



Developing Unshakable Faith

April 15 & 16, 2023

Unshakable faith produces spiritual maturity.

Hebrews 6:1a (GNT)

Let us go forward, then, to mature teaching and leave behind us the first lessons of the Christian message.

Maturity is not:

- **Age** – How long I’ve been alive or been a Christian.
- **Appearance** – How I look.
- **Achievement** – What I’ve accomplished in life.
- **Academics** – What I’ve studied.

The book of James is a diagram for unshakable faith that produces maturity.

John 7:5 (NLT)

For even his brothers didn’t believe in him.

5 Character Traits of a Mature Christian

Chapter

1

A mature Christian is positive under pressure.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:19-20 (NIV)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Chapter

2

A mature Christian is sensitive to everyone.

James 2:8-9 (TPT)

Your calling is to fulfill the royal law of love as given to us in this Scripture: “You must love and value your neighbor as you love and value yourself!” For keeping this law is the noble way to live. But when you show prejudice you commit sin and you violate this royal law of love!

4 Insensitive Marks of Immaturity:

- I show favoritism (James 2:1)
- I judge others based on appearance (James 2:4)
- I insult anyone and everyone (James 2:6a)
- I exploit people for my own gain (James 2:6b)

James 2:14-16 (NLT)

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

Chapter

3

A mature Christian has mastered their mouth.

James 3:2 (TPT)

We all fail in many areas, but especially with our words. Yet if we're able to bridle the words we say we are powerful enough to control ourselves in every way, and that means our character is mature and fully developed.

Ephesians 4:29 (TPT)

And never let ugly or hateful words come from your mouth, but instead let your words become beautiful gifts that encourage others; do this by speaking words of grace to help them.

James 1:26 (TPT)

If someone believes they have a relationship with God but fails to guard his words then his heart is drifting away and his religion is shallow and empty.

Speaking the truth in Love Requires Four Skills:

Correct Timing

Attitude

Location

Motive

“A lack of control in your language means there’s a lack of control in your life.”

Chapter

4

A mature Christian is an unselfish peacemaker and not a peacekeeper.

James 4:1 (TPT)

What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? Doesn't the battle begin inside of you as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires?

Proverbs 13:10 (NIV)

Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

3 Reasons to Never Judge People:

- **It's God's job.**
- **I never have all the facts.**
- **I never know the true motives.**

Romans 2:1-3 (TPT)

No matter who you are, before you judge the wickedness of others, you had better remember this: you are also without excuse, for you too are guilty of the same kind of things! When you judge others, and then do the same things they do, you condemn yourself. We know that God's judgment falls upon those who practice these things. God is always right, because he has all the facts. And no matter who you think you are, when you judge others who do these things and then do the same things yourself, what makes you think that you will escape God's judgment?

Chapter

5

A mature Christian is patient and prayerful.

James 5:16 (TPT)

Confess and acknowledge how you have offended one another and then pray for one another to be instantly healed, for tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer!

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

James 5:7-8 (TPT)

Meanwhile, brothers and sisters, we must be patient and filled with expectation as we wait for the appearing of the Lord. Think about the farmer who has to patiently wait for the earth's harvest as it ripens because of the early and latter rains. So you also, keep your hopes high and be patient, for the presence of the Lord is drawing closer.

I have prayed for _____ and have not received an answer.

We will talk about prayer in the upcoming weeks but maybe, just maybe, God is waiting for you to Just Grow Up.

Memory Verse:**James 1:2-4 (NLT)**

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

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Speaking the truth in Love Requires Four Skills:

- C** _____
- A** _____
- L** _____
- M** _____

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A _____
C _____
T _____
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