



# “The Measure of Growth”

Sun Dec 3, 2023

## I. **Ephesians 4:11-16**

### A. The Goal...

1. To Be Pleasing to God...
2. To Mature and Grow (How?)
  - Always Learning...Always studying (**II Timothy 2:15**)
  - Always Applying (The scripture reveals in **II Timothy 3:7** that many will be always learning but never come to the knowledge of the truth.)
3. When you reach heaven, will God say, **“Well done...”** or **“Well now...”**?

### B. **I Corinthians 3:1-3**

1. **Amplified Bible** vs. 3 **“Are you not unspiritual, and are you not walking like ordinary men (unchanged by faith).”**
2. When you grow up, you step out of the ordinary and become extraordinary. This is the difference between walking as a child of God who walks in a new identity that Christ has given him vs. a follower of God who still deals with the trivial and emotional problems of this world (Paul was speaking to the church) / **Hebrews 5:11-6:2** (Unskillful – inexperienced....baby).

## II. The Measuring Stick...1 thing: Your Understanding of Spiritual Authority & Warfare

### A. Spiritual Authority / Understanding Faith (**Romans 12:3**)

1. In order to do anything with God, you must have faith:
  - It’s impossible to please God without it...
  - But with it, all things become possible.
2. If you want to measure your growth in God, check out where your faith is...
  - An easy way of checking this is by measuring 2 things: your words and your reaction/emotions (to negative circumstances).
  - Ask yourself: **“What does Jesus marvel at most in my life?”** My Faith or My Unbelief! (Do you know why Jesus actually wept at Lazarus grave?).

### B. Spiritual Warfare

1. Do you know who you are fighting? This is one of the greatest measuring sticks for your growth...if you knew who you were fighting, you wouldn’t be distracted & disgusted with people all the time (DRAMA).
2. **Ephesians 6:12**
  - Most people are restless because they are always wrestling with 2 objects of distraction: other people and...themselves!
  - Ask yourself: **“Do people get on my nerves...or do I know how to cast that care over on the Lord?”** (This is spiritual warfare at its best!)
  - **II Corinthians 10:3-5 / Matthew 24:12 (weariness in the fight)**
  - Stop wrestling with flesh and start resting in God!