

# 7 Stages of LIFE



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## Vital Understanding

*In our life we pass through many stages of growth and each of these has a profound affect on how our life turns out. The importance of understanding each stage of life cannot be underestimated. This study covers the seven important milestones which all of us go through in our lifetime and each milestone has a major affect on the ultimate outcome and value of our life. God has given clear directions in His Word for each stage to be successful. Following His guidelines brings about the fulfillment of His ultimate plan for each individual person. In His great love, however, the Lord has also made it possible so that, should any of us fail at any stage, God can restore what has been lost with a new beginning.*

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)***



### Babyhood

Two vital attributes are the absolute foundation for a person's life from the moment they are born:

- \* LOVE
- \* TRUST

Not only do these attributes give the child (and right into adulthood) the sense of personal worth, they are also then transferred to loving and trusting the Lord.



### Childhood

As the child grows, the parents impart this love and trust in various ways:

**Expressing it** - constantly saying “I love you” and physically expressing it with hugs.

***“Love is patient, love is kind... it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.***



**Keeping your word** - whatever is promised or instructed to the child, it is vital the parent keeps what they say. This not only develops in the child trust of the parent but also ultimate trust in the Lord and His Word.

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” Psalm 119:105.*

**Training** - teaching the truths of life from the Word of God.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6 (Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:4 NKJV).*

**Guidance** - living by example for them, involving them in activities, guiding them side by side with them. For example, praying together with them so they then experience the answers and the reality of the Lord in their life.

*“Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways” Proverbs 8:32.*

**Discipline** - the boundaries to keep them safe and guide them for the future. The child must always understand why they are being disciplined, and the parent must always discipline out of love, never out of anger. In other words, it is for the child’s sake not for the parent’s.

*“Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire” Proverbs 29:17 (Proverbs 19:18).*

*“Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!” Hebrews 12:9.*

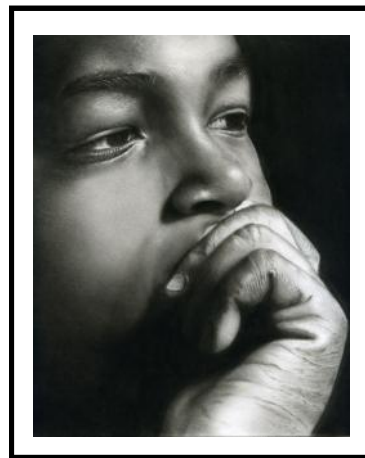
**Commendation** - constant commendation of the child’s gifts, abilities and character, and sharing with them the uniqueness of who they are, is important as they grow in their understanding in the plan and purpose of God for their life.

*“Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name” Isaiah 49:1.*

## **3 Youth**

The teen and young adult years is the stage of choosing the priorities of life which become the makings of the adult. These priorities are:

**Seeking Truth** - at this stage questions arise in the mind of the young. No longer is it just what the parents say about the Lord, but they seek to know for themselves if it is true. It is the age when many come to a genuine faith and experience the truth of salvation and relationship with the Lord for themselves.



*“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God” John 1:12-13.*

**Purpose in Life** - this is a time of education and it is very important for the parents to pray with their child for guidance from the Lord as to which way will be the best for them to fulfill their purpose in life and see their God-given giftings fully expressed. They are seeking what is the call of God for their lives.

*“He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake” Psalm 23:3.*

*“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way” Psalm 25:9.*

*“You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory”  
Psalm 73:24.*

**Friendships** - Friends are all-important in the heart and mind of the young person at this stage of life...a priority to them. Who they choose as their friends will greatly test the decisions they make and so ultimately effect who they become and what they do in life. Although they are encouraged to be friendly with everyone it is very important that they choose those of like mind and faith to be their close friends.

*“The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray” Proverbs 12:26.*

This is also the stage where they become aware of and interested in the opposite sex. It is good to encourage them to follow the advice the apostle, Paul, gave to Timothy:

*“Treat...younger women as sisters, with absolute purity” 1 Timothy 5:2.*

Parents need to pray together with their young ones before they leave the house. The Lord’s grace - His enabling power - will help them and strengthen them when they face any temptation, challenges or bullying while they are away (or on the social media). Also pray with them when they return so that their focus always remains on the Lord and His love for them.

**Independence** - at this stage in life the young ones are beginning to experience some independence. This does not mean they are out on their own, rather, based on the foundation given by the parents, it is enabling their experience of dependence on the Lord to guide them and encourage them. Their personal relationship with the Lord becomes a greater reality and is now enhanced.

*“ ‘Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord” Jeremiah 29:12-14.*



# 4 Adulthood

**Decision Making** - as adults many decisions now face us. The Lord has given a wonderful key in His Word to help us make the right decision:

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...” Colossians 3:15.*

The Amplified Bible translates it this way...

*“Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise].”*

The peace of Christ in our hearts is to be the guiding factor in every aspect of our adult life. We are to always follow the peace in every decision and every relationship:

**Marriage** - the Lord knows who is the right partner in life for us...for the one who is joined with us must be one in heart and one in mind with us so, together, we can fulfill the call of God that is on both our lives together. The choice of the one we marry is not only based on “falling in love” but whether our hearts are filled with peace in knowing this person is the will of God for us.

*“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord” Proverbs 18:22 (Ephesians 5:21-33).*

**Business** - the Lord’s peace can direct us in any decision we need to make in our work place and area of business.

*“...each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them” 1 Corinthians 7:17.*

**Ministry** - every Christian is called to ministry whatever their occupation may be and has received specific gifts from the Holy Spirit to minister to others:

*“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully” Romans 12:4-8 (see also Ephesians 4:11-16).*



**Fellowship** - as believers in Christ we are called to be a blessing to our fellow Christians and grow together in the knowledge of Him, expressing the love of the Lord and meeting one another's need both spiritually and in the natural. As the Lord Jesus directed...

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” John 13:34-35.*

*“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had” Acts 4:32.*



**Parenting** - children are a wonderful gift from the Lord and it is a great joy and privilege to be involved in their lives and see them grow into the precious person God intends them to be.

*“...she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring” Malachi 2:14-15 (NKJV).*

## **5 Middle Age**

**Training Others** - middle age is an age of experience and great opportunity. Lessons have been learned, victories have been won, and much can be shared with those who follow.

**Handling Retirement** - retirement does not mean the end of a person's life purpose. Rather, God has specific purposes for this time of life. A person now has the time and ability to do something very special which God will direct them into. It is the next stage to fulfill the call of God on their lives. It is the time to seek the Lord's direction for what He has for them to do.



# 6 Old Age

**Wisdom** - this is the greatest gift you have to give your loved ones and those who know you. All life's experiences are yours to give and for them to learn by.

*“Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them” Proverbs 4:5*

**Heritage** - far more important than any inheritance, you are leaving a great heritage to those who know you.

*“Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land” Psalm 45:16.*

**Hope** - for the believer in Christ, who has reached the fullness of their time on earth, Jesus' promise of Heaven becomes their wonderful focus. Our glorious hope is soon to become a reality for them.

*“In My Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and I will take you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also” John 14:2-3 (AMP).*



**Eternal Life** - death is not the end of life. For those in Christ, it is the beginning!

*“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.*

# 7 Eternity

**Transformed Bodies** - every believer in Christ has eternal life. Our mortal body is buried but we are “changing houses” and “clothing ourselves” with our heavenly dwelling.

*“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling... so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life” 2 Cor. 5:1-4.*

Raised with Christ means death is the stepping over into the glorious things that await us in eternity.

*“...because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself” 2 Cor. 4:14.*

**With Jesus** - in the glorious presence of the Father without any shame or guilt because of the work of the Cross and His resurrection.

*“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy...” Jude 24.*

**Filled with Glory** - the glory of God will fill our whole being and we shall be like Him “for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” Romans 8:18.*

**United with loved ones** - we shall be together with our loved ones again

*“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first....we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” 1 Thessalonians 4:17.*

**Fullness of Joy** - because of His presence, Heaven is filled with all the nature of God - His great love, peace and joy.

*“In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” Psalm 16:11 (NKJV).*

**Glorious Worship** - for all eternity our hearts will be overflowing with worship for Him.

*“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns’” Revelation 19:6.*

**Reigning with Christ** - our glorious position in Heaven is with Christ at the Father’s right hand...involved with Him in His eternal plans.

*“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,...” Ephesians 2:6.*