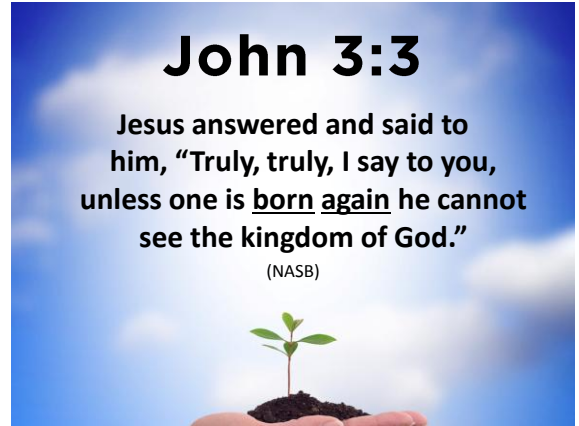




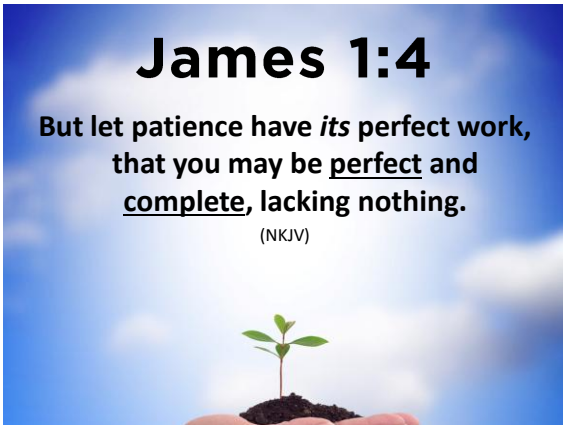
How
MATURE
Are You?



John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

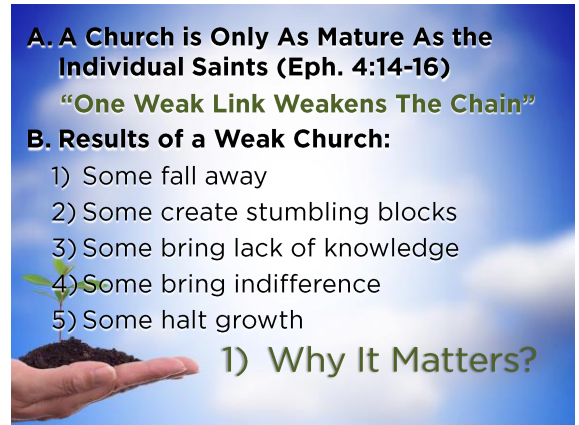
(NASB)



James 1:4

But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

(NKJV)



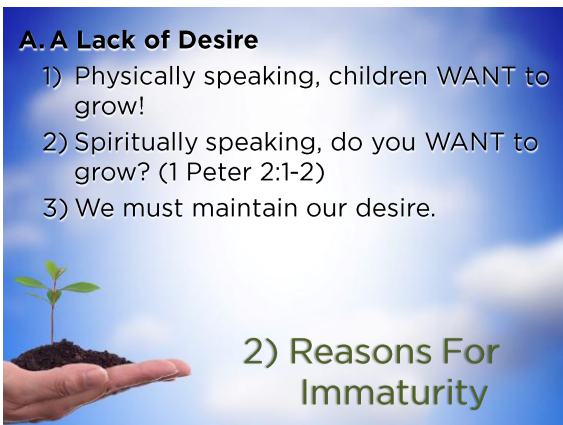
A. A Church is Only As Mature As the Individual Saints (Eph. 4:14-16)

"One Weak Link Weakens The Chain"

B. Results of a Weak Church:

- 1) Some fall away
- 2) Some create stumbling blocks
- 3) Some bring lack of knowledge
- 4) Some bring indifference
- 5) Some halt growth

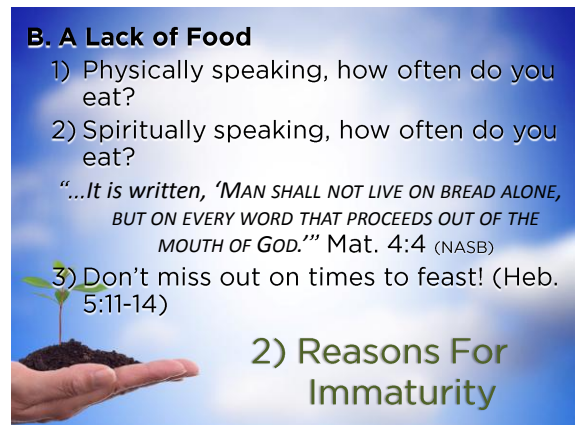
1) Why It Matters?



A. A Lack of Desire

- 1) Physically speaking, children WANT to grow!
- 2) Spiritually speaking, do you WANT to grow? (1 Peter 2:1-2)
- 3) We must maintain our desire.

2) Reasons For Immaturity



B. A Lack of Food

- 1) Physically speaking, how often do you eat?
- 2) Spiritually speaking, how often do you eat?

"...It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Mat. 4:4 (NASB)

- 3) Don't miss out on times to feast! (Heb. 5:11-14)

2) Reasons For Immaturity

C. A Lack of Practice

- 1) Practice is essential to physical development.
- 2) Practice is essential to spiritual development.



2) Reasons For Immaturity

But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14 (NASB)

But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

1 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)



D. A Lack of Patience

- 1) "Always Earned, Never Given!"
- 2) Spiritually speaking, maturity is a process.
"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
James 1:4 (NKJV)
- 3) Don't be discouraged by mistakes.
 - Remember Moses, David, Apostles, Peter, Thomas, Paul, etc...



2) Reasons For Immaturity

Let Us Become More Spiritually Mature By:

- 1) Desiring Maturity
- 2) Spiritually Feeding Ourselves
- 3) Putting Our Faith Into Practice
- 4) Being Patient With Our Growth

"Not All Change is Growth, But All Growth is Change!"

-Anonymous

