

# CROSSTRAINING

*discipleship series 2022*

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## A Culture That Transforms

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” Mark 12:30*

This verse is a picture of a matured believer – it encompasses ALL of our life – this verse instructs us – as we make honest attempts to live where God has placed us in Christ, the Holy Spirit’s grace and mercy will overwhelm us, fill us up, and enable us to become the people we are called to be.

### A Culture of Spiritual Maturity

Questions to Consider:

1. What does spiritual “maturity” look like?
2. Who has the right to speak, challenge, and correct you – while you also make no excuses, defend, or fight?
3. Why would you listen to them?
  - a. What does their intimacy with the Lord look like?
  - b. Are the fruits of the Spirit evident in their responses to others, to situations, etc.? Although we may not know motive (can’t see it) you can see fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control vs. anger, greed, power, divisiveness.

Identifying spiritual maturity:

- We allow the Holy Spirit to establish His truth in our hearts and lives.

Eph 4 – *“speaking the truth in love...we grow up”*.

Who do we look to for spiritual guidance? We look for those who are humble and willing to be challenged themselves. Not those who “look” spiritual because they “talk” it.

Note: spiritual “gifts” are not an indicator of spiritual maturity.

- We develop a passion for the Presence of God which is greater than our zeal for ministry (doing). Learning to chase or seek God’s heart personally. Not just how He uses us, but how is the Lord correcting, challenging, freeing me!
- A growing intimacy with the Father.

Note: People who are wonderfully anointed in ministry, but very average in intimacy are not mature. At some point our lack of intimacy will betray our anointing. The enemy will draw us out beyond our sphere and isolate our gifting. Lack of intimacy often means we have no protection against our own arrogance. The appreciation, approval and applause of others are seen as a right by these people, and their status in ministry cannot be challenged. Lack of humility makes us immune to personal correction.

- We become humbler. Humility is a by-product of real intimacy – when we spend time in prayer *“always assume there is pride within us”* (Stephen Galloza)

### St. Benedict's Ladder of Humility



### A Church Culture That Transforms

- Meets together to teach, worship, and support one another. Together we encourage one another in the faith.
- Does not enable immaturity by creating a culture of dependency so we never seem to grow up – consumerism has been elevated to an art form in the western church. We are shielded as much from the culture of Heaven as we are from the influence of the world.
- Provides systems of development that allow and guide people to be responsible for their personal walk with God. We learn to chase God's heart – seek after Him – for ourselves.

- Allows freedom:
  - to worship God and pursue Him
  - freedom to be led by the Spirit,
  - freedom to challenge inauthentic belief and lifestyle
  - freedom to hear the Lord and obey
  - freedom to explore the Word of the Lord and seek its fulfillment
- Respect that we are all learning and developing at different paces, but we should be walking toward becoming mature believers.

If our hearts are fixed on God, we are immediately focused on Him. When this happens, the Church is going to grow up. We'll live by the Book. We won't question the will of God because we will be in relationship with Him – mature believers – Fathers and mothers!

## Tangible Reality

The promise of Isaiah 40:28-31 is ours for possessing!

Have you not known?  
Have you not heard?  
The everlasting God, the Lord,  
The Creator of the ends of the earth,  
Neither faints nor is weary.  
His understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the weak,  
And to those who have no might He increases strength.  
Even the youths shall faint and be weary,  
And the young men shall utterly fall,  
But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not get tired  
They will walk and not become weary.

There is a tangible reality in our relationship with Scripture that must bring us into a physical manifestation of the Presence of God (a physical acting out our obedience to the Word). If this is not the case, how can we say we have a relationship with a personal Savior? The Word of God must have an impact upon us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

The Word of God is for the whole person to enable us to have encounters and experiences that affect the sum total of all that we are in Jesus. Anything less is not a so great salvation. It is measure, not fullness. It is mediocre, not abundant. Such a salvation is not glorious because there is no possibility of God receiving great glory from it.

As the people of God, we are defined by our promises, prophecies and all the possibilities of life in the Spirit that exist in the heart of an all-powerful God.



When we enter the secret place of abiding in the Lord (Ps. 91:1) we encounter new levels of relationship with the Father, and each supersedes the other. Strength is renewed constantly; life becomes more effortless because we have learned to soar like eagles with Jesus in heavenly places.

We increase our speed spiritually – we access divine acceleration and discover the ability to move faster and travel further in shorter periods of time. Jesus is a quickening spirit (I Cor. 15:45 - “So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.”) We can move at a more pronounced speed in our conscious relationship with the Father.

We are a NEW creation, all the old things are passed away, everything has become new, and all these things are of God (2 Cor. 5:17-18).

### What does new creation mean?

A new race of people never seen in the earth before – in the OT everyone had the Holy Spirit UPON them. People served a God who lived AMONG them, but He was never IN them.

IN CHRIST, the New Covenant produces a people who are vastly different. God lives in us! He abides and dwells within.

We can hear His voice, know His will personally and move in His power.

We have access to His very throne in Jesus (Heb. 4:16)

We are seated with Him in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:20 and 2:6)

We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Heavenly places (Eph. 1:3)

We bear the image of the Heavenly (I Cor. 15:49)

There has never been a people like us at any time of the world’s existence. We are a brand-new creation. David saw it coming when he wrote Ps. 102:18: “This will be written for a generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.”

*“We are a Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a People for God’s Own Possession, so that we may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His Marvelous Light (I Peter 2:9).”*

*We are dead and our life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3); even so, we consider ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:11)*

All our favor is tied into the new creation and not the old. The Father, knowing that our old nature is dead only relates to our new nature in Christ. Therefore, **when He looks at us He does not see what is wrong with us. He sees what is missing from our current experience in Christ, and he is deeply committed to our ongoing encounter.** We are learning to grow up in all things Christ (Eph. 4:15).



Our relationship is to live in the second Adam (Jesus) who is occupied with the Father in Heavenly places. It is a completely different relational paradigm that give us a stronger connection and access to the Heavenly places. We are not earthbound in our spiritual walk but have a huge array of possible encounters with God available to us in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Eph. 2:6-7 "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming age he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."*

Like an eagle we are free to fly, not just to explore earth from a Heavenly perspective, but also to encounter Heaven in the context of all that the Father has called us to establish on earth.

In OT constantly saw God's people experiencing great encounters and incredible victories against impossible odds – this was under the Old Covenant – supposedly lesser than the New!

"Prophetic Wisdom"  
Graham Cooke