

When You Grow Up

Sermon Title: **When You Grow Up**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Amen. Amen. Bow your heads. Dear Heavenly Father, upon this day, we ask that your spirits simply just continue to flow, dear Father. As you have made it flow even from the beginning of the prayer, dear Father. To help us to understand that even in the midst of all the scare, of the terror, of bioterrorism, its nothing new in your word. "Well, Pastor, this is always been here."

But your people have always been immune from it, dear Father. But whether the people know it or not, you are the first bioterrorist, for you put the plague on the Egyptians. Nothing new. But your people with the blood on the door, it passed them and passed them by. Nothing new.

Help us to see and to understand these things. There is nothing new under the sun. It has been and it shall be, but your people shall be covered. Help us to know and understand these things, dear Father. And if we flow in the spirit, even the spirit praise that has come through the fire, dear Father. That even help us to understand even from a medical perspective. It helped boost our immune system when we are full of joy. There's something about our joyous person that can kill pneumonia way to go. Even the spirit of praise gets our antibody standing up and ready to fight the demon.

Thank you, father, and let your spirit continue to flow and thy son Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

And if you would open your bibles to 1 Corinthian and the 13th chapter. That's 1 Corinthians, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, and then 1 Corinthians. I am going to be speaking to you today from a question. As I got in my car after service last Sunday and was driving home, God spoken to my spirit and every time I come before you, I have always asked God what do I speak to the people about. What do I tell them this day? So, no matter how off the wall the subject may sound, it's what God told me to say.

As I was driving home on last week, God told me to ask everyone this question. He didn't give me a scripture, just the question. I'm going to do just like God told me to do. I'm going to ask everyone in this place this question. And the thing about it as the week went on, this question is becoming -- is going to become

more and more real to you. Some of you won't even test it this morning. But as the week last on, it will become more and more real to you.

God told me to asked everyone in here this simple question. What do you want to be when you grow up? What do you want to be when you grow up? Turn to the person sitting next to you and ask them that question. So, ask them what do you want to be when you grow up. Now that may seem to be a silly question. Some of you are in your 40's and your 50's and your 60's and some of you even look in 70 there in the door. It may seem strange for someone to turn and ask a person in middle or up advanced age talking about, "What do you mean, what do I want to be when I grow up? I'm grown already."

God knew the reason that he wanted me to ask everyone in here that particular question of what do you want to be when you grow up. God knew that there is some maturing and there is some growing up in the body of Christ that we need to be in and we need to get our minds get on what do we want to be when we grow up. If the world has given us directions and dimensions and different goals of what we are to be when they grow up and not a single one of them is spiritual.

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If you ask a child, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Everyone of them is defined by job. I want to be a policeman. I want to be fireman. I want to be a doctor. I want to be a lawyer. I want to be a priest. Every single one of them fundamentally is defined by Job. People, the job is not who you are. And you got to realize and understand that a job -- if you are a policeman that's what you do to earn money, but that's not who you are. If you're a nurse, that's what you do to earn money, but that's not who you are.

And you can go to any job and you'll find a thousand people in the same job and you'll find a thousand different personalities and a thousand different levels of maturity and even a thousand different reasons why the people are on that job. It's not who you are. And God wanted me to ask you the question so that we would begin to understand simple question of what do you want to be when you grow up.

And I use some scripture out of 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 11 that reads the. We've all heard this scripture over and over and over again. But I want you to see it in a different light because Paul was speaking to the people, talking about himself when he relates to all of this and understand this. Paul was talking about himself and he's adult-like not in his child-like. He said this, "When I was a child I speak as a child. I understood as a child. I thought as a child but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

Turn to your neighbor and ask them, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" When I became a man, I put away childish thing. You know, even the 12 disciples, we only know what six of them did as a profession. We know that Luke was a physician, he was a doctor. We know that Matthew worked for the IRS, he was a tax collector. We know that Peter and Andrew and James and John, we know that they were in the seafood business. They where fishman. We know what half of the disciples did as a profession but the other six, you have no idea what they even did.

The profession was not even important, and when they followed Jesus, it was what they used to do. All of them even left the profession. The higher you get in God, the less and less what you do as a living becomes who you are. God wants you to grow up, folks. You know sometimes even our very definition even now when you ask someone that question, "What do I want to be when I grow up?" They start thinking of a thing in life. I want a big house. I want a fine car. I want a big trailer(ph). I want respect, I want prestige. I want a fat bank account.

Everything that we think about people, everything we name sometimes as the real things that drive and expire of, the things that we are inspiring towards everything we're working and (00:08:45) and sometimes cheat, lying and stealing for. Everything that we're trying so hard for all of them, none but toy. And it's nothing but even that's what a child. Sometimes if you look at a child and sometimes an adult can look at a child and see how child get so excited over a red tricycle. And an adult would say why is he getting excited over that \$25 tractor. It's not but a tricycle, but we go out and buy brand new red Corvette.

And Lord have mercy we become (00:09:26) with a cue tip. Cleaning and, -- I mean we are more excited. Nothing but a tricycle. As an old (00:09:36) goes the only difference between me and this boy is the price of their toy. And that's pretty accurate. Toy, all of the stuff and see that's why Jesus so understood all of the things of this world and that's why all of the disciples, once they started growing up, they started realizing that all of the stuff that the world has seeded as who we are and what we are, all of that stuff is nothing but a (00:10:05). That's not who you are. Grow up!

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I've even begun to have to problems when I go places and, people will ask me the question, "What do you do?" What they're asking is what is your job? Where are you employed at? And increasingly more and more. I'm having a greater degree of difficulty answering that question. Because in my spirit, in my logical mind, I can feel it, I'm a businessman. I managed people. I want a business. That's what I do. They didn't even want to know what kind of business.

So, then I have to go into details of what kind of business. And you see all of that stuff, this is what I do. But that's not who I am. It's not my real in nature. It's saying nothing about me at all. It's just saying what I do to earn money. And what you do to earn money is not really who you are for the most part. And we got to understand something God simply wants to ask the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Sometimes as I even answer that question and I think about it, it's hard for me to answer because I have so many jobs. Run two businesses, two ministries and then at my biggest job, I've got (00:11:41) to see about. But supposed I told someone to ask me, what did you do, I say, I see (00:11:48). What in the world? But you see, sometimes it means -- sometimes your biggest -- sometimes your biggest job is to sit (00:11:59). You know what I'm talking about. Sometimes your biggest job.

But what we do is oftentimes it is not really who we are. What do you really want to be when you grow up? When I was a child, I had all these aspirations. When I was in college and someone asked me, what do you want to be I had a ready answer. And everything was as the world describes. It all sit neatly in terms

of a job. But as I begin to mature, and as I begin to see things, and my father was a man of great wisdom and understanding and all of his children turned out well, but my father never pushed any of us in any particular profession. He didn't even suggest a thing.

My father said, "All I want my children to be -- I want my children to be gentlemen." And I want my children -- and my mother put on -- between the time my father and my mother put the -- all my mother is -- I want them to know God. So, between what my mother and my father put in off, it was never towards a particular profession. It was a development of the inside. It was never for the outside. My daddy was saying on (00:13:21) I want my boy to grow up. Because my daddy even knew, and in college, he knew professors that were boys. He knew those that had PhD behind their names, immature.

Education people, Education does not mature you. Make no mistakes about that if some of the biggest educated -- no, that doesn't mean it's plain uneducated fools too. Don't let -- don't get this because you have, you're not educating your wife. No, no, don't get that misinterpretation. It's a whole lot of uneducated fools just like it's a lot of educated fools. The only difference on an educated fool is an educated fool can make it sound so much smooth why he is a fool.

So, education, it really will not develop your inner character. It will not really make you a man. It will not make you grow up. College won't make you grow up. Do you know if you go to college as an immature young man, college presents some of the most widespread opportunity for you to go haywire in any way in the world. So, if you go in there as a child, then you almost walk into a candy store and you come out of there wild. And you ever went in there. So, it's not a matter -- these kinds of things, they don't make out real character. They don't make us who they are. They begin sometimes people would -- why God wanted me to ask you the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

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Because all of us have some growing up to do and sometimes, we have to learn how to focus and know really direction in which we are going. And sometimes, I want you to really think about that

question. Not necessarily right now, but when you live here. Ask yourself that question in all sincerity, what do you want to be when you grow up. And don't put it into where -- I want to be a manager where I am. That's not really growing up.

If that were the case, there would be no immature managers and all mature managers, you already have bosses. No, that's not the case. Your manager has just as many problems and hang up and stuff(ph) that you do. That's not the case. So, what is it about it? What is it that's really going to make you mature when you ask that question, "What do I want to be when I grow up?"

I never will forget reading about one man who felt some point as I feel sometimes when people kept asking him the question and he could never come to get it right in his spirit. And he just started telling people that he was a respirator. And folk didn't know what a restaurateur was. All it was is just a man as bereaved(ph). And he said that was his number one job. Because if he quit that, -- and he said that was the number one job and just to breathe.

He asked them and look through his life in terms of what he had to do every day or his most important thing. And his most important thing was to breathe. So, he said, that was his number one job. So, when people start asking of what did he do, yes, I'm a respirator. And folks were too ashamed to ask what is that.

But the man had come to a realization, and he said his realization was this, he said he realized that his very life and his very continued existence depended on what God had provided, not what man had provided. God provides the air and the muscles for him to breathe. Every single breath. And he realized that his existence on this earth depended on God, not on man. People, when you come to that realization, you want to start growing up. Too many of us are dependent upon man for our stuff.

Now, man plays the part and because the 10 Commandments, the last 6 of those 10 commandments, they deal with how you relate to your fellowmen. So, it is important but it's by rules of God. Man, even tell you, God will tell you how to relate to man and how to relate to woman. So, if you follow the laws of God, it

even makes your relationships smooth. And he realizes in that very life, every breath that I take depends upon something that man did not make and cannot give me, and it's absolutely free.

You know, nobody can show you -- we'd be in a bad shape if we had to pay for our air. Do you know, we'd be in bad shape if you got behind on your air? And you had a situation to where you had to go into the Atlanta Ed department, going there -- Look, can I put \$20 on my air? You know we would be in bad shape if we had to pay for our air. But God provides the most necessary of things. We don't have to pay a dime. And when we start realizing these things, you'll see all of the things that man provides for the most thought of really, they may be for our confidence, for our ego. But the for the most part, most of this stuff it's not really that necessary. It's for ego thing. It's a toy. And most of what we spend our lives struggling and working for, a toy.

What do you want to be when you grow up? When I was I child, I speak as a child. And how does the child speak? Most of the time, when you're dealing with children, children have for the most part two types of statement that they will make; what they won't and why and when they don't get it. All of your children know that.

You know children, they don't ever come to you and say, "Thank you mama, thank you daddy for providing all." You know my wife breastfeeds.

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And she breastfed my son, generally(ph) about one or two years old, about one and a half. Do you know even when they started talking, they never come back to Mom and say, "Mom, I want to just thank you for all the good milk you gave me." Do you know they've never said that? Do you know even now when my children eat dinner? They never get up from the dinner table and say, "Thank you Mama for cooking me such a nice meal." When mama takes them to school every day, they never say, "Thank you mama for bringing me to school." They'll only say, "Mama, I want. I want this." You all have got kids; you know what I'm talking about and if you don't have children, you might not relate to this.

But for the most part, children are in an “I want” mentality and a “whine” mentality when you don’t give them what they want. They are never thankful for that what you’ve done for them. Never thankful. They always want some just, “I keep buying those toys.” Because they’ll get a toy, play with that for a few days, see something else on television and they want that too. “Daddy, I want.” “Mama, I want.” They never come to you and say, “Daddy, I’m so thankful that you work so hard to buy me all of these toys that I have never, not once. They speak as a child.

And how many times that we’ve been to God? Even in the midst of some things that we want that we do not have. How many times have we gone to God and say, “Lord, thank you.” When was the last time that you thanked the Lord for your air? And see, sometimes, we don’t miss this stuff and you haven’t been -- I’ve been to visit people in the hospital that could barely breath with tubes running all up down their nose. You’re not thankful for your air because you’re missing a couple of times, just miss a breath or two, I want you to just do this. I want you to hold your breath until I count to 10. Ready? Just hold it. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine -- are you all ready to breath yet? You ready? Are you ready? Now, let me know if you’re ready. Ten.

Now, you see, you’ve never really even thanked God. Yes, for the fresh air, you see, now, the country is worried about people putting some germs in the air? You’ve been breathing germ-free air all these years, you’ve never thanked God for no germs in your air. Until it gets threatened and then you get to pray and, “Lord, don’t let them put in germs in my air.” You’ve been breathing germ-free air all these years.

So, so many of things like it’s speaking as a child. A child has the “I want” mentality and the whining mentality about when they don’t get something that they want. And they’ll never go back to the father and thank the father for all that they’ve been given. I understood as a child.

People, children don’t understand why they can’t go outside in the cold with no shoes on. Do you know my five-year-old does not understand that? It can be 20 degrees outside. They will want to go outside with no shoes and no coat and play in the street. They don’t understand why they shouldn’t go outside with no shoes and it’s freezing outside. There are some things

that in the mind of a childish mentality, they don't understand that God has given laws and he has given rules not just because He wanted to make laws and because he wanted to make rules, it was to protect you and to keep you safe and to keep you in health. It was for your purposes. For a child often does not understand it when God told you not to have sex outside of marriage -- that wasn't just to keep you from having fun, it was to keep you from freezing and catching a cold in a blizzard weather when God said, "Look. Don't do this because this is dangerous for you." And then when your heart just broken, when you get disease, when all kinds of other stuff pop up, "Lord, why did you let this happen?" Because I told you don't go outside with no shoes off. You didn't understand it.

I understood as a child. I thought(ph) as a child. And that's the part that God wants us to get to the point of where our thinking becomes better as a mature adult.

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Not so much of a child, people, the world will always keep you if you listen to what the world says and where it wants to take you. It will always keep you blind. Following along with the crowd is going down the path of destruction. And I often wonder, I said, "Why did God call his people the children of Israel?" He could have said the men of Israel.

The women of Israel, He called them the children of Israel. I now know why he called them the children of Israel. They were unappreciative just like a child. They were disobedient just like a child. The minute they could, they went to start and worshipped other gods, dishonoring their parents just like a child. They started to do what they were doing everything just like children. And He called them the children of Israel. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Now, there are portions of a child that's necessary because, see, Jesus said unless you're like a little child, you can't enter into the kingdom of heaven. But I want you to understand what Jesus meant by that because He somewhat explains it. It's in Matthew Chapter 18 beginning at the first verse.

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

First of all, they came to Him and want to know, which one of us is (00:26:41)? That's a child mentality. Jesus even had problems with His own disciple. Do you know if you've got children, they will vie for the attention of who's upfront and who's going to be the favorite, that's not just children, people. That's not just children.

It happens in every single organization and every group of people, everybody wants to vie to be the favorite, to be upfront, to be the one seen, to be the one favorite -- everybody wants that, it's not just children. It is the nature of a child that still exists within so many of us and here, the disciples were asking the question: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

And Jesus called a little child under him and set him in the mix of them and said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus said, "Whoever one of you can get rid all of that stuff of pride you have can get on. People, that's not an easy thing to do. Do you know that? Because sometimes there are some sins that we have to -- that's why God wanted to ask the question: "What do you want to be when you grow up because some of you got childish pride to deal with?" Pride is a rough thing, people. I have a struggle with it to be perfectly honest with you. That's just the truth. Pride is a rough thing. And I understand that there was a point in which and my mother will remember this very clearly.

There was a point at which God has instructed -- long before I became a minister. He simply led me to not cut any of my hair. You remember that, Mom? I didn't cut my hair on my head nor did I shave. And I have all this hair growing out and all this hair growing on my face, and I couldn't shave it up or anything. And it was later, a month later that I realized something. With all that hair on my head and all that ragged hair on my face, it helped my humility tremendously.

Do you know when I have my hair way back, pressed down with waves in it. Do you know that thing is rough on your pride? I'm

being just straight with you. Man, your hair is so looking good. Thank you. You understand what I'm saying? People, this is real. This is real. When you shop and your clothes -- you're looking good and you know you're looking good, that's the best part about it. Sometimes, there's a situation where you might be looking good, you might not be looking good. Just like, if your mom tells you that you're looking good, you don't really know. You understand what I'm saying? You really don't know whether you're really looking good or not because mama suggest that, wait, you can be looking like a boogie bear and mama will still talk about how good --

You really don't really know. But there are some times when other people will tell you just out of the blue and then you know you're looking good.

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Do you know when you know you're looking good? It is difficult on the pride and it's difficult to keep a humble spirit. It's difficult to keep a humble spirit getting out of a fancy shop. I never will forget -- I went somewhere on a limo and in a Rolls Royce, I wanted people so bad to see me getting out of that thing. That's just the truth. I mean, so bad -- I got out of it slow looking around and see if anybody knew me. And that's just the truth. And nobody's looking at me, it's like -- because everyone of you will be the exact same way. There are some things about this stuff and about this -- it's just something on the -- that's why Jesus said, "Unless you can --" He gave the quality of a little child.

It was the humility of the little child because that's one thing about a child, they don't have the pride. You know, a child will walk around just absolutely naked and say nothing of it. They have no sense of pride whatsoever. They'll walk out with their hair sticking all up on their head. All kinds of stuff.

You see, they are not concerned about what other people think about them. That's one thing about a child. They do have humility and Jesus said, "Unless you become as humble as this little child, you can't come into the kingdom of heaven all prideful, all looking good, thinking you all this and all that and a bag of chips on the side, you can't come in to heaven with all that. You've got to be like a little child. You got to be humble."

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” See, so many of us, we want to grow up and we want to grow up in pride. That’s what our definition of it is. We want to be a big-shot and people, there’s nothing wrong with being a big-shot. I don’t want to crush or destroy anyone’s aspirations to do great things. What I’m simply saying is this -- because the disciples did great things. I’m simply saying this: The higher you rise, the more toys you have, I understand this just as clear as day as to why Jesus said it isn’t hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven as a camel the eye of a needle, the more stuff you got, the harder it is to deal with their pride and you can’t get into the kingdom of heaven unless you’re humble as a little child.

It’s hard to be humble when you’re a multi-millionaire. Then you’re already into it. Any of you all -- because if you all had 2 million dollars in the bank right now, I wouldn’t be able to talk to half of you. And you know it. It makes a difference. And some of you that have never experienced that kind of thing, don’t judge them until you experience it. It makes a difference. Don’t let anybody fool you by you act different when you got the money in your pocket and when you’re dead broke.

You do. So, that’s why Jesus said it is as hard for a rich man with all these toys and with all this stuff, you can’t enter the kingdom of heaven with that pride. You’ve got to be humble. And I remember even of what God told me about some things. He said, “I’m going to give you great ability and great power.” And He said, “One day, you’ll have the ability to even raise the dead.”

I don’t know what that meant. I don’t know whether that’s a spiritual thing or physical thing but He also told me the second part of it. This is the second part. He said, “That’s not the difficult part because that’s my power.” I’ll do any of that and that’s not the difficult part. This is what the difficult part is. He said the difficult part will be you dealing with your pride with that kind of power. That’s the difficult part.

Do you know, I may just guess if you had the power to just heal the sick and raise the dead, do you know what that would do to the average preacher? I’m talking about the average good same(ph) preacher. Do you know what kind of pedestal that would put him on? Folks coming all around the world, all -- I

mean just touching to see just one -- do you know what that does? I'm talking real stuff here, people. Because everyone of us is in a human fleshly vessel. This stuff affects all of us. And God said, "That will be your big problem. You're going to have a problem dealing with the pride of that kind of elevation." And it's real.

So, God has to even set from above, vision in terms of asking the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" And to understand that maybe this growing up thing and all of the aspirations that we think about. Maybe that's a little bit different on a true spiritual realm.

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We've got to be like that little child. See, one thing even about a little child is if you ever look on a child's eyes, you know, they're just as white and clean as they can be. Every grow up and age, things happen within the physical body that starts clouding the eyes, the same thing work in the spirit. And our spirits become just as cloudy as our eyes do sometimes.

Child, if you look in a baby's eyes, they're just as white and just as pure because the vessel is clean. And as we age, we get all of this stuff from all around the world, that's why we have to be washed so many times often over and over and over trying to keep us clean, trying to keep us pure, trying to keep us in the direction in which we should go.

Children are honest. They are honest. You see, a child -- sometimes, you're walking out of the store. My wife told me, once she was out in the store and the son said, "Mama, look at that woman. That woman looks funny." And sometimes, children are just flat out honest. They will just come out and just say something straight. See, adults, we've got all these layers and all of these shields. Children, they'll just tell you just like it is. And there is a difference sometimes in the honesty but the difference is this.

You see, an adult and a child -- a child will look at the person and say, "Look -- ." An adult will say the same thing, they'll just go around the corner behind their back. So, it's not that an adult won't say the same thing that a child will. An adult would

just go around the corner and say it around their back. And that's the major difference.

Children are honest and you see the difference of this, if a child point and say, "Mama, look. That man has a funny nose." And an immature adult will get around the corner and say, "You know that man has a funny nose." But a mature adult will get around the corner and say, "You know, God made all of us unique and every one of us beautiful."

And there is a difference even in the speech of a mature adult and a childish adult. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

And in that same chapter, 1st Corinthians, that 13th Chapter. Beginning at the eighth verse, and we've heard this also over and over. "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

And you see, that twelfth verse, we've heard so much even and related it so often purely to prophecy and it does relate to that but I saw a different meaning for now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face and when I actually looked up that word "glass" and what it meant, it's the Hebrew word "(00:39:07)." Basically, it's a mirror. And what are you saying, he says, "For now we see through a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as I am known."

He was looking at himself in a mirror. Do you know that's the hardest thing often times for us to do is to see our self? Because we can see other folks pretty clear. We can see all of the stuff, but one of the most difficult parts of life is to see ourselves in the mirror because it's through a glass darkly and he said, now I'm

going to see face to face -- me. And people, if we can often times just -- and see that's the part of maturity where you can recognize your own stuff.

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That's one of the biggest parts of growing up is to be able not to see the other man's faults, but to see your own. Because so often that's through a glass dark. People, I don't know whether you all know it or not. But I have a time with me. Do you all know that I have a time with me. How many of you all out there don't have a time with you? Raise your hand. I just want to shake somebody's hand. Maybe that will rub off on me. You don't have a time with you?

You see, all of us, we have a time with us. And if we could just get us straightened out, that the whole world would look in a different meaning. If we could just get us -- if I can just get me straight now, people. I'm not talking about the whole world. I've got to straighten me out first. And I have a time getting myself straighten out what God told me, is it you(ph). That's why even those with true wisdom, the man who wrote most of the new testament.

When I preached that sermon about the dog in me. That was the man who raised -- I got a problem with me. Just flush(ph) your mind when you can see and that's what he was talking about through the glass dark, it was through a mirror. And the only thing you can see in a mirror is who? You don't look on a mirror to see the other man. I don't look in a mirror to see what's wrong with Reverend Kellman. I don't look in the mirror to see what's wrong with Reverend James. I look in a mirror to see if I've got some strands of hair sticking up on my own head to see if I've got some lint on my own jacket. To see if my own face is clean. To see if my own teeth are clean.

I look in the mirror to see what's wrong with me. And Paul said, we see through a mirror darkly. And that's why God wanted me to ask you the question. Because the question is for you -- it has nothing to do with all of the stuff that's going on out in the world. And I don't care what a zillion terrorists do or what the government does. God wants you to more to ask you the question, what do you want to be when you grow up?

And that automatically by implication means that he wants us to start moving towards that maturation of growth. And he wants us to grow up. He wants us not to be the children but to be mature adults. Jesus put it like this in Matthew 5:48 when says, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." And we know that word "perfect" actually means be mature.

He said on a simple nutshell, grow up. Turn to your neighbor sitting next to you and say, grow up. Grow up! That's all we needed to. We just need to grow up. In a simple nutshell, that's all he said when we talk about (00:43:27). Be mature. Grow up.

And what do we want to be when we grow up? And I even had to look back in a -- because I looked at what God -- God told me to ask everyone in the church that question and I had to realize I was in it myself. So, I had to ask myself, what do I want to be when I grow up? And sometimes even in ministry, we sometimes put it in what the world sees. Well, I want to church with 10,000 members. That's the outside stuff.

Because Jesus said, in those final days, he said, "Many are going to come to me and say Lord, Lord, did we work miracles in your name? Didn't I heal all these folks?" Get away from me, I never even knew you. So, it's not about how many members you can have. That thing is about how you can develop your own inner spirit. And to that, you need to be able to look through that mirror and see your own things and your own stuff. If we can just stop focusing on the other folk's problems.

Our marriages will be a lot better. I mean if I wasn't worried about what Puddin needs to change. Do you know a lot of times when you get in a marriage counselling session, that's the major prob -- you're passing and (00:44:55) like that woman? That woman initiated, that man --

00:45:00

And it's just like this. And each one of them is pointing to the other. If we just learn to look in the mirror and grow up. We'll understand some things about ourselves. God wants you people to grow, in grace and in God. And he's asking you the question these days, what do you want to be? When you get to heaven, he's not going to ask you what degree you achieved. He's not

going to ask you, did you have a masters, a bachelor, a doctorate. He's not even going to ask you, did you have a GED?

He's not going to ask all of that kind -- he's not going to ask what kind of car you drove? He's not going to ask what brand name was on your suit. He's not going to ask what neighborhood you lived in. He's not going to ask any of those questions. God looketh upon the heart, not any of this external stuff. See, when you look in the mirror of your soul, you're looking on your own heart, because nobody can see in your heart in the flesh but you.

Even a prophet can't read to see you then(ph). You can see a glimpse but every time a prophet tells us first, they know most of that stuff already. But no one -- you don't need to come to a prophet to find you're doing wrong, living in -- you already know that. You don't need a prophet to tell you all of that. You don't need a prophet for that stuff. You already know that.

If you can look in your own mirror, clearly you can see in your own mirror clearer than any prophet. When the prophet Nathan went to David. He told him he had done you right or wrong with Bathsheba. They didn't know that. They are even -- that was no -- he was surprised that he got caught. You see, that's what it was, it wasn't that he was surprised and he was be doing wrong. He was surprised that he got caught. But he already --

See, sometimes, the prophet will just catch you. But you already know it's done. In the mirror of our own soul. God will teach us and he'll take us through maturity after maturity, after maturity. And all of the things that you do, though they seem big to the outside world. And though they'd be great and though they'll be good, God is still working to make us grow up.

Right now, the largest ministry of the church actually is Mountain Wings. Each and every day we send out an email to over 126,000 people. Do you know God has matured me through Mountain Wings? And he had matured me through Mountain Wings not through the folk that have emailed and talking about how it has blessed their lives. We get tons of that from all over the world every day. He has matured me to the knuckle heads. He has matured me through the folk right then with all kinds of curse words. He has matured me with folk riding in some other issue that they didn't like.

He has matured me not through the easy stuff. He has matured me through the tough stuff. See people, some of you what you all are going through right now is nothing but growing pains that's maturing you and you can never grow up while without growing pain. He will send you through somethings so that he can make a man out of you. And every father that has a child and he will send his son out through some tough things, I never will forget my daddy sent me out on a paper route(ph) dark in the morning, freezing.

"Daddy, why are we going out, I'm shivering, I'm cold, it's dark." He said, "I got to make a man out of you." He sent me in a camp when I was six years old. Never will forget that. That has been 40 years ago and I remember it just like it was yesterday. There I am sitting at camp, tears running down my eyes. My eyes and cheeks got tears running down them and my mama's eyes and she's got tears running down. Both of us would drop the water meeting on our tears(ph) and just dropping, hitting the floor. Both of us crying.

My daddy grabs my mother's hand and said, come on. We got to leave him at this camp two weeks by himself in the wilderness. That's why I was up in the wilderness, out in the woods for two weeks by myself. I've got to leave him because I've got to make a man out of him. I've got to get him out under your grasp, tell, I got to make a man out of him. I've got to send him through some growing pain. He's got to stop speaking like a child.

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He's got to stop understanding like a child. He's got to stop thinking like a child. But in order to make him do that, I got to send him in the wilderness through some growing pains. And these are some of the things that God is taking you through him. And I didn't even understand it, I want to be with mama. I didn't understand it. Why in the world is daddy going to leave me out here? I'm at the camp out too, I'm in the middle of these woods in a bunkbed I've never seen before with folk I don't even know. Why?

I didn't understand it. I can look back and see it now because I have maturity but I couldn't understand it at the time. And some of you and some stuff right then. You can't understand it

and your father has had to put you in the wilderness because he has to make you grow up. These are some of the things, people. And who understand as divine father. We'll understand that He will send us through some things. But yet even in the midst of it, and I never will forget.

There was a little camp counselor named Stevie. (00:51:28) you remember all that stuff. Something's ablaze in your mind. When you go through some stuff, you remember that stuff real good. You know something you forget that painful stuff, you remember real good. I remember it real good and I remember my parents going over to Stevie. And they slip him a \$20 bill. That was a lot of money way back then. And said, take care of my son.

I still remember that. You see people, even though you are in the wilderness, God is watching out for you. It was some favor. Even though you're in the wilderness, God has put some favor on you and he had sent angels to take care my son. He's going to go through some stuff, they're going to throw in the lake, that's all right. Take care of my son. They're going to send him out hiking in the woods, that's all right. Take care of my son. Yeah, he's got to go out, and he's going to go through get stung by bees, that's all right. Take care of my son.

God will send you through the wilderness because he sent his son through the wilderness. He sent his son through. The minute the holy spirit lead on him(ph) but when he came out. See, that's the part you got to understand, people. Too many of us, the children focus on the wilderness. The adult focus on the coming out. That's the thing, when he came out.

So, don't focus on your wilderness experience, focus on the fact that this thing is making me stronger, this thing is maturing. People, whenever you want to go to anybody to get something done, you get any kind of advice, you look always universally without a doubt, you have to go to somebody that's been through something. You all know what I'm talking about. You can't go to anybody to get any kind of advice, to get any kind of wisdom, that hasn't been through some failure(ph).

If you want some good advice, you must go to somebody that has gone through the wilderness. And it has made a man or a woman out of you. God wants you to grow you. To take you

places, to mature you. But he will do in his own way. And though you may not understand, it is his will.

And if you are just obedient, he'll bring you out to put favor around you while you are there. And when you get out, and I told my wife, I said, "Puddin, in another year or so, we got to send our son to camp." And I could imagine when my -- and I know Puddin was, "I don't want to take it, and I know when we'll take him there, he's going to have tears running down his cheeks, meeting under the chin." Puddin's going to have tears running down her cheeks, meeting under the chin and we both may go over to Stevie or whatever his name is. And say, "take care of our son."

But just as my father had to send me, I'll have to send my son and just as God had to send his son and don't forget you are his children, that's why he got to send you. Bow your heads.

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Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you this day and we thank you dear father that you care enough about us. To even ask us what do we want to be when we grow up and depending upon that answer, you will direct our past. And people, I can tell you right now, I hear God speaking in my spirit and he said, "Be careful that what you ask for. For I shall grant it unto you but it may not be like you think." I want to be a great evangelist for God. Be careful what you ask for. T.D. Jakes is the greatest and the most powerful evangelist in this country right now, but he tells his wilderness story.

And so many preachers, they say, "I wish I could preach like T.D. Jakes and he said, "You can't preach like me. Have you been where I've been?" And then when they hear the road(ph) they said, "Whoa! Hold up, hold up, hold up!" No, I think I'll just preach like I've been preaching because I don't want to travel the road. Be careful what you ask for. For God shall grant it unto you.

What do you want to be when you grow up? Think about this question. And in the week, it shall come, it shall not leave your mind. And you may not be able to fully answer it right now, because in all honesty you've never thought about it in these

terms. But as it plays upon your spirit, and as God works with you, an answer will start to brew within.

And you start formulating a vision of what you are to be. And it will be different from what you think right now. And it may take you by way of the wilderness but the way to the mountains through the wilderness. But God shall be with you.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray right now, you're blessing over the people. And that which they ask, I pray that you answer. In your divine will and divine way, and that's because they choose to be, you send the angels to make it so. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Well, if there's anyone at this point that would like to come for salvation of the Holy Spirit, that would like to receive Jesus Christ. Is Mr. Gian(ph) here? Mr. Gian? Mr. Gian is not here. You all know who Mr. Gian is? Al of you that where here on Friday, know who Mr. Gian is. And I'm not going to go and explain who Mr. Gian is but ask any all -- everybody who was here Friday, raise your hands. So, if you want to know who Mr. Gian is, ask anyone with their hands raised and they will tell you who Mr. Gian is. And Mr. Gian is not here this morning so that's his choice. But God opens the door right now, what do you want to be when you grow up? Amen. Amen.

And they're coming for rededication. Amen and Amen. A family. A family. And people, there are often decisions that we make in life. They're coming for rededication. You see, they've been dedicated but sometimes we need to rededicate our self. Sometimes we've been in church a long time but there comes a point when we say, I'm going down a different -- I'm even going to become more -- I'll fight for you God.

And I happen to know this man. We went on the motorcycle trip together, not too long ago. And we were gone for four days, my father always told me this. He said, "if you ever want to know a person, go out on a trip with him." If you really ever want, you got a good man. If you ever want to know a person, go out on a trip with him. And you'll know him by the time you get back. Daddy had a lot of wisdom and he's going a long way; you've already going a long way. You come from a long way.

And you just are. And see, God wants to take you to some places that even then you have no idea about. Cause even now, where you are now, you will never would have guessed you've been there five years ago. There are sometimes, people, when God will say things and he -- I would have never guessed I'd be sitting here preaching. Ten years ago, I would have never guessed, I was making records(ph), never would have guessed it.

So, there's somethings that God will -- he has for you and he will take you to places that you've never even dreamed of and God is speaking to us in my spirit, "I'm going to take you to some places. I'm going to give you some great things but understand this, the things that I shall give you, those things are not just for you, you shall become a dispensing point. And I will bless you so that you can bless many others. And you'll be able to help them both in resources and in wisdom. And I'll be able to send through you mechanisms and material and words that shall not only build men but shall build families in a manner that you don't even know about. And right now, you can't even fathom it. But I have plans for you my son. That you understand not, but you shall in due season." Amen and Amen.

I want C. Elijah to come and this is his blood by marriage and there is always a bond in family and there is a bond in blood. If you understand the Bible, the Bible is mostly a book of genealogy and sometimes I know some people even in church is sometimes and see a whole lot of promise and that's biblical, folk.

God worked through family then and if you read your Bible, you'll understand that everything is who began -- it was biblical, blessings and cursing ran through family lines. They went through and reach him up on his desk. Even most of the disciples were brothers. God chose and he worked through blood so I want to C. Elijah in particular to administer the rededication rights because you all are his blood. And though we are all blood in Christ, even Jesus went to his own first.