

Grow Younger



“Here I am,” he said. “What do you need?” Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Yes, LORD, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to bed.

1 Samuel 3:8-9 (NLT)

Can you sense the innocence of young Samuel? Reminds me of my childhood. I was blessed with a wonderful mom who knew what was best for me. When she was at work, I was not to have friends over. Innocent, obedient I did what she said (most of the time!) As I got older, I knew better than Mom and did what I felt best (most of the time!)

"I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:3-4)

Oh, if I'd only listened... Pride grows as we age (right?) and becomes perhaps the greatest challenge to our faith. Can we ever hope to regain the innocence and humility of a young child? Is it possible to "grow younger"?

Reflect: How old do I act?

During a Bible study a discussion of deep theological topics arose; some spiritual arrogance became evident. A new believer spoke up, "I don't understand any of this. I just know that I gave my life to Jesus and now I'm supposed to follow him." I could feel the angst of his struggle to understand, but the innocence of his statement cut through all the complexities like a ray of light. Refreshed, I thought, "How do we get so far removed from humbly following Jesus?"

"For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." The LORD (Isaiah 55:9)

Who is humble like a child is greatest, in weakness is strength, through death comes life... God works in mysterious ways!

"I realized that no one can discover everything God is doing under the sun. Not even the wisest people discover everything, no matter what they claim." King Solomon (Ecclesiastes 8:17)

While the Bible gives us clues, who can understand God?

Don't get me wrong, the study of scripture is vital. But, has your quest led you to know more about God (knowledge) or to know God better (relationship)? Is it making you "wiser" or more innocent? Are you growing more prideful or humble?

Consider: Is my faith becoming more complex or simple?

Long ago I led teams developing medical products. We'd engage designers to bring form to our ideas, requesting distinct concepts to stretch our imaginations. Inevitably, we'd pull a little from each as we pursued the final form. Overarching our decisions was the KISS concept... short for "Keep It Simple Stupid!" We sought to sift the simple from the complex to find the design "that was staring us in the face all along" ... everything perfect in form and function.

As the master designer, wouldn't such simplicity seem God's way? Of course, what is simple to God, who is spiritual, can be hard to discern unless we see as he sees. Fortunately, he shares his simple way...

“No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

An obedient and ever more humbling walk side by side with Jesus leads you into the elegant beauty of his simple and innocent plan for your life.

Imagine: Walking in lockstep with Jesus to advance my Mission is making me grow younger.

I’m amazed by Jesus’ absolute obedience to the Father...

So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.” Jesus Christ (John 5:19)

The Father gave him a very specific Mission to accomplish while on earth. Of highest priority, he and the Father walked in lockstep to complete it. Jesus simply did whatever the Father did.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19)

Likewise, Jesus gives you clear instructions... “Continue my work!” Uniquely positioned, your Mission supports his Great Commission.

Want to know Jesus better? Simply walk in lockstep with him to advance your Mission and experience your humility increasing as you...

Grow Younger!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Where do I see spiritual pride developing in my life? Have theological complexities drawn me away from simply following Jesus?
- What is Jesus asking me to do that my pride is preventing?
- How can I walk more closely with Jesus?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Simply walk as an obedient child.

"So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then."

The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 1:14 (NLT)



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~ DAN B.

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