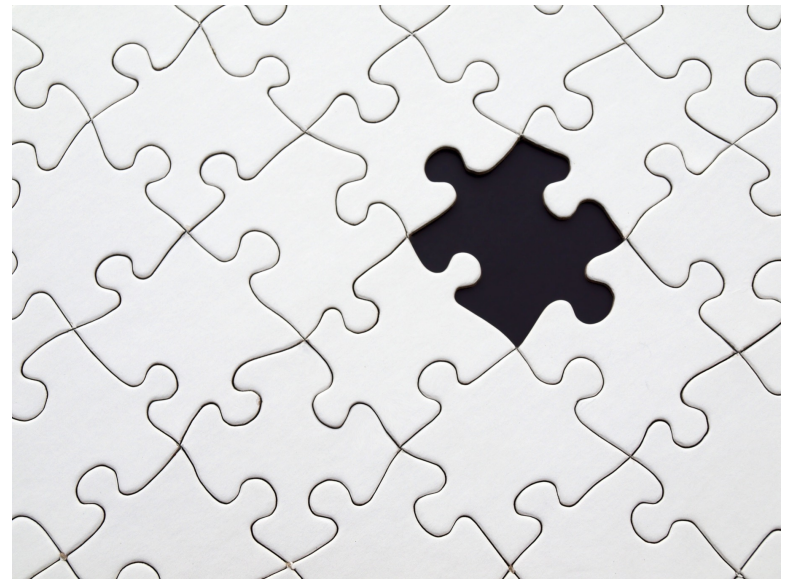


# The Missing Link to Maturity

Maturity requires discerning

- Voices



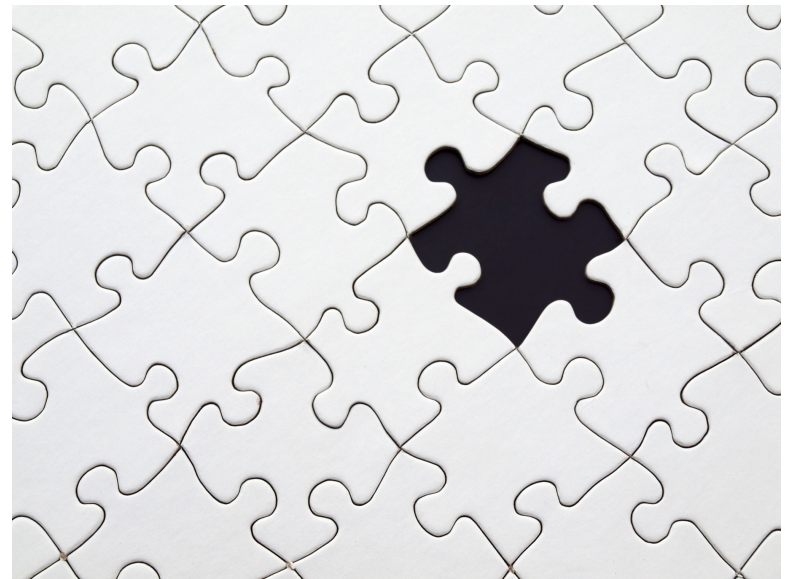
# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil”(1 Thess 5:19-22).
- “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world”(1 John 4:1).

# The Missing Link to Maturity

Maturity requires discerning

- Voices



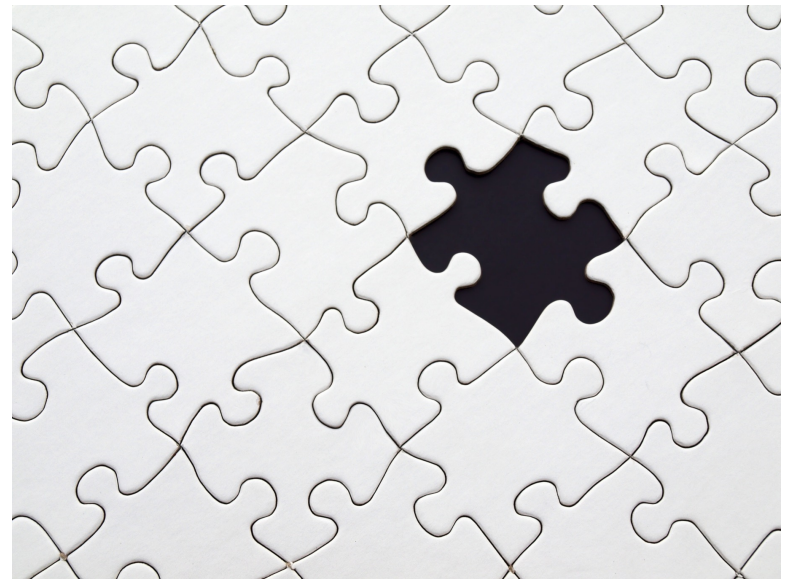
# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “The sheep hear his voice...the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers”(John 10:3, 4-5).

# The Missing Link to Maturity

Maturity requires discerning

- Voices
- Appearances from reality



# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil”(1 Tim 3:6).
- “And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless”(1 Tim 3:10).
- “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure”(1 Tim 5:22).

# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth”(Prov 13:7).
- “Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death”(Prov 10:2).
- “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him”(Prov 13:24).

# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it”(Prov 15:16-17).
- “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman without discretion”(Prov 11:22).



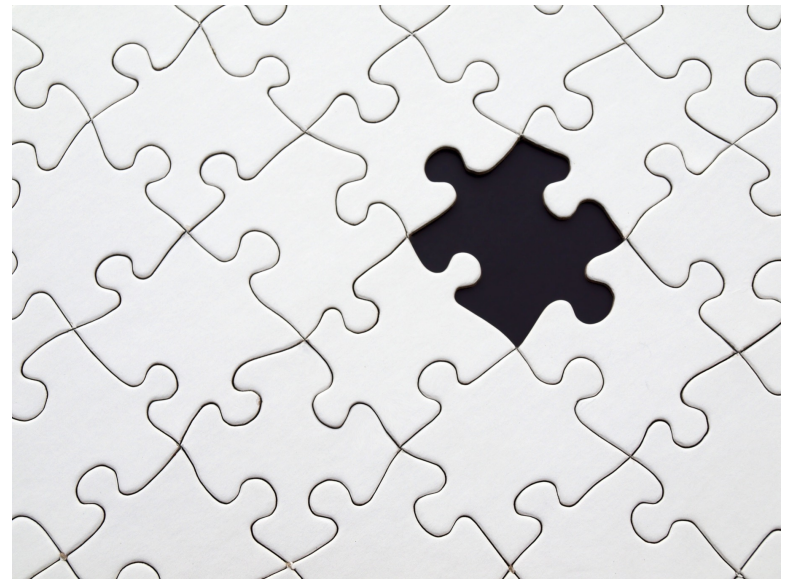
# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor”(Gal 6:3-4).

# The Missing Link to Maturity

Maturity requires discerning

- Voices
- Appearances from reality
- Good from evil



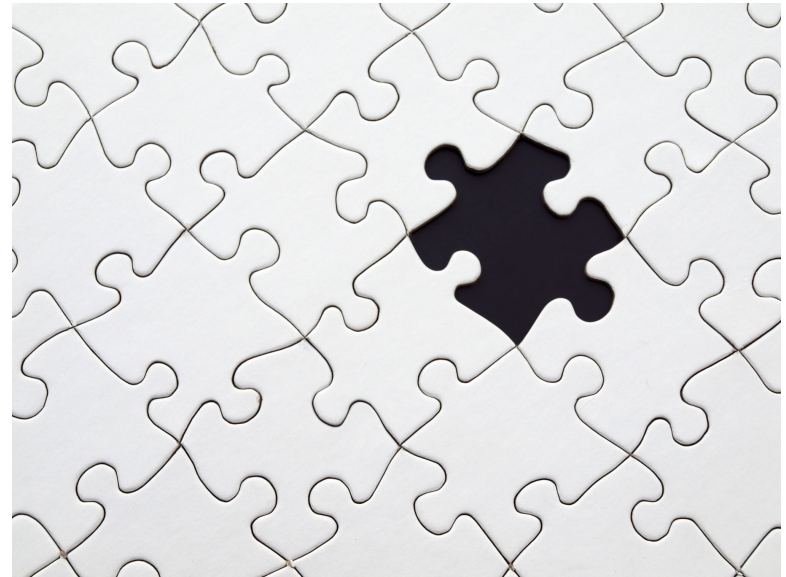
# The Missing Link to Maturity

- “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

# The Missing Link to Maturity

Maturity requires discerning

- Voices
- Appearances from reality
- Good from evil
- Appropriate action
- Spiritual reality



# The Missing Link to Maturity

How do I develop discernment?

- Start with Scripture
- Watch for the spiritual dimension
- Learn from failures and successes
- Live proactively
- Listen to others' wisdom

