

**“Getting an Upgrade”**  
**Series: CELL PHONE THEOLOGY**  
**October 24/25, 2009**

**Introduction:**

*Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs,  
but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!  
All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win  
a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.*

**1 Corinthians 9:24-25**

*“Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising  
benefits in this life and in the life to come.”*

**1 Timothy 4:8**

**1. You have to want an upgrade to get one**

**1 John 2:12-14**

*I am writing to you who are God's **children** because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus. I am writing to you who are **mature** in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I am writing to you who are **young** in the faith because you have won your battle with the evil one. I have written to you who are God's **children** because you know the Father. I have written to you who are **mature** in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I have written to you who are **young** in the faith because you are strong. God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.*

- You have to know where you're at
- You have to know where you want to be
- You have to take next steps to get there

## ***2. Upgrades require added commitment***

### **Hebrews 5:11-14**

*There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.*

- To a Person
- To a purpose
- To a path or process
- To other people

## ***3. Upgrades provide added functionality***

### ***EXPLORING CHRIST***

- Examining core Christians beliefs

### ***GROWING IN CHRIST***

- Participating in church activities

### ***CLOSE TO CHRIST***

- Engaging in personal spiritual practices

### ***CHRIST-CENTERED***

- Engaging in spiritual practices with others

#### ***4. Upgrades come with special features***

##### **FROM EXPLORER TO GROWING**

- Movement from a strong spiritual foundation

##### **FROM GROWING TO CLOSE**

- Movement from a routine of spiritual practices

##### **FROM CLOSE TO CENTERED**

- Movement from a fully-surrendered life

*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection.*

*But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

**Philippians 3:12-14**