



What Is Most Important?

By Dan Schaffer

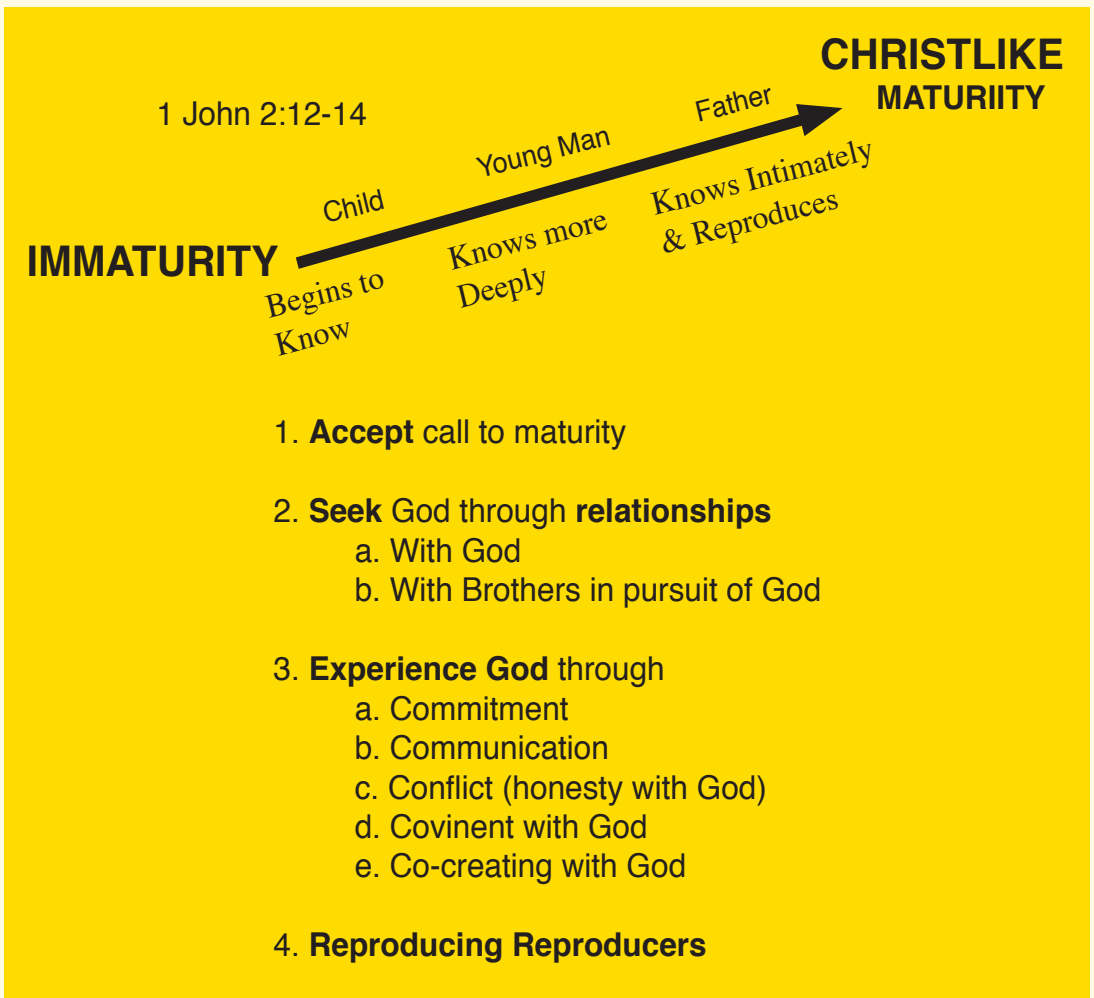
All of us have opportunities and issues that are very important to us but many times the more we focus on them the harder they are to achieve. Could it be that we don't fully understand the most important and foundational focus that enables all the others? C.S. Lewis in his autobiography "Surprised by Joy" describes how he spent his whole life searching for joy and every time he experienced joy he would focus on it and kill it. Even when he became a Christian he began to experience intense joy but when he focused on joy he killed it. He finally realized that joy was a byproduct of focusing on something else.

The apostle Paul addressed a similar issue in the third chapter of the book of Philippians. He lays out his credentials as a Jew. Circumcised on the eighth day, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee, zealous in persecuting Christians, as to following the law, faultless but he considers that stellar record and everything else as garbage or dung.

He then goes on to identify what is most important, that he would know Christ and the power of his resurrection, (that is saving power), and the fellowship of his suffering, (that is transforming power) becoming like him in his death, (having the very character of Christ formed in him). We Christians have many priorities such as evangelism, justice, fellowship, worship, and care of the poor. These are important issues but they are not the most important. Knowing Christ and having his character formed in us is the one thing that is the cause of everything else. Could it be that we are pursuing many good things and missing out on the best that enables all of the good things of the spiritual life? We need to engage the building blocks of a healthy relationship and as our primary focus begin to know Christ through communication with him, wrestle with him in honesty, live in a covenant relationship and begin to give life.

The term "know" is used in other places in the Bible in reference to the sexual relationship

between a husband and wife. I believe that Paul is using the word "know," in the third chapter of Philippians, in reference to a relational unity or oneness. It is a deeper knowledge than even what a husband and wife can experience in deep physical and emotional oneness. In John 17:3 this knowing of the father and the son is shown as the very essence of eternal life. It is this level of oneness that the Apostle John uses to describe the relationship that allows a man to become a spiritual reproducer or Spiritual Father in I John 2. We enter into this process as a child by accepting Christ's gift of salvation. We progress to the maturity of a young man when we know the word and the word lives in us and is overcoming evil. But the goal is that we would not just know about Christ but know Him fully and that relational unity will bring about all of the elements of the Christian life that we desire. We are called by God Himself to be spiritually mature and develop our relationship with Him such that we become reproducing Spiritual Fathers.



The time has come when we will not be what God wants us to be unless we truly know Christ and grasp the opportunity of practicing His presence and inviting him into every moment of our lives. Then the power of Christ will flow through us and we will be able to give life to our world. Will you accept this challenge and enter into pursuing Christ himself at a deeper level today? Will you seek to become a reproducing Spiritual Father?



Testimonials

Randy Kroening -- Pastor
 Mountain Life Church
 Fort Collins, CO

We've been getting together now for over two months, and I couldn't be more encouraged at the transformation occurring in the life of our men. I have never done anything in men's ministry where men find so much value in the time together that they try their hardest not to miss.

The values of transparency and confidentiality have played a major role in our group. Guys say it like it is, and feel permission to be themselves. The lesson on asking questions has encouraged our guys to probe deeper with one another. This teaches them to love by asking questions, and helps those who are being probed to feel important and valuable.

I've also seen guys who grew up in high church backgrounds learn to listen to the Holy Spirit and pray for other guys in a spirit filled way. I couldn't be happier about the progress in these men.

Allan Reed
 Living Water Church -- Pastor
 Parker, CO

Building Brothers has been a tremendous catalyst of empowerment among the men of Living Water Christian Church. Building Brothers has given us a clear map of biblical principles for the journey a process that has challenged us to dream and personalize our birth rite as spiritual fathers to our families and to our church. It has pushed us to rethink the old model and inspired us to see our role in leading a movement of God among men that is lasting and sustainable.

Our guys are begging to believe that God may use us to bring about an awakening in our church. I highly recommend Building Brothers to any church that longs to recapture the hearts and leadership of their men.

Current One Year Four-Phase Training Locations

Fort Collins, Colorado
 Alliance, Nebraska
 Littleton, Colorado
 Denver, Colorado
 Page, Arizona

Montrose, Colorado
 Colorado Springs, Colorado
 Berea, Ohio
 Sinclairville, New York
 Prescott, Arizona

United Methodist Church
 Wichita, Kansas
 Salina, Kansas
 Jackson, Tennessee
 Collierville, Tennessee

Church of God, 7th Day
 Spokane, Washington
 Toppinsh, Washington
 Las Vegas, Nevada
 Wister, Oklahoma
 Kansas City, Missouri
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
 New York, New York



Churches in 2nd cycle
 Denver, Colorado
 Wichita, Kansas
 Eugene, Oregon
 Marian, Oregon
 Montrose, Colorado

PMB 337 • 11757 W. Ken Caryl Ave. #F • Littleton, CO 80127 • Phone/Fax 303-972-2775 • www.buildingbrothers.org



Summer 2009 Newsletter

Volume 10 • Issue 3