

A Moment with the Pastor

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/spiritual-maturity-keeps-maturing> (Article by Afshin Ziafat)

In Colossians 1:28, Paul states that the aim of his ministry is to “present everyone mature in Christ.” This aim raises questions: What does it mean to be “mature in Christ”? How will we know when we arrive at spiritual maturity? Is spiritual maturity something believers can even attain this side of heaven?

Spiritual maturity is not a destination but a process. In fact, the spiritually mature persistently strive to grow more in maturity. In Philippians 3, the apostle Paul shares his supreme desire of knowing Jesus and becoming like him. And then he asserts, “Not that I have already [g]rasped it all or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.” (Philippians 3:12–14)

There is no finish line for maturity this side of heaven. Paul embraces the fact that he needs to press on toward the goal of Christlikeness. He continues: “Therefore, all who are mature, let’s have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well; however, let’s keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.” (Philippians 3:15–16)

Seven Marks of Spiritual Maturity: A maturing disciple is grounded in a deep understanding of the gospel, A maturing disciple communes regularly with Jesus in the word and prayer, A maturing disciple studies the word and sound doctrine, A maturing disciple lives in community, fighting sin and enduring suffering with others, A maturing disciple identifies and employs his gifts to build up the body, A maturing disciple is an ambassador for Christ through evangelism, A maturing disciple lives for what lasts with an eternal perspective.

Remember, these are not destinations but part of the journey and upward climb. These are seven characteristics of a maturing disciple. Rather than becoming a source of pride or comparison with other believers, they are meant to be a tool for self-examination in order to continue pursuing Christ.

The Thessalonians had become followers of the word and examples through suffering. They shared their faith consistently. They turned from idols to serve God and were waiting for Jesus as their only hope. Paul affirms their maturity while urging them to press on for more. The goal of our lives is to know Jesus, make him known, and become more and more like him. May we all continue striving for Christlikeness on our spiritual journey!

<https://africa.thegospelcoalition.org/article/spiritual-maturity-unmasking-my-hyper-charismatic-illusion/> (Article by Wanjiru Ng’ang’a)

As you reflect on the biblical markers of spiritual maturity, it’s essential to recognize that spiritual growth is not about achieving perfection. Instead, it’s a lifelong process guided by the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and an earnest commitment to follow Christ’s example. Let our pursuit of maturity go beyond mere outward displays of spirituality.

True spiritual maturity is not marked by outward displays of supernatural gifts or ecstatic emotions. Rather, it’s by the inward transformation of our character and a deep, abiding relationship with God. The biblical markers of spiritual maturity, such as the fruit of the Spirit, love for others, humility, obedience, and endurance in trials, are what it truly means to grow in Christ. Let’s focus on ensuring our hearts, character, and actions align with the teachings of Christ. May we be a people who pursue genuine transformation and reflect the true nature of a mature Christian as defined by God’s word.



WESTON CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3RD

FALL FEST

LIVE MUSIC

Johnny
Rodriguez

TIME: 3PM - 8PM

FREE FOOD - CARNIVAL GAMES -
BALLOON ANIMALS - PUPPETS - PRIZES -
2 BOUNCES HOUSES

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Stewardship Statistics	8.30.26	9.6.26	9.13.26	9.20.26		Total Money Given and Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services	52	55	57	45		52.25
General Fund	\$2310.00	\$2945.00	\$1960.00	\$1235.00		\$8450.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00		\$11420.00
+ or - Budget	(\$545.00)	\$90.00	(\$895.00)	(\$1620.00)		(\$2970.00)
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money		\$31.00				\$31.00
Food Pantry		\$7.00		\$200.00		\$207.00
Mud Hens Tickets	\$55.00	\$11.00	\$22.00			\$88.00
Concert tickets		\$176.00		\$133.00		\$309.00
Lake James			\$975.00	\$170.00		\$1145.00
Total Givings	\$2365.00	\$3170.00	\$2957.00	\$1738.00		\$10230.00

Prayer List

Sue Snyder (brain cancer)
Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal cords)
Dave Boswell (bladder cancer)
Ken Altmeyer (colon cancer surgery)
June Wilson (chemo started 9.3.26)
Dawn (Cathy & John DuBois's daughter has fluid buildup around her heart.)
Carol Krause (eyesight restoration)
Dawson Lehman (healing from surgery)
Family of Inga DeWitt
Tom of Victory Chapel (stroke)
Bill Leach (Leaky heart valve)
Leighan's father-in-law Tay (pancreatic cancer/will start chemo soon)
Jon Walker (Biloxi, Mississippi for job specific officer technical training) (Madison's friend) Jamie Donald, 9th grade, kidney failure, appendectomy, and knee surgery
(Taylor's friend) Family of Kaleigh's 20-year-old cousin who had heart failure
Family of Ron Fraiser
Judy Pope (breast cancer)
John McKenzie (face pain relief)
Carl Murphy (back problems)
Praise – Bob Walker's cataract surgery was successful.

Activities this month:

Food Pantry Is Open

Saturdays, October 3 & 17, 10:00am – Noon

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 3, 3:00-8:00pm
See details on page 2.

Fellowship Break

Sunday, October 4, after Worship
Hosted by Nancy and Leighan

Men's Mentoring

Follows Fellowship Break

Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30pm

Small Group Bible Studies

Continuing in the book of John (currently starting Chapter 11)
Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Friday Game Nights

October 9 & 23, 6:00 -8:00pm

Youth Group at the church

Saturday, October 10, 5:00-6:30pm

Ladies Christian Fellowship

Monday, October 26, 7:00pm

Remember our Shut-ins

Bud Brown – BG Manor

Those in Service

Darryl & Carol Krause - missionaries
Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Carlisle, PA
Ron Burkhardt – Stateside
Jon Walker - 179th Air Nat'l Guard – currently in Biloxi, MS
Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard
Luke Millican - USAF
Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan
McNiel Snyder - USAF/GA
Wynter Anderson - Army Nat'l Guard
Hunter Braun - USAF
MSgt. Deidra Anderson Braun – USAF
-currently in Jordan

What distinguishes the Christians is not the ills they suffer, but the way they suffer their ills.

—St. Augustine

No fact of history is more amazing than the spread of the influence of Jesus.

—Kenneth Scott Latourette

Seeds of Victory

Months before the U.S. victory at the World War II Battle of Midway, important work was happening far from the ocean. Code analysts were quietly studying Japanese messages, using early tools that came long before the computers we know today. Their careful work helped crack a code and gave American forces the warning they needed to avoid an ambush.

It makes you wonder what those long days felt like. Did the analysts ever grow tired of searching for answers? Did they wonder whether their efforts mattered? Did they feel discouraged when the breakthrough had not yet come?

We can understand that feeling. Christians sometimes grow weary, too. We wonder whether teaching children about Jesus is making a difference. We wonder whether small acts of kindness, quiet prayers or faithful service will ever bear fruit. We see sin, sorrow and brokenness around us and wonder how victory will come.

But God sees what we cannot. No faithful work done for him is wasted. The Spirit who helps us plant seeds of truth and love is also able to bring the harvest. And because of Christ, the final victory is already secure.

Charging Forward in Stewardship

Rhinoceroses are remarkable creatures. Strong, sturdy and surprisingly fast, a rhino is built to protect. When it senses danger, especially near its herd or its young, it does not hesitate. It moves with focus, strength and purpose.

There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts, time and resources to use for his kingdom. When opportunities come to serve, give, encourage or help, faithful stewards do not stand still and wait for someone else to go first. They respond with willing hearts and steady faith.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.

Christian Symbol



LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus'

parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

Luther and the Bible



Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."



Make Your Blessings Count

Years ago, a newspaper shared the story of Mr. and Mrs. Davis Illingworth, an elderly Christian couple known for quiet, faithful service. Early in their marriage, they decided to use the gifts God had given them to bless others.

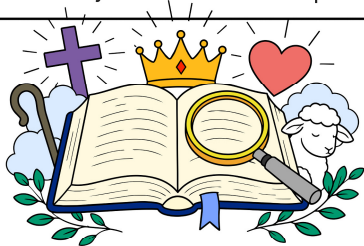
Through the years, they served through their church and in life-care retirement homes, offering time, kindness and generosity wherever they were needed. When a foundation later honored them for their caring philanthropy, they shared the motto that had guided their lives: "Count your blessings, and make your blessings count."

What a wonderful reminder that God's gifts are meant to be shared for his glory.

Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High, God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One



A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY
a = 7 e = 8
i = 10 o = 9
u = 11 y = 6

He _____ and _____ if _____ m _____ l _____
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

W _____ d _____ c _____ and _____
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G _____ d _____ r _____ h _____ g _____ v _____
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

F _____ r _____ d _____ t _____ th _____ e _____ o _____
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n _____ d _____ pr _____ y _____ d _____ G _____ d _____
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r _____ g _____ l _____ r _____ . _____ eto 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Birthdays

Willow Jae Robinson
Joan Eckhardt
Nancy Snyder
Debbie Lee
Ed Tolles
Lindsey Baker
Joanne McKenzie
Cindy Wichman



Anniversaries

2 Brad & Ashlee Strickland

Bible Quiz



Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

- A. goodness
- B. kindness
- C. gifts
- D. benefits

Answer: D. benefits (Psalm 103:2)

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Band Practice	2	3 10am-noon Food Pantry 3-8pm Fall Festival (games, bounce houses, food and music)
4 9:30am Worship Birthdays & Anniversaries Fellowship Break Men's Mentoring	5	6 7:30pm Board Meeting	7 7:00pm Small Group	8 7:00pm Band Practice	9 6-8pm Game Night	10 5-6:30pm Youth Group
11 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	12	13	14 7:00pm Small Group	15 7:00pm Band Practice	16	17 10am-noon Food Pantry
18 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	19	20	21 7:00pm Small Group	22 7:00pm Band Practice	23 6-8pm Game Night	24
25 9:30am Worship Gideon Speaker 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	26 7:00pm Ladies Christian Fellowship	27	28 7:00pm Small Group	29	30	31

Weston Church of Christ

PO Box 344

13355 Center Street

Weston, Ohio 43569

November news articles are due October 25

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



2026

Weston Witness

Minister: Jacob Anderson, 660-998-9059

Email Jacob: churchofchristweston@gmail.com

Email church: church@westonchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Ed Tolles, 419-409-1622

John McKenzie, 419-806-5775

Bob Walker, 419-262-8006

Website: www.westonchurchofchrist.org

Check us out on Facebook

October 2026

Pat Higley, Editor

Church Phone:

419-669-3895

The purpose of the Weston Church of Christ is to glorify God by reaching the lost, strengthening the saved and serving as one body for Jesus Christ our Lord.