

## A Mature Mindset – Part 4 That Goes the Distance

*Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.* **2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)**

- A mature mindset accepts Christ's authority.

*Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.* **1 Peter 3:22 (NLT)**

- A mature mindset actively disengages from sin.

*So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.* **1 Peter 4:1-2 (NLT)**

- A mature mindset acknowledges God's will and believes God's word.
- A mature mindset serves out of love not out of duty.

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.* **Galatians 5:24 (NLT)**

### You must practice SIR - Self Imposed Ruthlessness.

*So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.* **Colossians 3:5-6 (NLT)**

*Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. God himself is Fire!* **Hebrews 12:28-29 (MSG)**

*We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.* **Hebrews 12:2-4 (NLT)**

### Maturity Means:

- Keep your eyes on Jesus.
- Keep going through the tough times.
- Keep your eyes on the reward.
- Keep things in perspective.

*Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.* **Hebrews 12:3-4 (NLT)**

- A mature mindset is not based on feelings.

*So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.* **Hebrews 12:12-13 (NLT)**

- A tool for checking whether something conforms to a desired dimension.
- Figurative a means of estimating something; a criterion or test.

*Let my words and my thoughts be pleasing to you, LORD, because you are my mighty rock and my protector.* **Psalms 19:14 (CEV)**

- The words of their mouths and the prevailing thoughts in their minds.

***Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.***

***Ecclesiastes 5:2 (NIV)***

***I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence."***

***Psalms 39:1 (ESV)***

***Wise words bring approval, but fools are destroyed by their own words.***

***Fools base their thoughts on foolish assumptions, so their conclusions will be wicked madness;***

***Ecclesiastes 10:12-13 (NLT)***

***Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.***

***Proverbs 17:28 (NLT)***