

SPIRITUAL LIFE



STAGES

Spiritually Grow Spiritual BABIES

PARENTS

Begin

Relationship with Jesus

Discover **Basic Concepts** about God

1. Spiritual FOUNDATION

Spiritual Inactive



2. Spiritual BIRTH

Infants Babies



Understanding

Basic Christian Truths

3. Spiritual DISCOVERY

Spiritual Infants



Taking **Responsibility** for Spiritual Growth

4. Spiritual OWNERSHIP

Young Adult



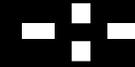
Influencing people for the Kingdom

5. Spiritual LEADERSHIP

Spiritual Fathers



STAGE 1



In **stage 1** a person is **spiritually dead**, meaning that he or she has not been born again. This stage is characterized by the word *unbelief*. God's Word says that each person starts out in life "dead in [their] trespasses and sins" (**Eph 2:1**). This means we are separated from God and will experience an eternal death away from God unless we believe in Jesus Christ for salvation. A spiritually dead person needs a healthy relationship with a maturing believer – a picture of the real Jesus lived out in front of them – an explanation of the gospel message, and an invitation to receive Christ. Even though this person is not a believer, they still are seeking answers to life's greatest questions: Why am I here? What happens after death? If there is a God, why does he let bad things happen to good people?

Infants

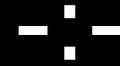
STAGE 2:-



After a Seeker receives Christ and is born again he or she immediately enters **stage 2**: spiritual infancy. God's Word calls them "**infants**" (**1 Pet 2:2**) and "**babies**" (**1 Cor 3:1**). Spiritual infants know something has changed and are usually excited about telling others about it. However, in many ways they tend to make messes. They are characterized by the word ignorance. They may know many things, but they are ignorant of how to live out this new life as a follower of Christ. Some of the things a spiritual infant needs are individual attention from a mature believer, an explanation of the basic truths found in the Word of God, and both an explanation and modelling of the habits of a growing believer.

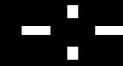


STAGE 3



As they grow, the Believer (**spiritual infants**) move into **stage 3**: the spiritual child. Throughout the Bible we see comments that refer to this **childlike spiritual stage** (**1 John 2:12**; **1 Cor 13:11**). They can be excited about their faith, and in many ways they are innocent and cute. However, they still act childishly and are often rebellious and self-centred in many ways. Spiritual children tend to do what they should only when they are rewarded or threatened with some kind of punishment. They may do the right thing, but it's usually to avoid an outcome they dislike or to get something they want. Some of the needs of a spiritual child, in order to help them continue to grow, are both instruction and modelling as to how to feed themselves, who they are in Christ, how to have fellowship with Christ and other believers, and about appropriate expectations concerning other believers.

STAGE 4



As a Learner (spiritual children) grow up, they mature into the spiritual **young adult** stage - the Server (**1 John 2:13**). At this stage the believer has a decent grasp of God's Word and is action/service-oriented, zealous, God-centered, and mission-minded, but they don't often think in terms of reproducing disciples. They have a great desire to serve, help, bless, and make their life count. They want to make an impact and be used. Some of the needs a **spiritual young adult** requires in order to move to the next stage are a place to learn to serve, a spiritual parent who will debrief them about ministry experiences, ongoing relationships that offer encouragement and accountability, guidance regarding appropriate expectations of people they will serve, and help in identifying their gifts and skills for ministry.





STAGE 5:-

In this final stage of spiritual development, we become **spiritually mature** enough to reproduce disciples – we become **spiritual parents** – the Leader (**1 Cor 4:15, 17; 1 Thess 2:11; 1 John 2:13-14**). The difference between a spiritual young adult and a **spiritual parent** is the spiritual parent thinks about how to help others grow through the stages in order for the other believers to reach spiritual parenthood while the young adult simply thinks of blessing others without any consideration of helping others grow through the stages. As a spiritual parent you want to lead someone to Christ or help new believers develop in their maturity. You are intentional and strategic about this process. Some of the needs of a spiritual parent are an ongoing relationship with co-laborers, a church family, and encouragement.

OUR SPIRITUAL STATE

1 John 2:12 I write to you, **little children**, [Because your sins are forgiven] you for His name's sake. **13** I write to you, **fathers**, [Because you have known Him] who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, [Because you have overcome the wicked one]. I write to you, **little children**, [Because you have known the Father]. **14** I have written to you, **fathers**, [Because you have known Him] who is from the beginning. I have written to you, **young men**, [Because you are strong], and the [word of God abides in you], And you have [overcome the wicked one].

- **1 Cor 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to carnal, as to **babes** in Christ. **2** I fed you with **milk** and not with **solid food**; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; **3** for you are still **carnal**. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? **4** For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

Hebr 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be **teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need **milk** and not **solid food**. **13** For everyone who partakes only of milk is **unskilled** in the word of righteousness, for he is a **babe**. **14** But **solid food** belongs to those who are **of full age**, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern both good and evil**.

Ephes 4:¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.



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The logo features the word "IMPACT" in a large, red, 3D-style font. Below it, the word "industries" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase font. A thick red horizontal line underlines the word "industries". The background is black with a decorative wavy border at the top in shades of green and yellow.