RHYTHM ONE · GROWING IN CHRIST

Maturing.

If Believing was the beginning of new life in His global family, and Belonging welcomed you into God's local family, **Maturing is the lifelong work of growing to become more like Christ.** It is a posture of surrender to Christ and willingness to be formed into His likeness. Unlike the first two stages, this is not a milestone to finish but a rhythm of growth to tend to daily and weekly until the day we see Him face to face.

No one ever graduates from Maturing. Every disciple is still being formed by Christ.



Christ is the cornerstone. These relationships are simply the places where God ordinarily grows His people.

WHAT'S INSIDE · HOW THIS DOCUMENT MOVES

01 **Understand** — How God grows His people.

02 **Aim** — Surrender, renewal, abiding.

03 **Grow** — Where growth happens.

04 **Fruit** — What God grows over time.

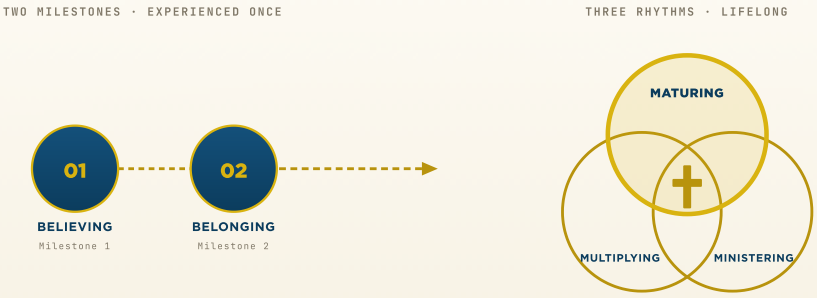
NEXT **Ministering** — The second rhythm.

What is God doing?

God doesn't simply rescue His people from sin. Like a good Father, He raises His children and patiently shapes them into the likeness of His Son. From the moment we trust Christ, the Holy Spirit begins to transform our minds, renew our hearts, and teach us to walk in obedience. **Maturing is our name for joining that lifelong work of grace.**

FROM BELONGING

If you have joined this church family, the first two milestones are behind you. But your growth didn't begin with membership; it began the day you trusted Christ. The Holy Spirit has been at work in you ever since. Maturing is simply our name for cooperating with what He is doing. **Membership does not start that work. It shelters it and gives it a home.** From here, the Christian life unfolds through three lifelong rhythms: Maturing, Ministering, and Multiplying. None replaces the others. They grow together, all the time.



TWO MILESTONES · THREE RHYTHMS · ALL ANCHORED IN CHRIST

How God grows His children

God could grow us instantly if He chose. Instead, like our physical growth, He has chosen to mature His people spiritually over time through **His Word, His Spirit, and His people.** Christian maturity is not accidental. It is cultivated as we faithfully place ourselves where God has promised to work.

No one grows alone. Throughout the New Testament, believers are taught, encouraged, corrected, prayed for, and equipped in relationship with one another. God's design has always been for His children to grow together into the likeness of Christ. Like an apprentice learning from a master craftsman, a disciple learns by walking closely with Jesus until His life begins to shape our own.

THEREFORE · THREE HABITS THAT KEEP US WHERE GOD WORKS

At Ashe Alliance, we've organized our personal discipleship around three simple habits that help us continually engage where God ordinarily grows His people:

A

Abide in Christ

DAILY

Time spent personally with Christ through Scripture, prayer, worship, and obedience.

C

In Community

WEEKLY

Growing alongside other believers who encourage, challenge, and care for one another.

T

Tell Others About Him

EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS

Joining God's work by serving others and making disciples wherever He has placed us.

Together, we call these habits **A.C.T.** They aren't a formula for spiritual growth; they are the ordinary places where God has promised to meet and transform His people.

02 **Aim** *Surrender, renewal, and abiding.*

The goal of Maturing

God is not simply growing our knowledge *about* Christ. He is growing us **into the likeness of Christ.**

> *"We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."*
>
> COLOSSIANS 1:28

That is the goal of every disciple and every discipling relationship. How does God accomplish that? By continually inviting us into one lifelong rhythm.

> *"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice... Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*
>
> ROMANS 12:1-2

Two movements. One rhythm. Surrender and renewal. Every day we surrender ourselves to God. Every day He renews our minds through His Word and shapes us into the likeness of His Son.

Jesus described it another way:

> *"Remain in me, and I in you. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."*
>
> JOHN 15:4-5

The Christian life is not about striving harder. It is about **remaining closer.** As we abide in Christ through these rhythms, the Holy Spirit patiently produces the fruit that only He can grow.

The relationships that shape us

Programs don't make disciples. God does... through relationships. God never intended His children to grow alone.

> *"Speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. From him the whole body... promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part."*
>
> EPHESIANS 4:15-16

God has designed His church so that believers help one another become more like Christ. And no single relationship can provide everything a growing disciple needs. That's why God gives His church many different kinds of relationships, each serving a unique purpose. Some relationships teach us. Some encourage us. Some challenge us. Some know us deeply. Together, they create the environment where spiritual growth flourishes.

At Ashe Alliance, we intentionally cultivate **four discipling relationships.** You don't need to participate in all of them, but every believer should be growing in at least one.

THE COURSE, AND THE HOME

FOUNDATIONAL · NOT ONE OF THE FOUR

Foundations

"Laying the foundation and learning the essentials, at church and at home."

The course, optional. If you're new to the faith or simply want to strengthen your understanding of the essentials, work through this online resource together: **Who Is God? · Who Is Jesus? · What Happened to Me? · Who Is the Holy Spirit? · What Is the Bible? · What Is Prayer? · What Is the Church? · What Is a Disciple?** Session 8 closes with the question that will not let a disciple sit still: *"Who are you making a disciple?"*

Family discipleship, every parent's job. Every parent is the *primary disciple-maker* in their home, without exception, so we don't treat it as an optional fifth relationship to pick among. We equip families with practical tools to help conversations about Christ continue long after Sunday has ended. But raising your children in the faith doesn't replace your own need for one of the four relationships below; every parent still needs a discipling relationship outside their own household.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S · WEEKLY

1

Bible Studies

"Learning Scripture with others."

Our Men's and Women's Bible Studies provide a larger community centered on studying Scripture together, often serving as a natural first step toward deeper discipling relationships.

UP TO 15 PEOPLE · MULTI-GENERATIONAL

2

Life Groups

"Building biblical community."

Life Groups are where a large church becomes personal. Together, in a multi-generational group of up to 15 people, we study God's Word, pray, care for one another, and learn to follow Christ in everyday life.

UP TO 4 PEOPLE · GENDER-SPECIFIC

3

D-Groups (Discipleship Groups)

"Growing in accountability."

D-Groups are smaller, gender-specific groups of up to 4 people that create space for deeper relationships, honest conversations, Scripture, prayer, and accountability.

ONE-ON-ONE · MENTORING

4

The Paul–Timothy Program (PT)

"Receive intentional mentoring."

Following the pattern of 2 Timothy 2:2, one mature believer intentionally invests in another, helping them grow so they can one day invest in someone else.

Whether you're taking your first steps as a disciple or have followed Christ for decades, there is always another step to take and another relationship that can help you grow.

> *"Let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together... but encouraging each other."*
>
> HEBREWS 10:24-25

Different seasons of life may lead you into different relationships, but God's invitation is the same: **don't grow alone.**

04 Fruit

What God grows over time.

The fruit of Maturing

Spiritual maturity isn't measured by how much we know, but by what the Holy Spirit is producing in us over time. Growth is rarely dramatic. More often, it is slow, steady, and almost invisible until we look back and realize how faithfully God has been at work.

> *"...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness."*
>
> EPHESIANS 4:13

> RECOGNIZABLE FRUIT
>
> *If you want to know what that fruit looks like, the qualities below can help guide you. They are not given as achievements to earn or ranks to attain. They are the recognizable fruit God gradually grows in the lives of those who walk closely with Him.*
>
> - **A growing hunger for Scripture.** The Bible stops being homework and becomes daily food.
> - **A renewed mind.** Old patterns of fear, self-pity, contempt, lust, and materialism slowly fall away as Christ's mind takes their place.
> - **A surrendered will.** The believer increasingly says *yes* to God before they understand why, trusting His character more than their preferences.
> - **Quicker repentance.** Less hiding. More honesty before God and before brothers and sisters.
> - **The fruit of the Spirit becoming more evident.** Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Not perfectly. Increasingly.
> - **A teachable spirit.** They want to be discipled: by Scripture, by elders, by brothers and sisters further down the road.

As you look for these signs, don't look for perfection. **Look for growth.** These signs do not appear all at once. They emerge over years as you faithfully pursue Christ.

Keep going

Every disciple begins somewhere. Some are learning how to open their Bible for the first time. Others have walked with Christ for decades and are still discovering new depths of His grace. Wherever you find yourself today, the invitation is the same: **Keep walking.**

The Spirit is patient. The Father is kind. Christ is committed to finishing the work He has begun in you. **You do not walk this road alone.**

Your turn *Name your rhythm.*

Your next step

Christian maturity isn't built through grand plans. It's built through faithful habits practiced over time. Take a moment to identify one daily habit that will help you **Abide** in Christ, and one relationship where you are intentionally growing **In Community.**

> *"But be doers of the word and not hearers only..."*
> JAMES 1:22

My Maturing rhythm

TWO PRACTICES, NAMED FOR THIS SEASON

MY ABIDING HABIT · DAILY

MY DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIP · WEEKLY

Begin small. Begin today. God grows what is faithfully planted.

"I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." PHILIPPIANS 1:6