

THE THREE STAGES OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY
(The Order of Salvation)

Stage 1	Stage 2		Stage 3
Position: (Rebirth/Regeneration)	Progress (Sanctification)		Perfection (Glorification)
<p>When we accept Christ as our Savior and receive his forgiveness for our sins, God sees us as having a new position before him – we are declared as being righteous.</p> <p>As believers, God sees us as having a new legal position before himself (justified).</p> <p>We are adopted into his family.</p>	<p>This is the process where the believer’s practice (behavior and attitudes) is progressively brought in line with his new position. God gradually makes us more like his Son Jesus Christ, as we <i>cooperate with</i> the Holy Spirit. The believer is set apart <i>from</i> his old sinful ways, and set apart <i>to</i> mature spiritually toward Christ-like qualities.</p>		<p>When we die, our souls are set free from indwelling sin and are made perfect (fully mature).</p> <p>Since our salvation involves the whole person, including our bodies, they will be resurrected and glorified when Christ returns.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We become born again (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5). • We become a <i>new</i> creation (2 Cor. 5:17). • We are given a <i>new</i> heart and <i>new</i> spirit (2 Cor. 5:21). • We are placed in a <i>new</i> kingdom (Col. 1:13-14). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are sanctified, made holy, set apart, by God (1 Thess. 5:23). • We are being transformed into Christ’s likeness (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; John 3:30). • We are not sinless or fully mature during this stage (1 John 1:8; Phil. 3:12). • We are to grow up or mature in this life (Eph. 4:14). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are made perfect, or fully mature (Eph. 4:13; Heb. 12:23). • Takes place when Christ returns (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 5:23; 1 John 3:2). • We are given a glorified body (1 Cor. 15:42-43; Phil. 3:21).
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>God’s Part</u></p> <p>God does it all when a person accepts Christ as Savior, and is forgiven.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Our Part</u></p> <p>We simply accept the gift of salvation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>God’s Part</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He empowers us to become like Jesus (1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Thess. 2:13; Gal. 5:16, 22-23). • He disciplines us as his children so that we may mature (Heb. 12:5-11). 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Our Part</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are to cooperate (walk, live) with the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25). • We are to walk in a worthy manner (Col. 1:10). • We are to put <i>off</i> the old self (Eph. 4:22) • We are to put <i>on</i> the new self (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10, Phil. 2:12; 2 Pet. 1:5; Rom. 12:1; 8:13; 1 John 3:3; Heb. 12:14; 1 Cor. 6:18; Heb. 5:14; 1 Pet. 1:22). 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>God’s Part</u></p> <p>God does it all because of Jesus’ death on the cross.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Our Part</u></p> <p>We simply experience it as the completion of our salvation.</p>