

## 6. Helping Spiritual Young Men and Women Grow and Become Spiritual Parents

In our last topic, we talked about how to help spiritual young men and women develop an effective ministry. Today, we will begin talking about how we help them continue to grow and become spiritual parents. We will begin by looking at the profile of a spiritual young man. Just like the other levels of spiritual maturity, the spiritual young man also has certain characteristics. The following characteristics are developing in a spiritual young man (or woman):

### 1. He is strong in spirit - 1 John 2:13-14; Ephesians 3:16-19

In 1 John 2:13-14, we see why a spiritual young man has become strong, “I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”

Then, in Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul gives us an example of how to pray for others so that they will continue to grow in spiritual health, “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” We are to pray for others that:

- they would be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man
- Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith
- they would be rooted and grounded in love
- they would know the love of Christ which passes knowledge
- they would be filled with all the fullness of God

This might be a good time to ask yourself, “Who are the growing Christians I am praying that the Lord would help them in their spiritual growth and character development each day?” If we are praying for the spiritual development of a person, not just their physical needs, we will see the Lord open up many opportunities for us to help them in their spiritual development.

### 2. He has the Word of God abiding in him - 1 John 2:14 (see above)

- this includes knowledge of the whole Word of God - Acts 20:20, 27  
“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house...For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
- this includes effective meditation - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3

### 3. He has overcome the wicked one - 1 John 2:13-14 (above)

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- he practices separation from sin - 1 John 2:15-17
- he practices separation from false teaching - 1 John 2:18-24

4. He is continuing to experience balanced growth and development - Luke 2:52  
 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

Christ gives us the example because He continued to experience:

- growth in wisdom
- growth in spiritual as well as physical stature
- growth in favor with God
- growth in favor with man

5. He is an example to other Christians - 1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” In this verse, we see that Timothy was to be an example to other believers:

- in word - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- in conduct - 1 Timothy 3:7
- in love - 1 Timothy 1:5
- in spirit - 2 Timothy 1:7
- in faith - 2 Timothy 1:3-5
- in purity - 2 Timothy 2:19-22

6. He has an effective ministry - Acts 16:1-2

The priorities of a spiritual young man (or woman)

- Growth will happen best as he continues to:
  - a. talk to God daily throughout the day - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
  - b. let God talk to him each day through:
    - 1). Bible study - 2 Timothy 2:15
    - 2). memorization - Psalm 119:11
    - 3). meditation - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3
- Growth will happen best as he is learning to: 1 Timothy 4:11-16
  - a. be an example
  - b. teach the Word of God
  - c. exercise his spiritual gift (s)
  - d. demonstrate a wholehearted commitment to personal growth
  - e. always be faithful to the Word of God

As we can see from the six characteristics mentioned in the spiritual profile of a spiritual young man, this is a Christian who is really growing and making real progress in his spiritual life. This growth and progress is helping spiritual young men and women to look for opportunities to serve the Lord. What a great privilege we have to be able to help spiritual young men and young women

continue to grow and mature in Christ. May the Lord richly bless you as you help spiritual young men and women move toward spiritual reproduction.