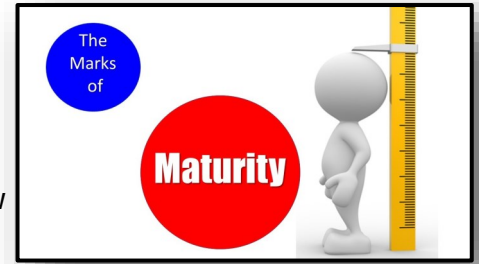


The Inside Steps - PONDER



As we saw in our last lesson, Maturity is not about age or size. Some big people act very little. Maturity comes from within a person. It is a character trait. Two people can go through the same experience but how they react to it may be very different. Maturity is the difference.

A. One of the first internal aspects of maturity is the ability to PONDER.

- We might use the word, "think" or, "contemplate"

1. Jesus used the expression "observe" (Mt 6:28; 23:3); "look" (Mt 6:26); "consider" (Lk 12:24)
Luke 2:19 "Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart"

2. _____ is another good expression
Phil 1:9 "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment"

Hebrew 5:14 "But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

3. _____ is another expression of pondering
Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord."

Matthew 21:25 "The baptism of John was from what source, from Heaven or from men? And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, 'If we say, 'From Heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?'"

Luke 12:17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying 'What shall I do since I have no place to store my crops?'"

Acts 17:17 "So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present."

B. A major difference between humans and animals is the ability to ponder

1. Animals operate on _____.
What is natural for them is what they do
- they fail to comprehend consequences
- they do not think things through before they act



2. The adulteress does not ponder the _____ of life (Pv 5:6)
- in contrast to the wise person (Pv 4:26; 5:21)

Before something comes out, it must first be _____ out

1. Before one expresses himself, he ponders

Prov 15:28 "The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."

(a) this stops _____ (Gal 5:20)
- this helps him be in _____ (James 1:19-20)

Things to Consider Before you
speak, send the text, or respond
on social media:

- Once you have said it, you have said it. It's hard to take things _____
- Is it _____? (Eph 4:29; 1 Thes 5:11)
- Is it _____?
- Could it be _____?
- Is it _____? (Col 3:17)
- Is this something that will _____ the light I am trying to shed?
- Does it _____ with the golden rule? (Mt 7:12)
- Have you thought about how it will be _____?



1. 1 Corinthians 13:11 how does a child reason? How is that different from a mature person?

2. Prov 12:18 describes speaking rashly like the thrusting of a sword. How does one learn to be "slow to speak."

3. Mark 7:21-23 illustrates that the outside, which people see, is a result of what is on the inside. Changing the inside will change the outside. How is that accomplished?
- See Prov 18:2

4. The mature person will catch himself and stop from saying things because they are not appropriate. How does one do this?

- Ps 141:3; 34:13; 39:1