

Today, I have three core desires for this message:

- 1. As children of God, we must understand growth cycles in the Father's kingdom.**
- 2. To know where Gateway currently is in our Father God-initiated growth cycle.**
- 3. To know, receive, and experience how God is meeting us in this growth cycle.**

Change for the Good

Encountering Jesus in Times of Growth

**As disciples of Jesus, we openly share
the gospel of Jesus Christ and our
testimony despite spiritual warfare
and resistance.**

Change for the Good

“I want to know you, God. I want to know your voice, and I want to know when you are talking to me.”

Lance Bane, 1990

Change for the Good

**What is a growth cycle in the
Father's kingdom?**

As followers of King Jesus, it is natural to mature into our identity as children of God and experience growth along the way.

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“...as we lovingly speak the truth, we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, who is the head.”

Ephesians 4:15 God's Word

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"Desire God's pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then, you will grow in your salvation. Certainly, you have tasted that the Lord is good!"

1 Peter 2:2-3 God's Word

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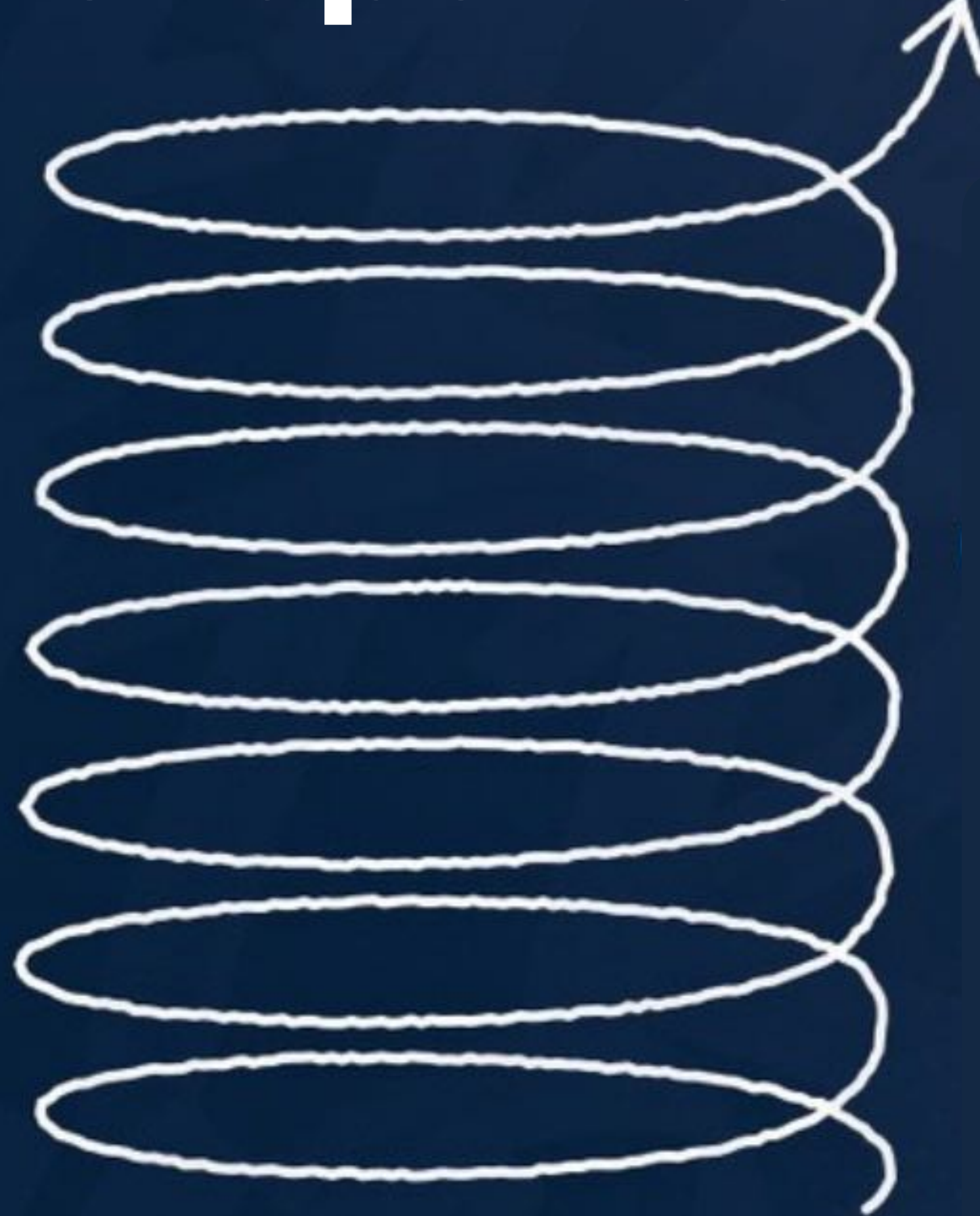
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Growing seasons can feel like we are going around and around in circles.



What if you look at growth from a different point of view?

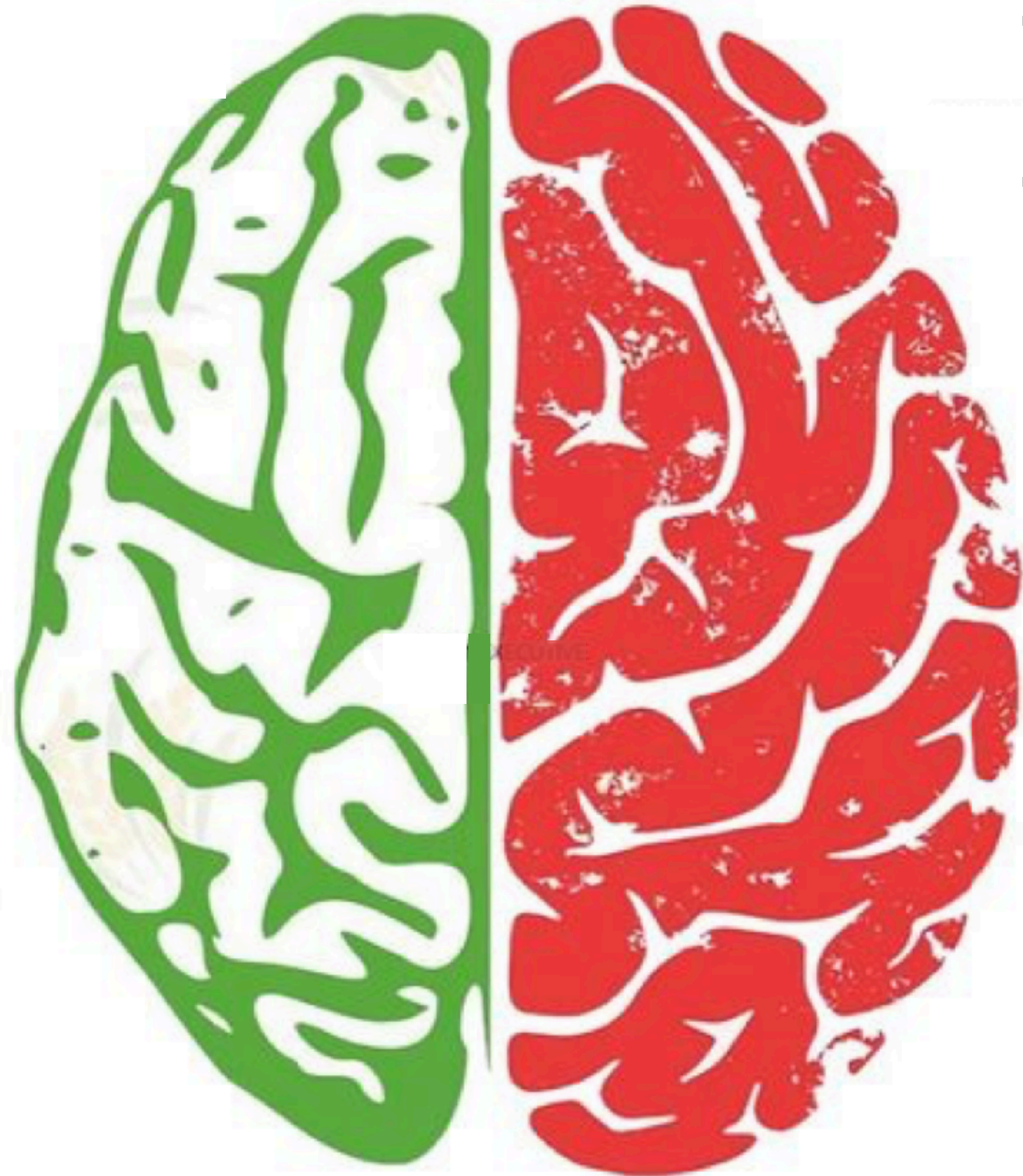


Growth **Attitude:**

Failure is an opportunity to grow.

Challenges help us grow.

Others' successes inspire us.



Fixed **Attitude:**

Failure is fatal.

We don't like to be challenged.

We are jealous of others' successes.

As followers of King Jesus, it is natural to mature into our identity as children of God and experience growth along the way.

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**Life is hard.
For some, it's a gift.
For others, it's a heavy burden.
For most of us, it's both at the same time.**

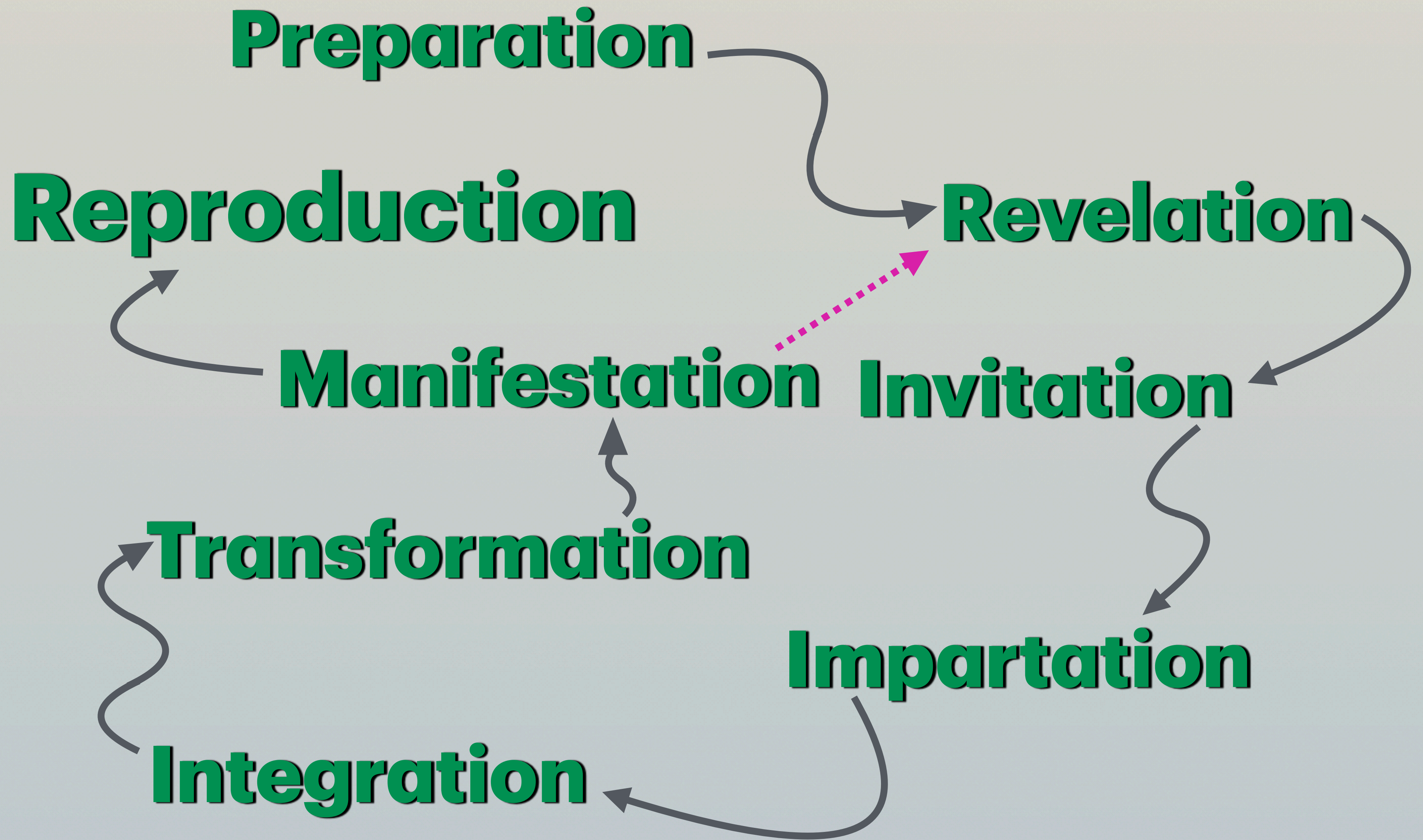
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**To be human is to experience suffering.
As children of God, we are adopted into it.**

**What kind of heart and attitude
will we have in seasons of growth?**

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God's Kingdom Growth Cycle



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“This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.”

Mark 4:26-27 NIV

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“...till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true.”

Psalm 105:17-19 NIV

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**Currently, where is Gateway
in our Father God-initiated
growth cycle?**

God's Kingdom Growth Cycle

Preparation (Seek First, Hunger, Worship)

Revelation (Prophecies, God is speaking)

Invitation (Do we surrender and say yes?)

Impartation (Seed of God's word is planted)

Integration (Refinement, Repentance, Confession)

Transformation (Internal adjustment to change)

Manifestation (Alignment of lifestyle & character)

Reproduction (Serving others in their growth)

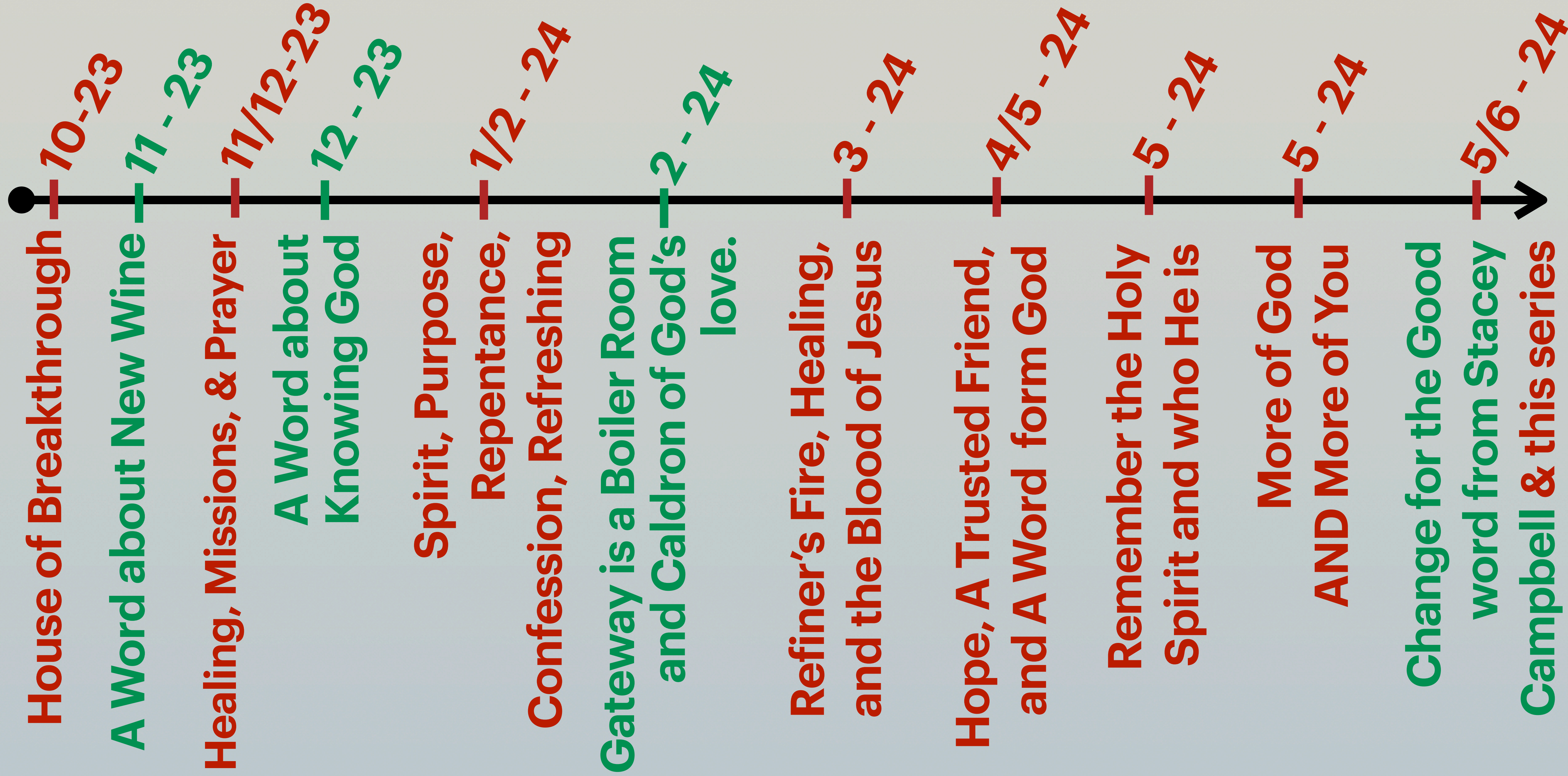
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"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"

Hebrews 12:28-29 NIV

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2023-2024 Message Timeline:



**How is God meeting us
during this growth cycle?**

I was impressed to read the gospel of Mark as a response to the Father's work among us. In this gospel, I see four ways that God helps us.

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Mark explains that Jesus is the Son of God and the Chosen One. Consequently, all of his gospel serves to testify to this truth.

Compassion
Authority
Rebuke
Kingdom

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Authority:

- **Jesus' authority and compassion often worked together in healing and deliverance.**
- **Jesus used His authority to protect, empower, provide, authorize, heal, and deliver.**
- **Jesus gives us the authority to do His good work supernaturally.**

“We share both positive and negative experiences with people in authority. A person with moral authority challenges the collective conscience to live holy and justly, honoring God, loving others, and overcoming evil. Attaining moral authority is not our focus; it’s our fruit. It results from faithfully living for Jesus in the long haul.”

*Moral Authority Series,
August 2023*

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Rebuke:

- **A rebuke is a disapproval or correction.**
- **Jesus has zero tolerance for religious people with 'know-it-all-ism'.**
- **Jesus continually challenged, corrected, and rebuked self-righteous religious leaders.**
- **A rebuke is biblical, loving, protective, and restorative.**
- **Jesus' rebuke is so solid and direct that the religious leaders regularly accused Him and plotted to kill Him.**

Kingdom:

- **In Exodus 19, Israel is defined as a kingdom of priests. This passage applies the titles of Old Testament Israel to an ethnically diverse New Testament church.**
- **The kingdom of God is Jesus' primary message.**
- **The church is God's kingdom agent, who is called, equipped, anointed, empowered, and released to cooperate with God's Spirit as He builds His kingdom in peoples' lives.**

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Application:

- 1. Be patient with yourself, the Father, and the process.**
- 2. Identify one vulnerable step you will make this week towards spiritual formation and growth.**
- 3. Come alongside another in their growth cycle with love, encouragement, and compassion.**

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Application:

- 4. Begin or maintain the practice of biblical meditation.**
- 5. Give the Father something to work with and stop living “Sunday to Sunday” christianity.**

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