

Five (5) Stages of Growth

The five (5) stages of growth:

- Nepios
- Paidion
- Teknon
- Huios
- Teleios

Note: Two additional stages added later: Brephos and Neaniskos

Nepios – Strong’s #3516 (nay-pee-os)

1. An infant, little child
2. A minor, not of age
3. Metaphorically used for childish, untaught, unskilled

An infant, figuratively simple-minded person, an immature person or Christian

“Without the power of speech,” literally “not-speaking” denotes “a little child.”

- Matt. 21:16 – “nursing infants”
- Matt. 11:25, Luke 10:21 – standing in contrast to the wise; of those who are possessed merely of natural knowledge
- Romans 2:20-24 – those who are carnal, and have not grown as they should have done, in spiritual understanding and power, spiritually immature
- 1 Corinthians 3:1 – Partakers of milk without experience of the word of righteousness (Hebrews 5:13)

The “**Nepios**” Believer is “born again,” but is still an infant in the faith. They are:

- A. Still in bondage under the elements of the world. (Galatians 4:1-3)
- B. Still led by the flesh (1 Corinthians 3:1-4)
- C. Unskilled and unwise in the Word, able to easily be led astray (Ephesians 4:14-15, Hebrews 5:13), and cannot teach others the gospel

How Does the “Nepios” Believer grow?

1. Obey God and His Word in all things (Romans 6:1-14, 16; James 1:22)
 - a. To do this you must spend a lot of time in the Word so you will know what it says for you to do!
2. Do not follow the world’s definition of truth (Proverbs 14:12, Prov. 1:10, Psalm 34:13)
3. Renew your mind to agree with God (Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:8)
4. Bring your body (desires) under control (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 3-8)
5. Find good and Godly, biblically correct teachers to learn from (Choose your teachers wisely. Luke 6:39-40)

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1 Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child (nepios), I spoke as a child (nepios), I understood as a child (nepios), I thought as a child (nepios), but when I became a man, I put away childish things (nepios).”

Paidion – (pahee – dee – on) – A childling of either sex (a half-grown boy or girl, figuratively immature.)

1. The term “paidion” was used for children after they were approximately two (2) years up to 11 or 12 years old. (Prior to bar-mitzvah)
2. This is the stage (in the natural or physical world) a child begins to discover his/her own will and wants their own way. Rebellion shows up and discipline is needed to correct it.
3. Paidion Believers seem to experience a resurgence of the adamic nature, and rebelliousness against the rules of the written Word of God. (Proverbs 13:24, 19:18, 22:15)

At this stage, a paidion can begin to develop a true relationship with their father (1 John 2:13)

An infant (nepios) in the flesh, perceives their father as a familiar par to the environment. A “paidion” can begin to develop a true relationship with their father as they do things together. IN the spiritual sense or realm, this is also true as we grow from just knowing God as the one who just gave us life, to knowing Him who walks and talks with us.

We can dramatically grow in our knowledge and relationship with the father during this stage. (Luke 1:80, 2:40)

During this stage, a person can learn obedience and service, but only if they don’t rebel against it.

The paidion also begins to learn about deception, and recognizing the true doctrine as opposed to the false. (1 John 2:18)

If they do not learn this difference, they are susceptible to their “imagination” running wild and following wild ideas.

Paidions absolutely need to be in a good, solid fellowship so they can learn, grow, and be disciplined. (Heb. 10:25)

What does a Paidion need to do in order to grow? (Same as a nepios, along with the two following):

1. Discipline – Develop good spiritual habits and submitting to God. (in every area) (Heb. 12:1-11)
2. Relationship with God as our Father – walk & talk with Him, and develop joy in His presence. (Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Psalm 16:11; Philippians 4:4-7)

Believers at the stage of “Paidion” have learned humility and have begun to know the Father intimately. In John 21:5, Jesus calls His disciples children or “Paidion.” The word “children” in

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this verse implies there is an existing relationship, still maturing, and reveals somewhat of a childishness nature of the disciples at this particular time in their lives.

These Talmadim had slipped back and disconnected from their assignment as followers of Christ after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus by going back to their usual routine, fishing.

When we disconnect from our assignment following an offense, a heartbreak, or bitter moment, we realize that we are still growing. Our Heavenly Father and spiritual parents will be there to nurse us back to health (if we allow).

Teknon – (Strong’s Gr. #5043) – Descendant (Acts 2:39) Disciple, one who follows a teacher in authority. Pupils or disciples are called children of their teachers because the teacher nourishes the minds of their pupils and molds their character.

In early life, a child is more directly under the control of their mother more than their father; the mother is the first teacher and the father is to direct the training of the son (teknon).

1 Timothy 1:2 – “To Timothy my true son in the faith; grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- “...my true son in the faith...” – My gnesios (gnay’-see-os)

(Teknon en pistis)

Timothy was an imitator of Paul’s faith.

Teknon Characteristics:

- In the natural sense, a Teknon is a teenager. Beginning at the age of 12 to 13 (Bar-mit) until approximately 25-30 years old (when a son could assume his father’s business).
- A Teknon was a young man who was being trained in his father’s profession.
- It was also a time of rebelliousness of youth would reach full expression (if it had not been dealt with fully in the Nepios and Paidion stages).
 - Teenagers are generally known for wanting their own way, thinking they know everything, and not wanting any accountability.
- On the other hand, at this stage in life, they can experience stupendous growth, and are capable of learning a tremendous amount.
- As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. A Teknon believer is truly a disciple!
 - According to John 13:33-35, it seems this was the stage of the Apostles growth when Jesus was crucified and resurrected. The term “little children” is the word “Teknia,” the plural of Teknon.
 - Note: The age of the disciples
- The Teknon believers (sons) have Christ formed in them. They have a legitimate relationship with God, understand forgiveness, overcome sin, practice righteousness, walk closely to the doctrine and ways of their father in the Lord, and submit their ambitions to the wisdom of a spiritual Father (this is not control) through instruction of the Word...and matures, exhibiting the nature of Christ within them.

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What does a Paidion need to do in order to grow? (Same as a nepios, along with the two following)? All of the same things as the Nepios and Paidion Believer with an emphasis on two (2) areas:

1. Controlling pride and ego (that makes him want to do it his way apart from God)
 - a. Luke 22:24-27; Romans 12:3' 1 Timothy 3:6
2. Being trained for the “work of the ministry” – This doesn’t mean you’re supposed to be one of the five-fold ministry gifts (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher), but every Believer is supposed to grow in the knowledge of the Word and in the ability to use it.
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Philippians 3:18-16; Hebrews 5:13-14

Huios – (hwee-os') (Strong's Gr. 5207) – Those who revere God as their Father, the pious worshipers of god. Those who in character and life resemble God, who are governed by the Spirit of God, and repose the same calm and joyful trust in God which children do in their parents (Romans 8:14; Galatians 3:26).

Their conduct gives evidence of the dignity of their relationship and their likeness to His character.

Huios Characteristics:

The Huios Believer is one who has reached maturity in Christ, and who is consistently led by (and lives in) the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:22). The re-created spirit in the life of the Believer will produce the fruit of the spirit. In contrast to the works of the flesh produced by a walk according to the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21).

The life of the re-created spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Also:

- Mature Believers will be receptive to the teaching (ministry) of the Holy Spirit
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; John 16:12-15
- Walk in wisdom and are thankful (Ephesians 5:19-20)
- Be unified and attentive and discerning in ministry – (1 Thessalonians 2:12-22)
- Show dedication to God and nonconformity to the world (Romans 12:1-2)
- Will use the spiritual gifts that God has given them to edify (build-up) the body of Christ, to the purpose of helping all Believers as well as non-Believers to achieve maturity and live as holy “Sons” of God.
- The Huios is the culmination of the previous three (3) stages of growth. The Nepios receives life, Paidion learns to love God and fellowship with Him; and the Teknon learns to serve God (apprenticeship) by learning to apply His Word and to develop their gifts.

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- The Huio truly lives in God through His Spirit, walks in fellowship with Him daily, and uses the Word and the gifts for “God’s Business” as a mature son preaching, teaching and living in the kingdom of God with a New Covenant mindset of the glory!
- For the Believer, the Huio stage is when true church leaders arise as mature men and women of God, put into effect what they have learned of the Lord up to this point. They are mature, know the difference between good and evil, have discernment, manifest the fruit of the spirit, have the gift of gifts that God has given them active in their life, bringing unity to the body (ekklesia) and live holy lives on a consistent basis.
 - a. They follow God in three (3) ways:
 - allegiance (agreement),
 - obedience (action), and
 - continuance (perseverance).
- See the following:
 - a. Luke 10:25 ff – Parable of the good Samaritan
 - b. Mark 3:31 ff - Jesus’ mother and brothers send for Him
 - c. Luke 20:1 ff – Jesus’ authority questioned
 - d. John 4:1-25 – The woman at the well
 - e. John 8:1 ff – The woman caught in adultery

**** (See notes on The Wonder of Man)**

(June 27, 2021)

Ministry Gifts to Aid in Our Growth/Maturation

- 1) Apostle – (Apostolos) – Apo = from + stello = send forth
 - a. One sent forth from/by another, often with a special commission to represent another and to accomplish his work.
 - b. It can be a delegate, commissioner, ambassador sent out on a mission or orders or commission with the authority of the one who sent him/her.
 - c. Apostolos was (in the ancient world) the personal representative of the king, functioning as an ambassador with the king’s authority and provided with credentials to prove he was the king’s envoy.

“Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs wonders and mighty deed.” (2 Corinthians 12:12)

 - d. Signs – (Gr. - *Semeion*) – It described the signature or seal applied to a document to guarantee its authenticity
 - e. Paul uses this word to declare that certain official signs exist as the final verdict to prove a personal apostleship. These accompanying activities are like a signature, a seal that authenticates and guarantees that a person truly is an apostle. If you see these

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particular marks in a person's ministry, you can know that you are standing on or near bona fide apostolic territory.

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you..."

- f. Wrought – (Gr. *Katergadzomai*) – a preposition that carries the idea of something that is subjugating or dominating.
 - Ergo – work: Thus...a work that is totally consuming or dominating...a work that takes every ounce of one's being (1 Corinthians 15:10)

So, the first thing we discover about the apostolic ministry is that it demands the highest level of commitment and work. This particular calling and gift is not for the faint of heart, or for those who want to take it easy, coast. It is a demanding, all-consuming, and dominating call that requires every ounce of a person's life, including things like:

- Going to a territory where the church is non-existent
- Dealing with aggressive and hostile governments
- Facing the opposition of false religions opposed to one's very presence
- Pushing the evil forces of the demonic realm out of the way
- Taking converts from diabolical paganism and turning them into living, breathing trophies of the transforming power of the Holy Ghost...members of the Body of Christ.

This is involved in the ministry gift of the Apostle! (Luke 2:49) (John 9:4)

Psalm 69:9 → John 2:17

"Truly the signs of the apostle were wrought among you in all patience...."

- g. Patience – (Gr. *Hupomeno*) – hupo = under, meno = to abide or stay
 - Hupomeno – Portrays a person who is under some type of incredibly heavy load, but who refuses to stray from his position because he is committed to his task.
 - It is called ENDURANCE! (_____, Not my will, but thine...) (Luke 22:42)

*Paul's Thorn – 2 Corinthians 12:7ff

* The Effects of the Thorn – 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

- h. Apostles in the New Testament
 - Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:1)
 - Simon Peter (Matthew 10:2)
 - Andrew (Matthew 10:2)
 - James the son of Zebedee (Matthew 10:2)
 - John (Matthew 10:2)
 - Philip (Matthew 10:3)
 - Bartholomew (Matthew 10:3)
 - Thomas (Matthew 10:3)
 - Matthew (Matthew 10:3)

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- James son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3)
- Thaddaeus (Matthew 10:3) or Judas son of James (Lk 6:16)
- Simon the Zealot (Matthew 10:4)
- Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:4)
- Matthias (Acts 1:26)
- Paul (Galatians 1:1)
- Barnabas (1 Cor. 9:5-6; Acts 14:4,14)
- Andronicas (Romans 16:7)
- Junia (Romans 16:7 – The only female)
- James the Lord's Brother (Galatians 1:19)
- Silas (Silvanus) (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:6)
- Timothy (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:6)
- Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)
- Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:6-9, 3:22)
- First of 2 Unnamed Apostles (2 Corinthians 8:23)
- Second of 2 Unnamed Apostles

- i. The apostle can operate in any of the five-fold ministry gifts or functions. An apostle can be whatever is needed.

2) Prophets – (Gr. *Prophetes*) – Prof – ay'-tace

- a. The office of the prophet cannot be filled by a democratic election.
- b. A prophet is called of God and set apart by God.
- c. The person God picks to fill this office is not chosen on the basis of personality, education, or public standing.
- d. God appoints a prophet in the land, the people there have nothing to do with His choice.
- e. In the Old Testament, the position of a prophet was one of divine guide. He was sent by God to lead the people of Israel. The prophet at that time was also called a Seer.

“(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: “Come, let us go to the seer”; for *he who is now called* a prophet was formerly called a seer.)” (1 Sam. 9:9)

- Seer – ra' ah – To see or to perceive, to have vision
- Chozeh – A beholder in vision (2 Sam. 24:11; 2 Chron. 19:2)
- Navi – The spokesperson, the mouth of God (Deut. 18:18) (2 Sam. 12:1-15)

f. The TaNaKh – (Old Testament)

- The Law (Torah)
- The Prophets (Neviim)
- Psalms (Kethuvim)

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Adam (Gen. 2:19)	Joseph (Gen. 41:15,16)
Enoch (Gen. 5:29) Jude 1:14,15	Moses (Exod. 11:4,5) (Num. 12:6-8)
Noah (Gen. 6:8,9) Heb. 11:7	Elijah (1 Kings 17:1)
Isaiah (7:14; 53)	Abraham (Gen. 20:7)

g. New Testament Prophets

- Agabus (Acts 21:10-14)
- Barnabas (Acts 11:19-26)
- Silas (Acts 16:19-40, 15-32)
- Anna the Prophetess (Luke 2:36-38)
- Zechariah (Luke 1:5-80)
- John the Baptist (Luke 3:7-22, 28)
- Ananias (Acts 9:10-18)
- Lucius of Cyrene (Acts 13:1)
- Simeon (called Niger) (Acts 13:1)

h. The New Testament prophets do not hold the same status as the Old Testament prophets.

- Israel was led and directed by the anointed prophets of old. They were God's mouthpiece to the people for direction.
- Israel was to be a theocracy, a people led by God through the mouth of the prophet.

i. The New Covenant prophet is not on the same level as the Old Testament prophet because now we are NOT to be led by prophets.

- We are to be led by the indwelling Spirit of God, Who is alive in us.
- That's one of the reasons the Old Testament prophets wanted to see what it was like and longed for, just to experience what we now have.
- Think about it, the same Spirit whom Moses recorded about moving on the face of the waters, now literally abides inside of His people who believe!

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3) Evangelists – (Gr. *Euaggelistés*) – Yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'

- a. A bringer of good tidings or good news.
- b. A name given to New Testament heralds of salvation (sozo) who are not apostles (Obstetrician)
- c. See Acts 8:4-13 – The work of an evangelist

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Pastor - Poimen - Shepherd - in the near east was responsible for watching out for enemies trying to attack the sheep, defending the sheep from attackers, healing the sheep, loving them, and sharing their lives and to earn their trust.

The Pastor is to feed & to lead.

Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28,29; 1 Tim 3:2, Matt. 10:24, 12:38, 22:36

Teacher - Didaskalos - instructor, master teacher, master one who teaches concerning the things of God and the duties of man.

Shema - means hear

He that has ears, let him hear. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

God give us an attentive heart to hear you when you speak! And cause us both to will and do of your good pleasure...quick to obey!

A true teacher knows how to answer a complex question, which is more than one question masquerading as one.

Matt. 10:24, 12:38, 22:36; Deu. 6:4,5

Laborers - (Ergatés) - a workman, a field-laborer, a toiler; fig. a teacher, a doer.

Righteousness is to hit the mark/make the goal, which Jesus obtained and shared with us.

Teleios:

Matt. 9:21, Rom. 12:2, 1 Cor. 2:6, 1 Cor. 14:20,

Eph. 4:13, Phil. 3:15, Col. 1:28, Heb. 5:14

Heb. 9:11, James 1:4, James 3:2, 1 John 4:18

Teleios has much to do with the Body of Christ, the church reaching maturity to become, in precept and example, the true "One New Man!"

- The Measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13)
 - Christlikeness – v 13
 - Stability – v 14
 - Truth joined with love – v 15
 - Cooperation – v 16
- "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (2 Tim 3:7)

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- Truth is not just a divine or heavenly concept/truth is a person/personality! His name is Yeshua Ha Meshiach! Jesus the Christ!

John 16:8-11 (mediate on this to understand what the Word of God is saying to us.

Truth is not a concept, it's a person.

The mature are skilled in the word of righteousness...they understand it is a gift.

The Holy Spirit comes to convince you that you have been made righteous.

7 Stages of Growth

Brephos – unborn, newborn

Nepios - baby that cannot speak

Paidion - teenager - start learning who daddy is

Teknon - trained apprentice

Huios - Exemplifying the character of the Father

Neaniskos - young man, or overcomer

Teleios - full, mature man conformed to the image of Jesus in the earth