

Series: When the Holy Spirit Makes a Mess Series
Part 3 – Why Mature Christians Act Like Children
Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (ESV)

BIG IDEA: Spiritual gifts and spiritual activity do not automatically produce spiritual maturity. The Holy Spirit's goal is not merely to give us abilities, but to transform our lives.

1. THE SPIRIT EXPOSES WHAT GIFTS CAN HIDE

"But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it." **1 Corinthians 3:1-2**

"For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." **1 Samuel 16:7**

Personal Application: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your life where outward activity has become a substitute for inward growth.

2. THE SPIRIT REVEALS AND DEVELOPS MATURITY THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

"For you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?" **1 Corinthians 3:3**

"He must increase, but I must decrease." **John 3:30**

Personal Application: Instead of viewing difficult relationships as interruptions, ask the Holy Spirit whether He is using them to expose areas of your life that still need to grow.

3. THE SPIRIT TRANSFORMS LIVES, NOT JUST ABILITIES

"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth... For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Personal Application: Are you more focused on what God can do through you or what God is doing in you?