

# Battle for Growth 3

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**Psalm 92:12-14** – <sup>12</sup> The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will **grow** like a cedar of Lebanon; <sup>13</sup> **planted in the house of the LORD**, they will **flourish in the courts of our God**. <sup>14</sup> They will still **bear fruit in old age**, they will stay **fresh and green**.

The Cedar of Lebanon is one of the strongest, most useful trees, having a trunk with proportions similar to the Sequoia tree and a root system that permits it to flourish under difficult environments.

We are called to:

- Grow
- Be planted in the house of the Lord
- Bear fruit through old age
- Stay fresh and green

**II Corinthians 4:16** - Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our **outward man** is perishing or declining to its end, yet the **inward man** is being renewed day by day.

## 4 Stages of Spiritual Growth

1. **Babyhood**
2. **Childhood**
3. **Adolescence**
4. **Adulthood**

### Childhood

**Ephesians 4:14** - That we be no more children...

**We are beginning to wean our children away from complete dependence upon us.**

**I Corinthians 13:11** - When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, **I put away childish things.**

Children are driven by the emotions of the moment.

Children want what they want, when they want it and have very little capacity to see how present decisions will affect future outcomes.

Children are brutally selfish; they must be taught to share.

Children are ungrateful; they must be taught thankfulness.

### **Adolescence**

The desire for privileges and rights without the acceptance of responsibility.

**Acts 7:51** - You stubborn and stiff-necked people, still heathen and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are always actively resisting the Holy Spirit. As your forefathers [were], so you [are and so you do]!

Adolescence is a time when presumption rules.

Presumption closes the door to information!

Maturity doesn't mean that you get to control the next generation, but rather to empower and serve it.

- Children's rooms and push back
- Youth service and push back
- 20-something service and push back

Spiritual Maturity isn't defined by what you know, but rather by whom you serve with what you know!