

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

No Hurry to Maturity

Everyone in the family is important, including you! This is the first, most powerful revelation that we should seek; the in-depth knowledge that your Heavenly Father loves and believes in you. A complete embracing of His devotion towards your victory and wholeness. I call this family, you were born the first time into the family of Adam, but you were born the second time into the family of God. He birthed you; He's your true Father now embrace it!

The next revelation that's important to understand is that there's a specific job for you, a place of helping out and of being involved. We call this the family business. Yes, that is correct. Our family has a business, and it is the role of the church in the world to bring the lost into salvation and help each of them to discover who they are in Christ. Embrace this, too. The Apostle Paul called it being in the body of Christ. Every part having a purpose, with not one part that is less important than the next. How powerful is it to see that you are unique, special, and essential to the business of the family? We are in His family together, and He is a good Father.

It's vital for us to celebrate both aspects of our walk with God; our intimate personal relationship with Him as well as our specific activity of participation in His business. Yet before we run ahead and try to help God out, we must first get to know Him well enough to hear His voice. Jesus said in John 5:19 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

God is not in a hurry. He will expect us to fall in love with Him first before He will instruct us to work. Just as a momma bird protects and feeds its newborns until they mature, then the same momma begins to push them out of the nest to fly. This is how God patiently allows us time to grow before nudging us forward. There are seasons of trusting Him with your life when He asks you to spend time growing rather than going. I've watched people fight ferociously to be used by God right away, and they fall out of the nest too soon, robbing themselves and Him of their future.

I would never want to belittle any effort made to further the Gospel of Jesus; I believe that God is pleased with all the works done. Every kind of outreach is a great blessing for God. However, I also don't want you to miss out on the specific place in the body that He has waiting for you. Why would He wait before placing us in a position that was made for us? Why can't we get right to saving the world? He loves His children too much to set them up for failure.

He always gives a path to our future, but it isn't immediate. 1 Corinthians 13:10-11 says, "But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

The focus here is placed on maturing from being, speaking, understanding, and thinking as a child into becoming an adult in your walk with God. It is also clear that the antidote to childishness is not acting like a grown-up but instead to become a grown-up in the spirit, and as you do, the childish things can be put away. It is very similar to my young son desiring to drive our car because he feels ready when, by law, he is too immature to handle that task until he is of age. In our hurry to change the world for God, we can miss the mark of truly allowing God to change the world through us. You will never lose with growing in Him and His love. We must first allow ourselves to change before we go out and change the world.

In my old town, we had a couple of buildings going up at about the same time. One went up quickly while the other kept digging a hole for its foundation. Driving by the buildings, God questioned me about which one was more successful, the one that was almost finished or the one that didn't even seem even to be started. I immediately said, "The one that was almost finished." The Lord then instructed and taught me the importance of focusing on maturity.

He said the building that is almost finished would never go any higher than the two stories that its foundation will allow. The other building doesn't seem to be growing fast, but they have spent all of this time building its foundation deep. The deeper and stronger the foundation, the taller and higher they can build. It was from that experience that I decided in my own personal walk to invest my time in building my spiritual foundation and not in trying to pursue my calling.

Every tree and every flower grows not from its limbs but from its roots, its foundation. If you will do the things that cause your foundation to grow, then promotion into your calling has no choice but to come. Yes, God has something amazingly perfect for you to do in the family business, but first, it's okay if it takes time to know Him, His voice and His direction. Let's build our foundation deep into His love, and there will be no limitations on our future. Welcome to the family, let's sit down and eat at our Fathers table.

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