STAGES OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

INTRODUCTION
Christian growth and development is similar to human growth and development, but is not automatic. One can also slip backward to an earlier stage.

“Born from above” (Anothen)  
Person becomes a new creation in Christ, a spiritual baby—NEPIOS

NEPIOS  Baby 0-2 years (3516 Strongs, “not speaking,” infant, simple-minded, immature)
- Carnally minded: Defining characteristic  
  1 COR 3:1
- Tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine  
  EPH 4:14
- Unskilled in the Word of righteousness  
  HEB 5:13
- Can offer praise to God (perfect: to complete or to repair praise)  
  MT 21:16
- Can receive revelation  
  MT 11:25

PAIDION  Little child 2-10 years (3813 Strongs, “childling,” immature, lad)
- Are humble: Indicates that NEPIOS has begun to grow  
  MT 18:4
- Are to come to their Lord (learn how to pray and listen)  
  MT 19:14
- Have begun to intimately know the Father  
  1 JN 2:13
- Jesus called his disciples PAIDION  
  JN 21:5
- Should be under the teaching of a spiritual father (PATER)  
  MK 10:15
- Receive and enter the Kingdom of God by simple trust  
  1 COR 14:20

TEKNON  Older child 10-17 years (5043 Strongs, son, daughter) TEKNION (5040 Strongs, “darlings”)
- Learn to mimic their heavenly Father  
  EPH 5:1
- Do righteousness and love their brethren  
  1 JN 3:10
- Actively seek their Lord: Defining characteristic  
  JN 13:33
- Are commanded not to sin (learn to deal with sin and the world)  
  1 JN 2:1
- Are not to be deceived by others concerning lifestyle  
  1 JN 3:7
- Are told to abide in Jesus  
  1 JN 2:28
- Are told to love in deed and in truth  
  1 JN 3:18
- Are struggling to have Christ formed in their character  
  GAL 4:19
- Must keep themselves from idols  
  1 JN 5:21

NEANISKOS  Young man 17-40 years (3495 Strongs, youth under 40 years)
- Keep the law but lack the spirit of love: Defining characteristic  
  MT 19:20
- See visions  
  ACTS 2:17
- Serve leadership  
  ACTS 5:10
- Have overcome the wicked one  
  1 JN 2:13
- Are strong, and the Word of God abides in them  
  1 JN 2:14

HUIOS  Mature son 40+ years (5207 Strongs, mature relationship with God)
- Are led by the Spirit of God: Defining characteristic  
  ROM 8:14
- Are peacemakers (they end fights)  
  MT 5:9
- Love their enemies and pray for their persecutors  
  MT 5:44-45
- Learn obedience through suffering (putting down the flesh)  
  HEB 5:8
- Are chastised by the Lord  
  HEB 12:5
- Live a separate lifestyle from unbelievers  
  2 COR 6:14-18
**PATER** Father (3962 Strongs, father) **MÉTER** Mother (3384 Strongs, mother)

- Has intimate knowledge of God (knows his ways): Defining characteristic
  - 1 JN 2:13-14
- Charges, exhorts, encourages the believers
  - 1 THESS 2:11
- Often works with HUIOS and NEANISKOS as a mentor
  - PHIL 2:22
- Helps the NEPIOS, PAIDION, TEKNON to grow in Christ

**TOOLS FOR GROWTH**
1. Daily Bible reading
2. Meditation on the Scriptures
3. Daily quiet time of prayer and listening
4. Corporate praise, worship, prayer, testimony, and fellowship

This study was done by Rev. Kevin Porter of Lyons, OR. It is the best study of the stages of Christian growth that we have seen.