



### **Part 3: When I am becoming more humble and more aware of my spiritual pride.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Everyone wants to see growth. There are ways to measure growth in children's development, business, etc. But how do we know when you grow spiritually? Discipleship (growing as Christ's follower) is often a contentious issue in the church. What is the true measure of discipleship? Some Christians end up criticizing other Christians for not being 'deep' enough or committed enough to be 'real' Christians. There is apparently a certain subset of Christian who have maturity figured out, and the rest of us, well, not so much. What if what we call spiritual maturity...isn't? How then do we know when we grow?

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. It's hard, if not impossible, to avoid making comparisons. They happen naturally and subconsciously.
  - a. What are some areas of your life where you are most prone to compare yourself with others?
  - b. When you find yourself comparing, are you most likely to focus on areas of your life where you don't do so well, or on areas where you tend to come out on top? Why do you think that is?
2. If it's true that we all have a list of people we naturally look down on, what types of people are most likely to end up on your personal, *"I'm so glad I'm not like them list?"*
3. Read Matthew 7:1-5.
  - a. Why did Jesus say we should not judge others? What does that mean? What are some of the dangers that can come from comparing ourselves with others? What measure would you like God to use on you?
  - b. How would you advise someone who asked you, "What can I do to avoid 'log-eye disease'?" What specific steps would you suggest they take?
  - c. Do you think most people are inclined to use the Bible as a mirror, or as a pair of binoculars? Which are you most inclined toward, and why?
4. What tendency for spiritual pride do you have? Hint: What do you do well spiritually or what spiritual gifts do you have and "unconsciously" use it to measure others? How can this LINK help you?

#### **MOVING FORWARD**

The most dangerous place to be for a Christ-follower is at the front of the line because PRIDE lives there.

#### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

- 16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:  
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,  
19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

**Proverbs 6:17-19 (NIV)**