

## Spiritual Maturity Part 1: We're in a Moment

### Discussion Guide – September 14, 2025

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in,  
I needed clothes and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you looked after me,  
I was in prison and you came to visit me...

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:35-36, 40

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. Heb. 5:12-14

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matt. 5:43-48

### Quotes

At the root of ALL of this [the Church's alignment with anti-Christ policies] is a subconscious moral conviction that my way, my life, my needs are more important than my neighbour's and thus everything that I stand for or support ultimately comes out of this fundamental conviction. – Pastor Steve

“Spiritual maturity is measured by how readily we love, especially when it costs us something.”  
Henri Nouwen

### Discussion Questions

1. Hebrews 5 says the mature have “trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Why do you think so many Christians seem to support policies or attitudes that harm the vulnerable? What does this reveal about the difference between *spirituality* and *spiritual maturity*?
2. In light of Nouwen's understanding of spiritual maturity, what does “costly love” look like in your life right now?
3. Loving our enemies is a marker of spiritual maturity – what persons (or type of persons) in your life is hard to love most right now?
4. What small, concrete steps might help you begin moving toward them in love instead of dismissal or contempt? (Think specifically of people who we get frustrated with because their views on how to respond to this moment look so obviously anti-Christian).
5. It's easy to see immaturity “out there” in other Christians, churches, or political tribes. Where might you see signs of spiritual immaturity in your own heart, attitudes, or habits?