

Growing to Maturity in Christ

Colossians 1:28

Fruitfulness in Christ

Colossians 1.28

A little about my story...



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U.S. AIR FORCE

Luke AFB 1994-1996 (F-16C/D)
Oklahoma ANG 1996-2001 (F-16C)
Illinois ANG 2001-2003 (KC-135E)



A little about my story...



Alabama ANG 2003-2007 (F-16C)

U.S. AIR FORCE

New Mexico ANG 2007-present (F-16C, M/HC-130P, M/HC-130J)



A little about my story...



- Family in Ministry (Grew up in Nav ministry)
- Univ of Tennessee (Heard from God in Russia)
- Univ of Oklahoma (Disciplemaking kiln)
- Nav Associate: 1999-2004 (1st ministry with Navs)
- Nav Intern: 2004-2006 (Ft Benning, GA)
- Nav Rep: 2006-2016 (Ft Bliss, TX)
- Army Director: 2017-present

Growing to Maturity in Christ

Colossians 1:28

Colossians 1:28-29

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

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Complete (Mature, Perfect)

Root word in Greek: Teleios:
Completeness in growth

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What does “completeness in growth” mean?

It is related to fruit and fruitfulness

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Col 1:5-6

...the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing...

Growing to Maturity in Christ

Col 1:5-6

...the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing...

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Col 1:10

...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Growing to Maturity in Christ

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...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Growing to Maturity in Christ

Maturity in Christ

is

comprehension, participation

and reproduction in myself

and in others the Gospel of

Jesus

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Maturity in Christ

is

Bearing Fruit

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What is the
“Fruit we
bear?”

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Internal Fruit: Christlikeness in me.

Galatians 5.22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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External Fruit: Christlikeness in others.

Matthew 28.18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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External fruit is an overflow of our internal fruit with Jesus. But just because you have internal fruit, that does not guarantee you'll have external fruit.

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John 15:8

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

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How do we
“bear Fruit?”

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John 15:4

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Colossians 1:28-29

➤ Proclaim Jesus

1. Verbally (what we say)
2. Non-verbally (what we do)

➤ Admonish (Warn) every person

1. Warn them about the path they're on

Colossians 1:28-29

➤ Teach every person

1. Whoever wants to be taught

➤ Present every person complete
(mature, perfect)

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For this purpose also I labor (*kopioo* - to become fatigued through toil)

striving (*agoonizomenos* which is literally agonizing)

according to His power (*energeian*, where we get energy),

which mightily works (*energeian*) within me.

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Important Clarification:

Salvation ≠ Making Disciple

Fruit w/ Seed ≠ Tree

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Important Clarification:

Salvation = the beginning of
disciplemaking process

Fruit w/ seed = the
beginning of a tree

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How long does
it take to “bear
Fruit?”

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As long as it
takes

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- Promise of Abraham
 - Promise given = 75 yrs old
 - Tried to “help” God = 86 yrs
 - Promise fulfilled = 100 yrs old

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Abraham = 175

- Gen 25.7

Isaac = 75 yrs

- Gen 25.26

Jacob = 15 yrs

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It took Abraham 25
years to be ready to
be fruitful and 85
years to be actually
fruitful

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- Abraham was 75 years old when he receives the promise that God will make him into a great nation (Gen 12.2)
- Abraham is 100 when he saw the birth of the second generation (Isaac)
- Abraham was 160 years old when he saw the birth of the third generation (Jacob)

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By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*; *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead...

Hebrews 11.17-19

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...yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Romans 4.20-21

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- You will have to go deeper with Jesus than you think
- It will take a lot longer than we think
- It will take a lot longer than we want it to
- It will cost more than we are prepared for
- It will be harder than you think it will be
- It will do more for us than we expect

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- Chuck Wood invested 20 years into my life



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- It took me 10 years to find Allan Taylor
- I've invested almost 15 years into him



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Who are you giving 20
years of your life to?

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Are you
prepared for
what it takes?

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Men Wanted

for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition in case of success

-Ernest Shackleton 1901



Growing to Maturity in Christ

He is no fool who gives
what he cannot keep to
gain what he cannot lose.

-Jim Elliot 1949