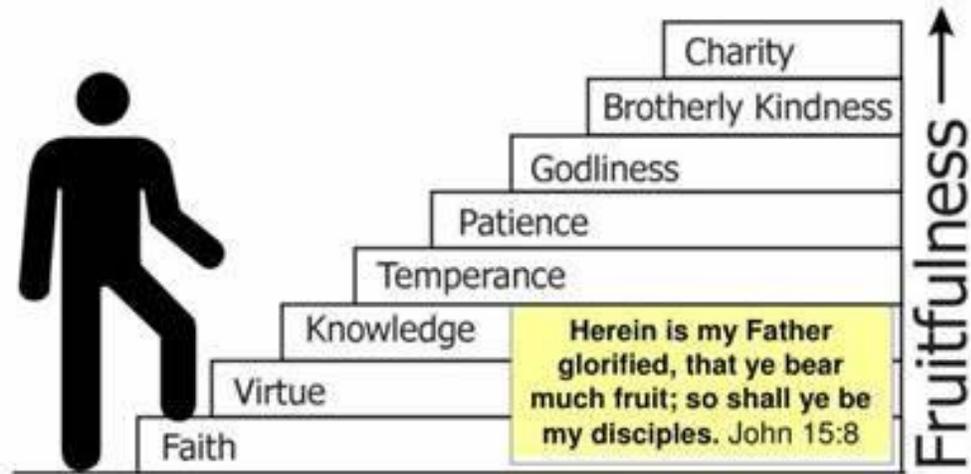


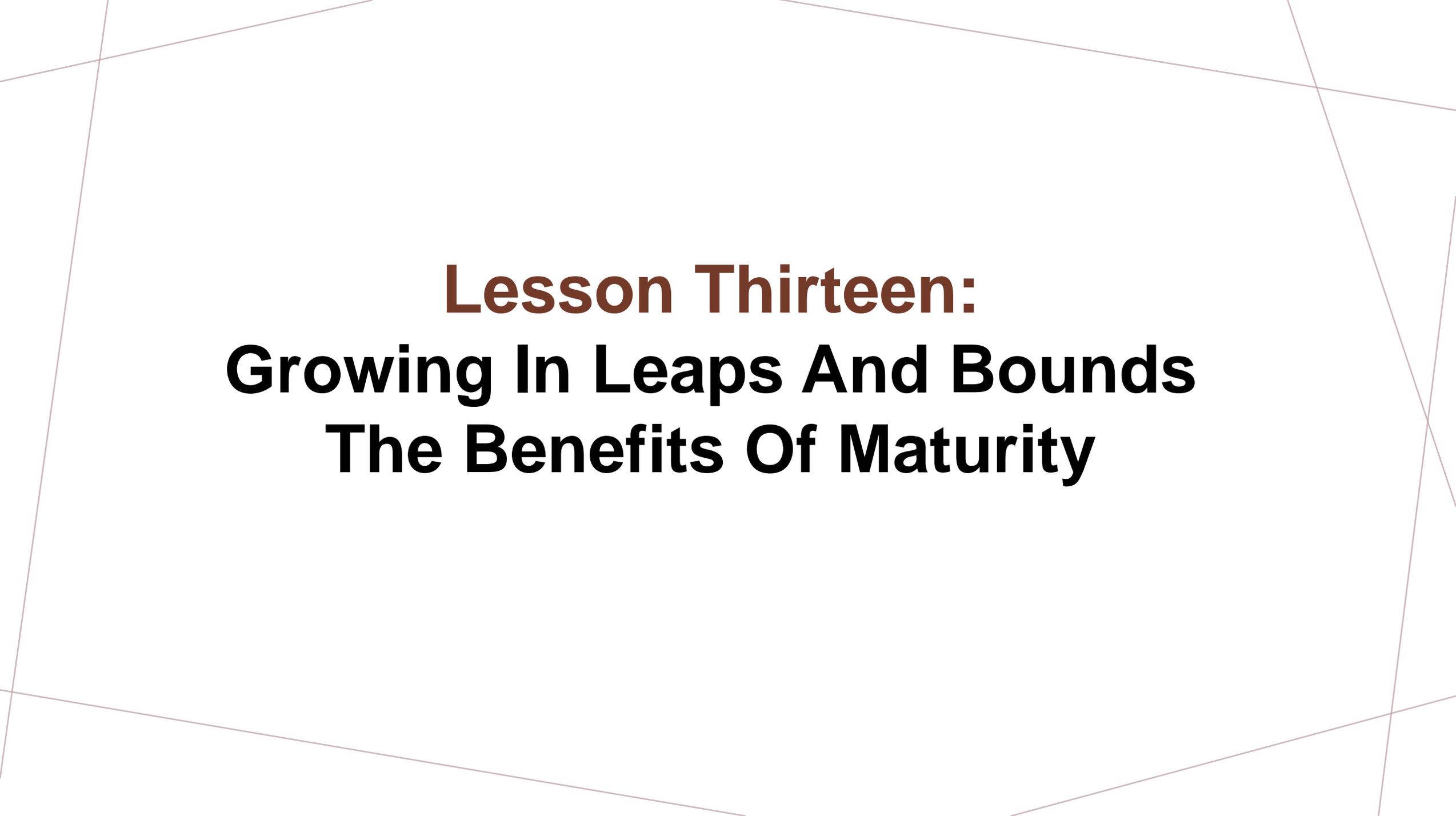
# God's Call to Spiritual Growth

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. Psalm 37:23,24



# MARCH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

# SOLID STEPS OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH



**Lesson Thirteen:**  
**Growing In Leaps And Bounds**  
**The Benefits Of Maturity**

**Idioms are a type of figurative language. Leaps and bounds simply mean moving forward in surprisingly large and rapid steps, very quickly.**

**Growth as a Christian should not be something we see as optional. It is something we spend the rest of our life doing. It is kind of like riding a bicycle uphill. If you stop pedaling, you are going to go backwards.**

**Scripture Lesson:**  
**II Peter 1:5-11**

**But also, for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

The background features several thin, light brown lines that intersect to form a series of overlapping, irregular polygons, creating a subtle geometric pattern.

# **Five Benefits Of Maturity**

## **II Peter 1:8-11**

# **1. I Become Productive For God.**

**II Peter 1:8**

**Being busy does not always  
mean we are  
being productive in our efforts  
to serve God.**

# **Four Ways To Be A Productive Christian:**

# **1. We Need To Recognize What Is Most Important.**

**1 Corinthians 5:9, Our ambition...to be pleasing to  
Him.**

## **2. We Need To Focus On What Is Important.**

**Matthew 6:33, But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

# **3. We Need To Spend Time On What Is Important.**

**Ephesians 5:16, Making the most of your time,  
because the days are evil.**

# **4. We Need To Manage Our Energy So That We Can Keep Doing What Is Important.**

**Galatians 6:9, Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.**

**Focus on being product  
instead of being busy.**

## **2. I Start To Live In Harmony With My New Identity.**

**II Peter 1:9, For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

**Your practice is catching  
up with your position.**

# **Three Ways To Stay Free From Spiritual Blindness:**

# **1. Identify the Trap**

**Romans 1:28**, “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.

# **2. Do not Stiff Your Neck**

**Proverbs 29:1**, “He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

# **3. Lift Up the Banner**

**“The eyes are useless when  
the mind is blind.”**

**3. I Develop Further Assurance  
Of My Salvation.  
II Peter 1:10**

**Assurance of your salvation is one  
of the highest blessings that you  
can experience in life.**

# **Four Reasons Why Many Doubt Their Salvation:**

**1. Spiritual Immaturity**

**2. Sensitivity to Sin**

**3. Comparisons with Other Christians**

**4. Trials or Difficult Circumstances**

**1 John 5:11–13, And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

**4. I Develop Stability.**  
**II Peter 1:10**

**Jude 24-25, Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. ...**

**The word stumbling in the Greek is “phulasso.” It means “to preserve by having an eye on”.**

**II Peter 2:14, Having eyes full of  
adultery that never cease from sin,  
enticing [who?] Unstable souls.**

**False teachers develop an audience with—Christians who are unstable.**

**Ephesians 4:14-15, So, we are no longer children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.**

**“The enemy of stability can be complacency.”**

**5. I Enter Heaven Fully  
Rewarded.  
II Peter 1:11**

**“And so, a triumphant admission into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be freely granted to you.”**

**“And you will receive a lavish reception into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”.**

**“I shall be satisfied if I can but  
creep into heaven on my hands  
and knees.”**

**Matthew 25:21, His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'**

**“Well done is better than well  
said.”**

## **Bible Study Follow Up Chat**

- 1. What have you received from Christ that drives your life? What is in the way? What are you going to do about it?**
- 2. In what ways are you useful and fruitful to God?**
- 3. What can you do to make sure you do not become blind or shortsighted?**
- 4. “Growth and maturity are not merely mattering of time. No, spiritual growth and maturity are matters of disciplined, diligent effort, of discipleship.”**

**5. By what measure can I discern whether I am growing in my faith?**

**6. What are my spiritual goals for 2021? How will these goals help you achieve Christ-like character qualities?**

**7. Which of the following changes have you experienced in your life? (Check the appropriate ones.)**

- Inner peace**
- New awareness of sin**
- Greater victory over sin**
- New love for God**
- Desire to read the Bible**
- Attitude changes**
- Sense of forgiveness**
- New concern for other**