

FROM 9 TO 19?

A MESSAGE FROM JESUS

I'VE CREATED YOU TO GROW UP IN STAGES. ONE REASON FOR THAT IS TO TEACH YOU PATIENCE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS IN LIFE, AND ONE THAT YOU BEGIN TO LEARN WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG.

WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG, THERE IS A LOT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO; YOU WANT TO GO PLACES AND SEE AND DO THINGS THAT OLDER PEOPLE GET TO DO, BUT IF YOU GREW UP TOO QUICKLY, YOU WOULDN'T GAIN THE PATIENCE AND HUMILITY THAT YOU WILL NEED WHEN YOU ARE OLDER IN ORDER TO DO YOUR JOB OR INTERACT WELL WITH YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY.



PATIENTLY SHARING GOD'S
WORD WITH OTHERS



PATIENTLY COOKING ANOTHER
DINNER FOR YOUR FAMILY

PATIENTLY KEEPING AN
OFFICE INVENTORY



SKILL

I did an excellent job of decorating a cake on my first try!



KNOWLEDGE

JUST IMAGINE IF I HAD MADE THINGS SO THAT IT ONLY TOOK A YEAR FOR YOU TO GROW UP, LEARN EVERYTHING, AND BECOME AN ADULT. YOU MIGHT THINK THAT WOULD BE NICE. YOU WOULD SKIP MOST OF THE GROWING STAGES BY GOING FROM BABY TO ADULT IN ONE LEAP.

In one year I have read and understood the entire Bible—I no longer need to study it!



I barely had to study and I already know how to drive!

WISDOM

BUT THEN YOUR LIFE WOULD BE OFF BALANCE, BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T GAIN THE SKILLS AND EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY THAT ONE LEARNS THROUGH TIME AND EXPERIENCE. ALSO, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GAINED PATIENCE AND HUMILITY.



IF THAT'S HOW PEOPLE GREW UP, THEN EVERYONE WOULD PROBABLY THINK THEY KNEW BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE. THEY WOULD INTERACT WITH A GREAT LACK OF PATIENCE, SINCE THEY NEVER LEARNED PATIENCE DUE TO GROWING UP TOO FAST.

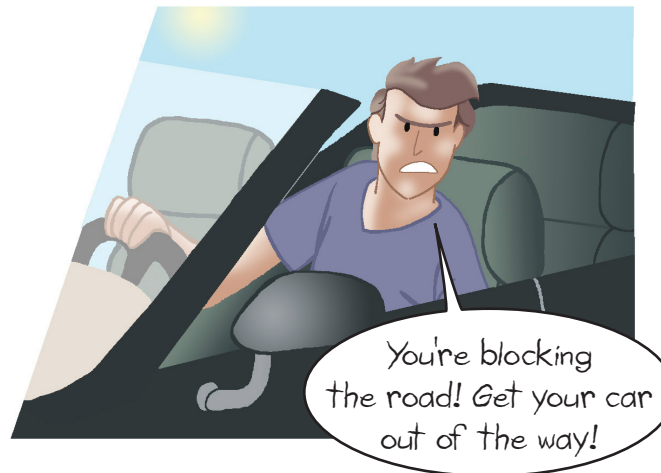


SO ENJOY LEARNING THE LESSONS THAT COME WITH EVERY AGE. SAVOR EACH STAGE OF GROWTH AND KNOW THAT IT IS ALL PART OF THE PROCESS TO HELP YOU BECOME WHAT I WANT YOU TO BE.

LET'S NOT GET TIRED OF DOING WHAT IS GOOD. AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST OF BLESSING IF WE DON'T GIVE UP (GALATIANS 6:9 NLT).



IF THAT HAPPENED, EVERYONE WOULD BE HARSH AND IMPATIENT WITH EACH OTHER.



DID YOU KNOW THAT PATIENCE IS A FRUIT OF JESUS' SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES? FIND OUT MORE IN "POWER-UP DEVOTIONAL #7: SPIRIT FRUIT: PATIENCE."

