

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY

First African Baptist Church

Instructor: Pastor Michael A. Foster, M,TH.

“One Voice, One Message, and One Vision”





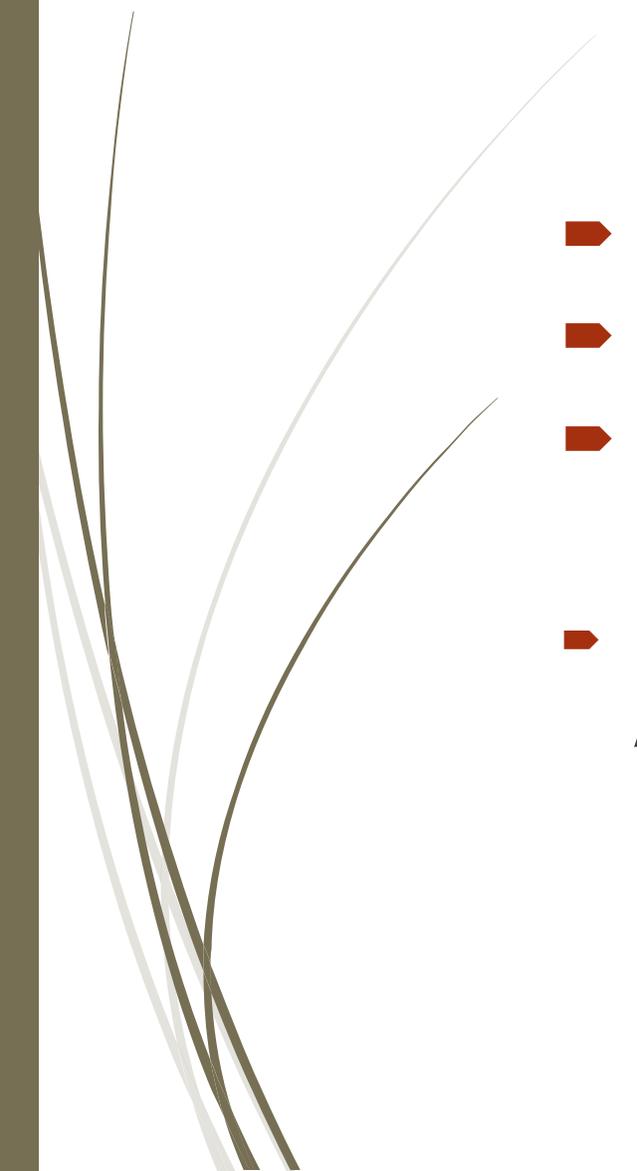
Lesson Objective

To gain a greater appreciation for understanding Biblical Scriptures and then making the connection between the Word of God and, and spiritual growth and maturity individually and as a church..

- **THEOLOGICAL QUESTION:** Are you growing and maturing spiritually individually and as a church corporately?



Relevant Scriptures



- I Corinthians 3: 1-3,
- I Corinthian 2:14-16,
- Romans 10: 1-2 KJV and NIV.

- Paul describes three types of people *Natural, Carnal, and Spiritual* which one is you?



1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (KJV)

“The Natural Man v. The Spiritual Man”

- 14. But the *natural man* receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 15 But he that is *spiritual* judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.
- 16. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

I Corinthians 3: 1-3

- ▶ According to Paul, there are three (3) attributes in the scriptures that reveals Spiritual Growth and Maturity in all Christians:
 - ▶ Age- And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto *carnal*, even as unto *babes in Christ (or mere infants)*. (v.1)
 - ▶ Appetite- I have fed you with *milk, and not with meat*: for hitherto *ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able*. (v.2)
 - ▶ Actions- For ye are yet *carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions*, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (v.3)



How do I Grow and Mature Spiritually?

- Spiritual Growth and Maturity is a direct result of Spiritual Wisdom. Being wise is not Spiritual Wisdom.
- ❑ *Spiritual Wisdom* is defined as understanding and seeking the will of God.
- *Spiritual Wisdom* is not just about knowing what's good for you, but applying that *knowledge and influence* into your everyday life.



Crucial Question: So how then do a Christian receive Spiritual Wisdom?

- Prayer- James 1:5...Not optional we must pray
- The Word of God- Psalms 119:98...study the Word and Will of God
- Wise Counsel- Proverbs 1:5...you need someone in your life, who is mature to keep you on the right path
- The Holy Spirit- John 14:26...you must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit



WHAT TIME IS IT?

TEST TIME!



Spiritual Growth and Maturity Evaluation Questions

- Do others express a desire for God when they are around you?
- Do I sense a Spiritual power that is greater than my own?
- Do I walk a higher road than the people in the world?
- Does the same thing that made you stumble last year, have the same effect this year?
- Does it seem like I'm growing or am I stagnant spiritually?
- Does your singleness or your marriage life reflect that of a Christian?