



Bible Study
April 1, 2020

Chop Wood Carry Water Teaching Series

Chapter 4
Artificial Maturity
John 8:31-32

I believe that this chapter is perfect for the times we are experiencing now. It will challenge each of us to make sure that our relationship with Christ is built on the solid rock of continual obedience—[John 14:15](#). A lot of believers are finding that what they have is artificial maturity.

Artificial maturity is thinking you know how to do something just because you have read about it or saw someone else do it. It's head knowledge without experience. It's knowledge that does not produce results. This is what John had in this chapter. His bow string broke and he actually thought that he could repair it without help because he had read about the repair. His greatest problem was that he refused help from the one who had done it before.

Many believers' faith is being exposed with the impact of the Corona Virus as artificial maturity. Like John in Chapter 4, many are trying to do what they have seen done or have read about without ever really obeying. Like John, many continue to refuse help because they think they know even though there is not the lack of results.

Look at the following list of responses to life situations—fear, trauma, depression, despair, frustration, anxiety, loneliness, abandonment, sense of loss, work, and hopelessness.

All of those things are taken care of as we grow in Christ through obedience—[John 8:31-32](#), [Romans 8:35, 37](#). If you have only read the Word; repeated the Word; or seen others do the Word, you have only “ginosko” or head knowledge. You have faith without works—[James 2:20](#). You have artificial maturity. Artificial maturity struggles when presented with real life situations of adversity—[Luke 6:49](#), [Hebrews 4:2](#).

When you have actually obeyed the Word, then real growth and maturity takes place—[James 1:22](#). When you obey the Word, then you “yada” which is knowledge gained through experience. This is when real and lasting results occur—[Luke 6:47-48](#).



1. When you consider your responses to Corona Virus and its consequences, which do you demonstrate —artificial maturity or real maturity? Please explain
2. Based on your response, what should you do now—personally and corporately?