

## GRADUATE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

To graduate is to move ahead, to advance or to be promoted.

The Lord wants each one of us to graduate, or to move ahead, or to be promoted.

Love is the chief character quality that anybody can have.

Faith is important, hope is important, but love is the greatest.

God is wanting to graduate each one of us in our ability to love.

There are things that can hold us back in our ability to love.

We are promoted, in God's eyes, when we determine to put away childish speech, childish thinking, childish reasoning or decision making (1 Cor 13:11).

Growing up has everything to do with our relationship with the Lord.

We need to grow up in the area of love as it pertains to our speech and our thoughts and the decisions that we make.

### **Points for growing up:**

1. We need to grow up in our speech.

Sometimes we should speak and sometimes we should not.

Let nothing unwholesome come out of your mouth.

You need God's help to accomplish this.

Your words have power, the power of life and death.

Don't speak lewd, crude, or rude words.

Don't gossip.

2. We need to grow up in our thinking.

Our thoughts are like TV channels, we can change our thoughts like a TV channel.

Don't dwell on a person's negative qualities, think about their positive qualities.

Controlling our thoughts may be harder than controlling our words, because there is less accountability. No one knows our thoughts except us and God.

Read God's word, you can't do it without His help.

3. We need to grow up or graduate in our decision making.

Make life giving decisions.

How do you respond when someone tells you that what you are doing is not good?

Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he recommended he do in Ex 18.

We all need the love of God and the instruction of God so we can graduate in our decision making.

Your decisions have impact, they can even impact the next generation.

Sometimes the Lord will give us instruction through other people.

God will instruct you through His word. Are you listening?

## SCRIPTURE LIST

1 Corinthians 13:11 & 13

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 4:29

Ephesians 5:12

Proverbs 18:21

Colossians 4:6

Proverbs 23:6-7

Matthew 5:28

Philippians 4:8

Exodus 18:13-24