

Lesson: FIVE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Last week, we learned Paul was writing to three churches in the Lycus Valley of Phrygia Asia Minor (Col.4:13). Paul had never met them and wanted the Colossian letter to be **circulated** among them (Col.2:1; 4:12-16).

This lesson will study **Three aspects** of the mechanics of Five Stages of Spiritual Growth to reaching and maintaining super grace maturity ministry.

1. As a super grace adult believer, Paul is engaged in great outreach ministry to three churches in Asia Minor that **he has never met**. He is deeply concerned with their spiritual growth by writing the Book of Colossians to them.

Paul linked **four main verbs** together to establish importance of **five stages of spiritual growth** of 2:1- 3.

In Col.2:1, Paul used 3 of the 4 main verbs to show how deeply he felt about meeting these three churches spiritual growth needs. **Fourth main verb is (are/ eimi) in 2:3.**

2:1 – “I want (thelo/ p.a.ind.1ps/ deep desire/ Col.1:28-29; Eph.4:13).

2:1 – “I have (echo/ p.a.ind.1ps) great struggle regarding their spiritual growth.

2:1 – “All those (3 churches) who have NOT personally SEEN (ouk horao/ perf.a.ind.3pl) my face.

2:3 – “Are (eimi/ p.a.ind.3pl) hidden all Treasures of wisdom and knowledge (epignosis).

2. In **Col.2:2-3**, Paul outlined the mechanics of **Inhale and Exhale of Faith Cycle** necessary to reach and maintain spiritual maturity through each of the five categories of spiritual growth.

Stage One (2:2) - “That (hina+subj of divine purpose/ 1:29) their hearts (target of spiritual growth) may be encouraged (parakaleo/ a.p.subj.3pl)” – (1 Thess.5:11/ leads to next)

Stage Two - “(Hearts) having been knit together (sumbibazo/ a.p.ptc.nplm/ fusion or melting together) in love” – (leads to next)

Stage Three – “(and attaining heart) to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance (tes plerophoria) of understanding (tes sunesis)” – (Phil.1:6/ leads to next)

Stage Four - “(resulting) in a true knowledge (epignosis) of God’s mystery, that is, Christ (Himself)” – (Matt.13:18-23/ leads to next)

Stage Five (2:3) – “In Whom (Christ) are (eimi/ p.a.ind.3pl/ MV) hidden (apokruphos/ predicate adj/ secret/ Col.1:26) all the treasures of wisdom (tes sophia/ gsf) and knowledge (gnosis).”

3. Paul is teaching the importance of **cycling CBD** (categorical bible doctrine) by inhale and exhale of the faith cycle (**2 Tim.3:16-17**) to advance spiritual growth in **Five Stage**.

FAITH CYCLE (clockwise)

(1) Hearing (Rom.10:17)

Stage one
(encouragement)

(All hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge/gnosis)

Stage five (back to (1))

(2) Believing (Heb.4:2)

Stage two
(knlt together in love)

(4) Competing (Jas.2:22)

(Heb.11:1)

Stage four

(True knowledge of God's
Mystery in Christ)

(3) Applying (2 Cor.5:7)

Stage three

(Wealth of full assurance of understanding)

In Col.2:3, Paul closed the sentence with the with the Stage Five – “In Whom (CHRIST) are (eimi/ p.a.ind.3pl) hidden (apokruphos/ predicate adj/ 1:26) ALL the treasures of wisdom (tes Sophia/ gsf) and knowledge gnosis/ gsf).” (Rom.11:33-36)

FIVE CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Baby believer (1Per.2:2)
- Child believer (Heb.5:13-14)
- Immature adult believer (Gal.4:19)
- Mature believer (Eph.4:13)
- Super grace believer (2 Thess.1:3)