

The Life Core

The Source of Life & The Life Core

#31

Mentoring Maturing Believers

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Mentoring Maturing Believers

- Mature believer is difficult term
- Being a father is fine, but there is false spirituality often attached to mature believers



The delight of mentoring!

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Properly handling pride

- The thinking 'have arrived' is certainly a great problem
- Comparing ourselves with others is a huge problem because we want to be better.
- By seeking growth, we undermine pride's hold
- Can you see the difference?

The Biblical View

- Increasingly adopt God's standards and goals
- Seek God to continually mentor us in godliness
- Be trained to better help those around us.

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Properly handling pride

- Jesus said it was fine and proper to think of oneself as mature.
- Maturity is normal.
- We should expect to bear fruit
- Opposite to self-indulgence
- Shame on adult who neglects the young!
- Spiritual fatherhood is for nurturing others

"The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head"
(Mark 4:28).

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The third stage

- This third stage is where we train believers to learn to properly care for others.
- As we model caring, they learn.
- We equip them so they can properly care for others.

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From a parent's perspective

- I have eight almost grown children.
- We are hoping, praying, and helping them grow into maturity.
- God is our Father who helps guide us into maturity
- He is disappointed when we refuse our calling

**Caring for
selves
but also
Caring for
others**

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With a heart to serve

- The mature believers seeks further intimacy with God so that he or she can properly engage and serve others
- The pastors equip everyone to serve (Ephesians 4:11-12).



First offering ourselves
to our Lord

"Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature" (1 Corinthians 14:20).

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Learning to effectively train

- How does this fit into our training?
- The vision of service should be deeply integrated in the mind and heart of the believer.
- And practiced in the church!
- Carefully observe what is needed by those around us and provide whatever specialized training is necessary
- The Spirit prompts, verified by others and welcomes me to follow through.

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The goals for mature believers

- Seek intimacy with God
- Dive deeper in His Word
- Wrestle with deep personal struggles
- Persevere when others have given up
- Be believing when others doubt
- Be pure while living in an impure society
- Demonstrate God's love through serving others.
- Kindly confront others as needed

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Our Lessons

- Believers should dream of being spiritually 'grown up,' where they can be close to God and empowered by Him to serve those around them.
- God does want to bear fruit through our lives. This largely happens as spiritually mature believers see God's Spirit wonderfully working through their lives.
- Our training must not only instill this full vision for the believer but equip him or her to stay close to God and serve others.

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Application

- ➡ Are you a mature believer? What evidence do you have to back up your answer?
- ➡ What challenges do you have to stay close to God?
- ➡ Have you ever experienced 'burn-out' where one feels spiritual dry and unable to serve as one used to? How did you handle it?

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