

# Back to Basics

## by Chaplain Frank Wm Nagy

We often find gaps in our development, abilities and or character.

Perhaps we were wounded. Satan acted early in our childhood to cut us off from God's love. This may have maimed us, not allowing us to develop naturally.

John 10:10 Jesus said, "The *thief* does not come, but to *steal*, to *kill* and to *destroy*."

But when does Satan, the chief thief, come? Does he wait until we are ready for him, as adults? No. He strikes as early as he can to confuse and overpower us at our weakest: in early childhood, if not in our infancy. Do we need proof of this? Consider what was written in Mark 9:

Mark 9:17 One of the multitude said, "Master, I have brought you my son, which has a dumb spirit; 18 And wherever he takes him, he tears him. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and pines away. I spoke with your disciples asking them to cast him out, but they could not."...

20 They brought the boy unto him. When he saw Jesus, right then the spirit tore him. He fell on the ground and wallowed foaming.

21 Jesus then asked the father, "How long ago has it been since this came to him?"

And he said, "*Of a child*."...

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I charge you, come out of him, and do not enter into him any more."

26 The spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him. He was as one dead; insomuch that many said, "He is dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand, lifted him up and he arose.

When did this devilish attack first come to this young man? When he was only a *child*!

**Child.** Strong's #G3812

παιδιόθεν

paidiothen *pahee-dee-oth'-en*

Adverb (of source) from G3813; *from infancy*: - of a child.

Strong's # **G3813**

παιδίον

paidion *pahee-dee'-on*

Neuter diminutive of G3816; a *childling* (of either sex), that is, (properly) an infant, or (by extension) a half grown *boy* or girl; figuratively an *immature* Christian: - (little, young) child, damsel.

Or, something may have been missing in our training.

You have heard all we ever needed to know was taught in Kindergarten. I just recently heard a neat joke that ties into this thought:

“Didn’t you go to elementary school?”

“I did, but I didn’t pay attention.”

“That’s why you have to go through basic training now!”

### **Cece’s Crawling Exercises:**

Something may have been missing in our training. I knew a girl I’ll call “Cece,” who as an infant never crawled, but went straight from laying in her crib to standing and walking. But this wonderful youngster, in her babyhood genius, had missed out on an important part of human development. When Cece “hit the wall” in her teenage years, a doctor, schooled in child-development, properly diagnosed the young lady’s problem and prescribed crawling exercises. This retro work cleared the blocks to Cece’s success.

### **My Second Childhood:**

In my case, I went through what seemed like a second childhood to many of my Christian friends. Leaders found me pulling infantile stunts when I had been a Christian for several years already. This late “Baby-Christian” phase occurred long after I had been acting the part of an elder brother in the Lord, while in college. But as it turned out I was not the mature man of God I had seemed. While in college, I was thrown into a leadership role, as I knew more scripture and was older than the rest of the kids I worked with. The Lord used me in that way, but He knew enough to lay a better groundwork in me before letting me get away from those, who could train me in some the basic disciplines I had missed. Part of this boot camp-like training was working as a janitor for 4 ½ years after gaining my BA degree.

God considers all of these things rating our level of responsibility for any action or inaction. However, we are best off to let God show us how to be delivered from missing the mark.

We may have gotten ahead of ourselves on some things and need to go back to make sure foundational things are solid before we can build any further. We may be doing just fine if we only have to build castles in the sky. Many of us have lofty visions without any plan to get to those dreamy heights. We have the third storey down pat, but the cement laid on the rock has to be examined and possibly re-poured. Basements and first and second level building must be up to code or we will remain up in the air.

I’d rather err to the side of caution to give the basics of milk along with the meat, so that wherever each person is, they can get what they need. The Bible says that not all of you

should be teachers, as the teacher is responsible and held accountable for what they teach and how. They are judged under a stricter code.

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many *masters* [teachers], knowing we shall receive the greater condemnation [judgment].

**Masters. Strong's #G1320**

διδάσκαλος

didaskalos *did-as'-kal-os*

From G1321; an *instructor* (generally or specifically): - doctor, master, teacher.

**Masters. Strong's #G1321**

διδάσκω

didaskō *did-as'-ko*

A prolonged (causative) form of a primary verb δάω daō (to *learn*); to *teach* (in the same broad application): - teach.

One of the responsibilities of a teacher is to see to it that their students are able to take the steps necessary to climb to a higher level.

I have always pictured it as helping one up a set of stairs.

We don't want to leave a person between stairs.

A person needs to have a solid footing, wherever they stand. They are better off left alone at a lower level of understanding and application, than to leave them with one foot hanging in the air. If they don't get up, with a firm footing to the second step, they are apt to slip back to step one or even fall backwards into the basement. In their confusion, they are highly unlikely to want to try for that second step again and you may have left them at the bottom of the basement stairs with a big welt on their head, even unwilling to get back up to where they were.

**My Grand Rapids Fiasco:**

A woman said she had been a Christian for years, strutting her stuff, as if she was more mature than she was. Then she got mad at what I told her I saw about her life. Her immaturity became evident when she heard the road ahead was hard. She wasn't yet ready to go the distance Christ had planned for her future, so she was upset hearing about it. While she wasn't ready to hear what was around the corner, I'm sure she will be prepared in time so that it won't be as much of a shock as she first thought. But I was a "horrible mean person" for telling her God wasn't going to give her roses without the thorns.

So I learned. Most people aren't ready to hear the whole story of what they will have to face.

Paul was unusual in how he responded to hearing about the rough road ahead of him. Annanias, the first to minister to him, was told the Lord would show Paul how much he would suffer for His Name:

Acts 9:10 There was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias."

He answered, "Behold, I am here, Lord."

11 The Lord said, "Arise and go into the street called 'Straight.' Inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus: for, behold, he prays, 12 and has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, putting his hand on him, so he might receive his sight."

13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on your name."

15 But the Lord said unto him, "Go your way. He is my chosen vessel, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. 16 ***For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.***"

17 So Ananias went his way, entered into the house, and putting his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared to you in the way as you came, has sent me, that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost."

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from his eyes. He received sight forthwith, rose and was baptized. 19 And when he ate, he was strengthened. Saul spent many days with the disciples at Damascus.

Wait a minute, Annaias didn't tell him all God had told him. That's right. And it wasn't up to him to do this. Over time, the Lord showed Paul what he would suffer, properly preparing him to take it all in stride. This biblical example shows it isn't up to any of us to tell these kind of things ahead of his schedule.

I'm sure I wouldn't have been ready to be told I'd be arrested in Siberia Russia in 1998 back in 1979. I wasn't fully ready to be lost in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area in 1979, even when I had been pre-warned by a dream. I wasn't cool about it when I was lost. However, that experience readied me for when the word that I'd be arrested in Siberia came to pass. Then I was able to be fully at peace and respond to the Lord in all the right ways prior to and in the situation.

Please be cautious when you get a severe word not to share it right away. Make it your prayer concern. Ask God what to do with what you have heard.

As I was preparing this message, I gave an early draft to Pastor Bill Hodge to get his feedback. He gave several good suggestions I was able to implement. In closing, Bill joked about how most prophets responded in the Bible to what God showed them:

“What do you see, man of God?”

“I see thus and such.”

“And what does it mean, son?”

“I don’t have a clue, Lord, You know.”

We must be careful in what we say about what we see.

We should avoid making final declarative judgments in giving a word. We will find ourselves trying to manipulate the people we prophesy to, or we will encourage them to be slack where God wants them active. Nineveh had more than 90 days after all, because they repented at Jonah’s dire Word. Others have had great prophecies fall away to nothing, because they sat on their hands, waiting for the word to come to pass without doing what they needed to do to cooperate with God to flesh out these words.

Decide right now to handle whatever the Lord gives you with the utmost of discretion, asking him how to properly proceed and support his work in others for the benefit of the Body of Christ to the glory of God.

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