

HOW TO DEVELOP FAITH BECOME SPIRITUALLY MATURE

May 31, 2009

FBC Port A

Heb 6:1 NIV "Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity,..."

Maturity is not age

Maturity is not appearance

Maturity is not accomplishments

Maturity is not academics

James 1:1-6 NIV

5 MARKS OF MATURITY

I. A MATURE PERSON IS Positive Under Pressure.

James 1:2-4 NIV Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:12 NIV Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

II. A MATURE PERSON IS Sensitive to People.

James 2:8 NIV If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

See 2:1-6, 14-16

III. A MATURE PERSON HAS Mastered His/Her Mouth.

Jas 3:2 NIV We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

See vs. 3-11

Eph 4:29 NIV Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Jas 1:26 NIV If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

IV. A MATURE PERSON IS A Peacemaker, NOT A Troublemaker.

Jas 4:1 NIV What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

2 Sources of Conflict:

- (vs. 2-3) Selfishness

Jas 4:2-3 NIV You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- (vs. 11-12) Judgementalism

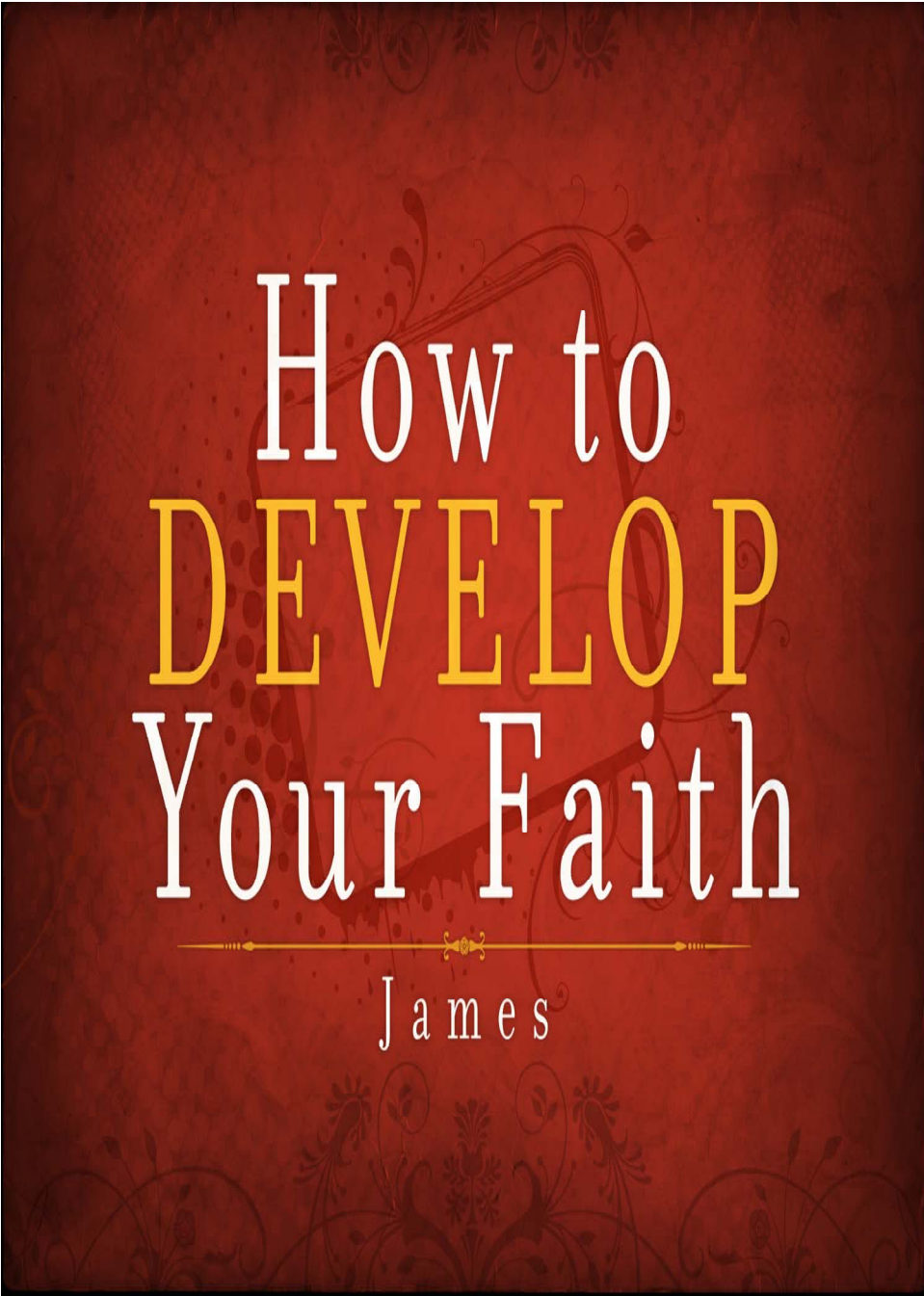
Jas 4:11-12 NIV Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

V. A MATURE PERSON IS Patient and Prayerful.

Jas 5:7,11 NIV Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Jas 5:16b NIV The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

How do you rate your maturity?



How to
DEVELOP
Your Faith

James

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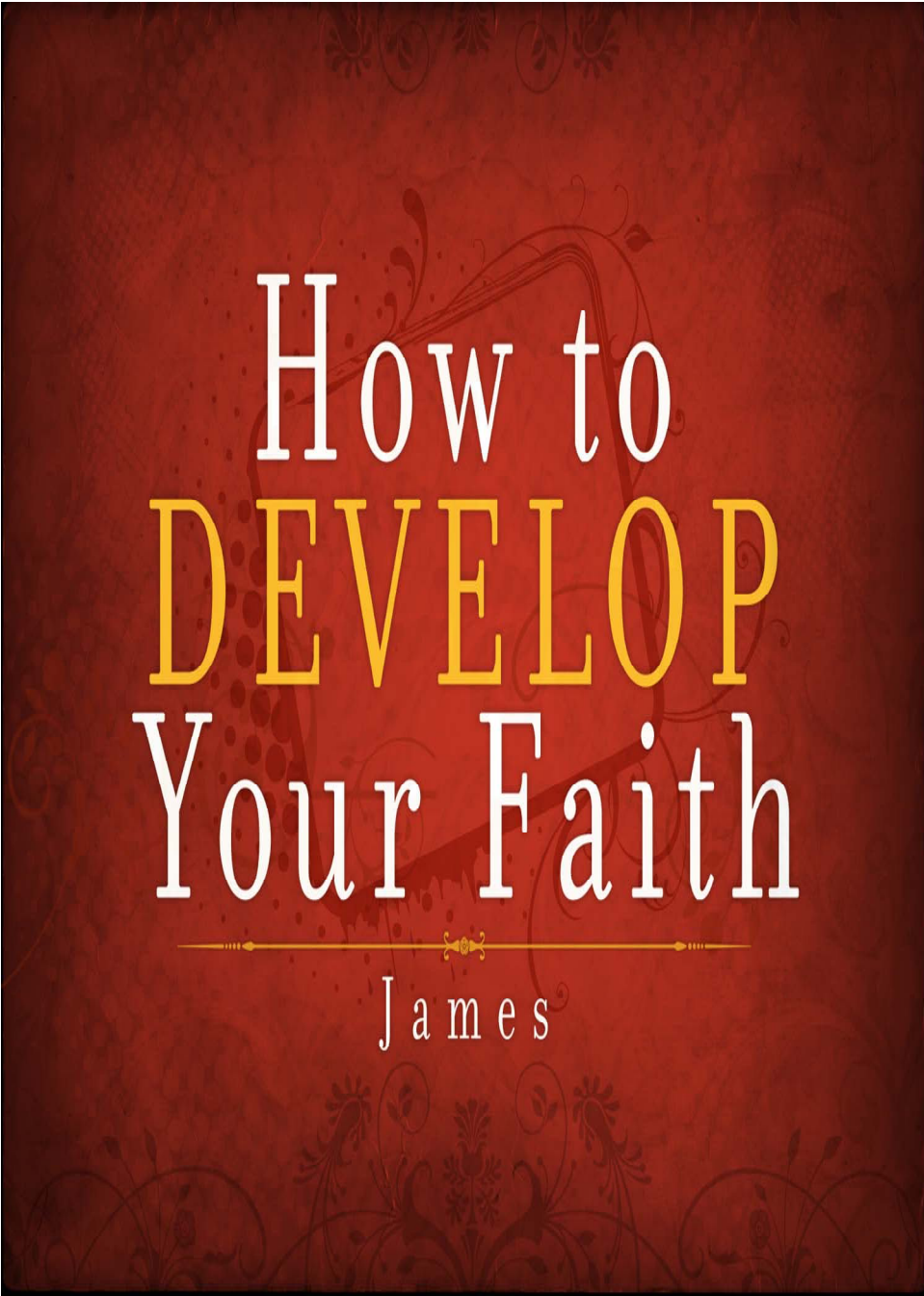
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D. L. Moody said, "Character is what you are in the dark." Recognition is what people say about you, character is what God says about you. God says it's your attitude that determines whether you're mature or not. God wants you to grow up and have Christ-like attitudes.