

“By Then You Should Know...”

Attaining Spiritual Maturity – Lesson #8
Fall 2011 – November 30th, 2011

Scripture: Hebrews 11.27

“By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.”¹

Definitions:

1. Define maturity.
 - a. “The state of quality of being fully grown or developed.” (thefreedictionary.com)
2. How do we define spiritual maturity?
 - a. Faithfulness, accomplishments in trials, evangelism, teaching, elders, faithful children, knowledge, character

Vance Havner on Faithfulness

God is faithful, and He expects His people to be faithful. God’s Word speaks of faithful servants, faithful in a few things, faithful in the least, faithful in the Lord, faithful ministers. And all points up that day when He will say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

What terrible times we have in our churches trying to keep people faithful in attendance and loyalty! How we reward and picnic and coax and tantalize church members into doing things they don’t want to do but which they would do if they loved God! The only service that counts is faithful service.

True faith shows up in faithfulness. Not everyone one can sing or preach, but all can be faithful.

¹ *The Holy Bible: English standard version.* 2001 (Rom 15.18-19). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

Maturity Moses:

1. It started with faith (Hebrews 11.23-26)

- a. Not only the faith of Moses but the faith of his parents. (Hebrews 11.23-26)
- b. Who taught Moses about his family heritage?
- c. Did Moses' faith lead him to avoid sin?

2. It continued in faith (Hebrews 11.27-28)

- a. Moses left Egypt by faith. (Hebrews 11.27)
 - i. Who do we see as being invisible? (Romans 1.20; Colossians 3.2)

How Do You Build Your Faith?

In Lowly Paths

Washington Gladden was a New England preacher who grew very discouraged with the apparent fruitlessness of his work. One day, downhearted, he climbed up to the church belfry to think. From his high perch, it seemed tempting to jump off, and had he been an unconverted man, he might have considered it, so low were his spirits. Instead he poured out his heart to God, and from that experience wrote out a prayer which later became a powerful hymn:

*O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.¹*