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## Worldly Patterns And God's Desires

- Immature Christians Often Continue To Live In “Worldly” Patterns, Often Controlled By Their Own Desires
- Mature Christians Are More Accustomed To Living Out God’s Desires

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3** - Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ.<sup>2</sup> I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. And you still aren’t ready,<sup>3</sup> for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn’t that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren’t you living like people of the world?

**Hebrews 5:11-14** - There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen.<sup>12</sup> You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.<sup>13</sup> For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right.<sup>14</sup> Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

**Spiritual Maturity Is:**

1. Continuously Learning The Word Of God
2. Putting It Into Practice In Our Lives.

**Philemon 23-24** - Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings.<sup>24</sup> So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.

**Colossians 4:14** - Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas.

**2 Timothy 4:9** - Timothy, please come as soon as you can.<sup>10</sup> Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica.

**1 Corinthians 3:3** - *for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?*

### **They Were Believers, But They Were Spiritually Immature**

**Galatians 5:16** - *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

**James 4:1** - *What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?*

### **We Must Encourage Spiritual Maturity**

**Hebrews 6:1-3** - *So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God.<sup>2</sup> You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.<sup>3</sup> And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.*