

# Principles for Spiritual Power

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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Shepherd's Community Church

## Be on the alert

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*(1 Corinthians 4:14; Mark 14:27-38; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 3:1-2)*

## Stand firm in the faith

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*(1 Corinthians 1: 18-21; Psalm 1:1; 119:11, 97, 131; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Proverbs 2:1-7; Ezra 7:10; Acts 17:11)*

## Act like men

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*(Joshua 1:9; 1 Peter 2:2)*

## Be strong

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*(Ephesians 6:10; Isaiah 40:31)*

## Let all that you do be done in love

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*(1 Corinthians 13:2, 4; 2:12)*

# The Problem of Spiritual Immaturity

We don't hear much about spiritual growth these days. Many Christians in our society have been diverted by various teachings that promise power, spiritual energy, and success without the process of growth into spiritual maturity. They look for dramatic experiences, climactic turning points, instant solutions to their spiritual problems—but real, lasting victory doesn't come through those means. God's design is that we be seasoned to maturity through a continual process of growth.

This contemporary de-emphasis of spiritual growth has reaped a bitter harvest. Millions of professing Christians suffer from arrested development. Churches are filled with people who are spiritually immature, undiscerning, weak, and fragile. Spiritual underdevelopment is the rule, no longer an exception. Thousands—perhaps millions—are now addicted to “therapy,” evidently preferring the dependency of a counseling relationship to the rigors of true discipleship and growth in grace.

This is a severe threat, and is a sign that something is terribly wrong, for growth is one of the essential signs of life in both the physical and the spiritual realms. Where there is no growth, no true life exists. Where is no spiritual growth, there is good reason to question whether spiritual life exists.

Are you growing? Be sure of this: God intends every Christian to grow into spiritual maturity. His Word commands us, “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). That's our obligation—and our privilege. Each day we can progress in our spiritual life toward a fuller, higher, personal, experiential knowledge of God and Christ.

Spiritual growth is not mystical, sentimental, devotional, psychological, or the result of clever secrets. It comes through understanding and practicing the principles that are given in the Word of God. “But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” As you pursue spiritual growth, let the Word of God control your heart and mind, and ask the Lord to train your senses to be discerning.

From *The Keys to Spiritual Growth*, John MacArthur, 13-16; 178