem, provides a foundational GROWTH TRACK of next steps for all Christians to follow and obey (Acts 2:41-47). In this series, you will discover five next steps of a growing Christian and how Capital Baptist Church can help you take them.

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| TODAY | Ready, Set, Grow! |
| Aug 20 | Grow By Belonging |
| Aug 27 | Grow By Connecting |
| Sep 10 | Grow By Serving |
| Sep 17 | Grow By Bringing |
| Sep 24 | Grow By Worshipping |

The purpose of Capital Baptist Church is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

C. **TEXT:** Hebrews 5:7-6:1 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1175/New Test.)

"After thirty five years of pastoring, I am convinced that spiritual immaturity is the number one problem in the local church today." --Pastor Steve Reynolds

READY, SET GROW!

I. THE **CAUSES** OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

(Hebrews 2:1, 3:19)

*"1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,
2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."*

I Peter 2:1-3

A. **Drifting** from the Word (2:1)

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;"

Psalm 1:1

"9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."

Psalm 119:9-11

B. **Doubting** the Word (3:19)

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Genesis 3:1

" ...thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."

I Thessalonians 2:13

II. THE **CONSEQUENCES** FROM SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY (Hebrews 5:11-14)

"14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. " I Corinthians 2:14-3:1

A. Lazy in **hearing** the Word (5:11)

" He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 11:15

B. Incompetent in **sharing** the Word (5:12a)

" And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. "

II Timothy 2:2

C. Dysfunctional in **eating** the Word (5:12b-13)

"I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;"

I Corinthians 3:2

D. Unskillful in **using** the Word (5:14)

" that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, "

Ephesians 4:14