

GROWING UP IN GOD'S FAMILY

A Story for Adults to Remember

2 Samuel 24:10–25



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Among the numerous Old Testament narratives, there are magnificent stories of ecstasy and triumph as well as agony and tragedy. All are preserved for our benefit. From each we can find both analogies and lessons to live by. One such story appears in Scripture toward the end of David's life. Although many of the stories revolving around David's experiences are fairly familiar to us today, this one may not be. Because this narrative holds several truths that illustrate the marks of maturity in a believer's life, it seems fitting that we blow the dust off this ancient account and consider its value in our lives today. As we think through and relive its scenes, let's not miss its message to us as we press on to maturity.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. A Reminder: The Reason for Old Testament Stories

- Why they were written: for our instruction and teaching
- What they provide: perseverance, encouragement, and hope

2. A Story: The Maturity of the Ancient King

- A Mature Conscience (2 Samuel 24:10)
- A Mature Mind (24:11–14)
- A Mature Attitude (24:15–24)
- A Mature Spirit (24:25)



Quotable

Why has God preserved the first 39 books of the Bible? For our instruction, perseverance, encouragement, and hope.

— Charles R. Swindoll



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3. A Message: The Lessons for Adults Today

- Perseverance: When we fail, the mature do not quit.
- Encouragement: When we obey, the mature do not argue.
- Hope: When we sacrifice, we do not lose.



LISTEN TO CHUCK

“Spiritual Growth” from The Valley of Vision

Give me a tender, wakeful conscience
that can smite and torment me when I sin.
May I be consistent in conversation and conduct,
the same alone as in company,
in prosperity and adversity,
accepting all Thy commandments as right,
and hating every false way.
May I never be satisfied with my present spiritual progress,
but to faith add virtue, knowledge, temperance,
godliness, brotherly kindness, charity.
May I never neglect
what is necessary to constitute Christian character,
and needful to complete it.
May I cultivate the expedient,
develop the lovely,
adorn the gospel,
recommend the religion of Jesus,
accommodate myself to Thy providence.

Keep me from sinking or sinning in the evil day;
Help me to carry into ordinary life portions of divine truth
and use them on suitable occasions, so that
its doctrines may inform,
its warnings caution,
its rules guide,
its promises comfort me.¹



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LET'S LIVE IT

Time to get real: Is there something in your life dishonoring to the Lord or someone close to you that you need to acknowledge today? What things keep you from owning your sin and lead you to resist the Lord? Can you honestly identify those things and bring them to the Lord?

Are you willing to raise your hand and agree with the Lord's call and say to Him, "That's on me, Lord, and I'm sorry"? When you are, you are on your way toward making genuine progress in your spiritual growth. Don't you think it's time to grow up?

ENDNOTE

1. Arthur Bennett, ed., *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions* (Carlisle, Penn.: Banner of Truth, 2016), 109.



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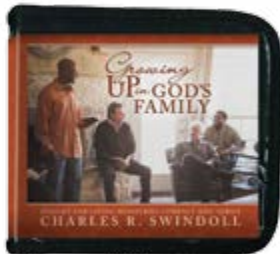
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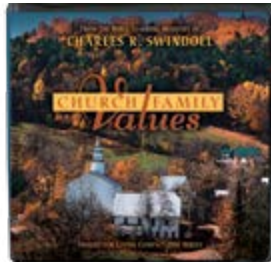
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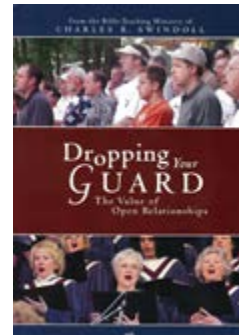
Tools for Digging Deeper



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**Dropping Your Guard:
The Value of Open
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