

OUTGROWN 1: Frustrated!

THE SETUP

There are certain things I'd HOPED I would have OUTGROWN by now.

- * I'm GRATEFUL for all God has done, and I'm sure I've come a LONG WAY, but I remain FRUSTRATED.
- * It's not that I FAIL every time. Not that I'm still right back at the BEGINNING. But I KNOW BETTER.

→ *Do you ever feel frustrated like this? What are the things that immediately occur to you? Why do they, in particular, make you frustrated?*

THE TUG OF WAR (Rom 7:14-25)

- * Your FLESH v God's SPIRIT
- * Your CONSCIENCE v The Enemy's TEMPTATIONS
- * The GRACE of God v The Power of SIN

→ *Do you ever feel as though there's a tug of war going on inside of you? What are the competing teams? What does Paul say about this tug of war in Rom 7? What about Eph 6, Rom 12 and Gal 5?*

PART OF THIS IS

- a) The Enemy's CONFLICTING AGENDA for your life (Eph 6:11-12).
- b) The TRANSFORMING JOURNEY we're all on (Rom 12:2).
- c) Learning to COOPERATE with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-17).

→ *What is the Enemy's competing agenda for your life (John 10:10)? How far are you along that transforming journey?*

Why is cooperating with the Holy Spirit so crucial in all of this?

BIG QUESTIONS

- * What things continue to FRUSTRATE you?
- * What repeatedly HOLDS you BACK & stops you from FLYING?
- * What's your Achilles Heel?
- * What successfully seems to DISTRACT you from what the HOLY SPIRIT wants to do in & through you?

→ *How would you answer each of those questions?*

3 ILLUSTRATIONS

1. There's a POTHOLE in the road

- * You know WHERE it is ... It's ALWAYS been there ... You've fallen in it BEFORE, but you still KEEP falling in it.

2. There's a DEEP WOUND in your soul

- * For the most part, God has HEALED it You've LET a lot GO ... But it's still IN THERE; there's still a SCAR.

3. May be an OVERSPILL of your natural, God-given PERSONALITY.

- * In your enthusiasm, a good, strong trait sometimes BACKFIRES.

→ *Do those illustrations help? Any apply particularly to you? Where do the positive, strong elements of your personality occasionally 'overspill' and what happens when they do?*

WHAT DAMAGE DO THESE ISSUES CAUSE?

- a) Mess up our OUTCOMES
- b) Deposit POISON in our hearts
- c) Shift us from ROCK to SAND
- d) Give the ENEMY a FOOTHOLD
- e) Hurt our WITNESS

→ *How do each of those work? Which one alarms you the most? How will 'outgrowing' the issues resolve the problem?*

3 BIG BIBLICAL WORDS

1. MATURE (1 Cor 14:20, Eph 4:11-15, James 1:2-4)

- * Spiritual MATURITY is God's PLAN for you.
- * There is no guarantee of GROWTH. It is possible to remain as spiritual BABIES.

→ *What does it mean to be spiritually mature? What does it look like when people are spiritually immature? Is it possible to think you're mature and actually be immature? What about the other way round?*

2. GROW (1 Peter 2:1-3)

- a) In the KNOWLEDGE of God (Col 1:9-10)
- b) In GRACE (2 Pet 3:18)
- c) In FAITH & LOVE (2 Thess 1:3)

→ *How do you grow? In what else might we need to grow?*

3. TRANSFORM (Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:17-19)

- a) God has the DESIRE & ABILITY to transform you And He does so by RENEWING your MIND with His WORD.
- b) The target of that transformation is the IMAGE of CHRIST.

CLOSING THOUGHT: If we want to minister CLOTHED with POWER, it's important we IDENTIFY the things standing IN THE WAY.

→ *Did this message have the effect of making you feel inadequate or ashamed or encouraged and hopeful? Why?*

→ *How do your areas of immaturity or frustration hinder you from 'clothed with power?' What might happen if all you were able to 'outgrow' those hindrances?*