



Lecture 5

Developing Maturity for Life

Immature people will get easily angry

The immature person has no inner stability, this is why 9 of 21 gets tense and difficult. Additional tension or pressure is uncomfortable and is like “a pressure cooker”. When somebody presses the wrong button, the “pressure cooker” needs to release the accumulated “steam” resulting in an outburst of anger. When something or somebody makes you angry, instead of reacting, ask God what you need to learn or change. Provocation to anger is actually an invitation, a challenge, to acknowledge our lack of maturity and childish ways. An immature people’s pride and ego will react when feeling threatened or criticised.

Proverbs 14:16-17

“A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless. A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated.”

Proverbs 14:29

“He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.”

Colossians 3:8

“But now put away once for all, and at once, also all these things: a habitual, revengeful anger, violent fits of anger, malignity, slander, obscene speech out of your mouth.”

Transforming irritations into spiritual motivation

God’s ultimate purpose for allowing irritations and offences to occur in our lives is to give us the opportunity to become more like His Son Jesus Christ. This is clearly defined in the following passage:

Romans 8:28-29

“And we know with an absolute knowledge that for those who are loving God, all things are working together resulting in good, for those who are divinely-summoned ones according to His purpose. Because, those whom He foreordained He also marked out beforehand as those who were to be conformed to the derived image of His Son, with the result that He is firstborn among many brethren.”

“Those who are loving God” means those who choose God’s way, who sacrifice “self” to become more like Jesus. Then all things will work together resulting in good. Keeping the old traits and wrong attitudes will hinder us from becoming spiritually mature.

Three primary sources of irritations:

- 1) From people: the personality traits, inconsistencies, attitudes, words and actions of others are a constant potential source of irritation.
- 2) From our environment: the inconveniences, natural elements and pressures are second potential source of irritation.
- 3) From ourselves: the frustrations with our deficiencies, physical defects, limited abilities, failures and illnesses are the third potential source of irritation.

The offences, irritations, accusations we experience are actually tests. The sooner we choose to respond God’s way, with grace, maturity, patience, the sooner these irritations will be removed. Remember, it is the Holy Spirit who gives us the wisdom, power and love to let go of offences and to respond with spiritual maturity. If you perceive some people as annoying, you will continue to be annoyed. The moment you see them from God’s point of view, you will get rid of the annoyance.

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The number, intensity and duration of irritations in a growing Christian's life indicate the amount of unfinished work God has to do in that Christian's life perfecting him in His own image.

James 1:3-4

"knowing experientially that the approving of your faith, that faith having been put to the test for the purpose of being approved, and having met the test, has been approved, [that this approving process] produces a patience which bears up and does not lose heart or courage under trials. But be allowing the aforementioned patience to be having its complete work in order that you may be spiritually mature and complete in every detail, lacking in nothing."

Obedience is developed through suffering

9 of 21

Hebrews 5:8-9

"Though He was Son [of God] by nature, yet He learned obedience from the things which He suffered, and having been brought to the place of completeness [as a Saviour, a High Priest], He became to all those who obey Him, the One who brought into being eternal salvation."

Therefore we need to expect God will allow us to suffer in this life.

Ephesians 5:1-2

"Be becoming therefore imitators of God, as children beloved, and be ordering your behavior within the sphere of love, even as Christ also loved you and gave himself up in our behalf and in our stead as an offering and a sacrifice to God for an aroma of a sweet smell."

We need to acknowledge it's impossible to be imitators of Christ while we carry all the baggage of the past! We must let go of anything hindering our Christian walk, i.e. the old, antiquated, useless, out of date ungodly experiences.

Ungodly people's influence around us will make us stumble.

Proverbs 13:20

"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

2 Corinthians 6:14

"Stop being joined as with a yoke to unbelievers in a common state or endeavour which latter are of a character different from and diametrically opposed to the state of a child of God and any endeavour in which he may properly engage, for what partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? Or, what does light have in common with darkness?"

We need to be wise. The enemy is interested in interfering in our Christian walk and will use anything to distract us. We need to be around people who have a positive influence in our lives, people who help us grow in our relationship with Christ.

Proverbs 22:24-25

"Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself."

This scripture is referring to not associating the wrong way with ungodly people. We should associate with them only with the intention of influencing them for correction, otherwise, they might influence us.

We need God's wisdom and discernment in order to not entertain any ungodliness and lies from the enemy. The enemy will use people and circumstances to deceive us and to cause us to disobey God. We need to see everything and everybody from God's point of view, there you will find the wisdom to deal with people and circumstances. **THIS WILL BRING YOU TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY.**

Colossians 3:1

In view of the fact, therefore, that you were raised with Christ, the things above be constantly seeking, where Christ is, on the right hand of God, seated.