

**God Calls
Us
to Maturity
not
Perfection**

by

*Wilbur S. Johnson
Ashland, Kansas*

Books by Wilbur Johnson

Faith Alive in Heart, Home and Church 1989

Build My People 1991

Take Charge of Life 1994

Jesus in the Holy Land and Egypt Sand 1996

Rhymes for the Times (Poems) 1996

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Please Meet the Author

by Chuck Thomas

"Have you ever met someone that you felt, from the moment you met, you have known for a life time? It feels like they have been in your life forever. There seems to be an immediate "connection." As you develop a closer relationship, you discover that you and the other person think a lot alike. That was the feeling I got the first time I met Wilbur Johnson and then later Imalee. Wilbur and Imalee Johnson have been an inspiration to me since the first time I met them. One of the first people I met when I enrolled at Midwest Christian College, in January of 1951, was Wilbur Johnson.

Some years later my family and I were ministering to the Meade Christian Church in Meade, KS. I learned that Wilbur and his family were ministering to the Christian Church in Minneola, Ks. We began to visit often and got acquainted with Wilbur, Imalee and their five children and came to appreciate their love and commitment to ministering to people. We were both involved in the Ashland Christian Service Camp at Ashland, KS for several years.

Brother Wilbur developed a study on Dealing With The Devil and a study guide on The Holy Spirit Applied. I had the opportunity to schedule several meetings with Wilbur and Imalee in the following years and was impressed with the simple, yet powerful manner Wilbur taught and preached. He was one of the first to use very colorful charts and study guides. I have used his study materials a number of times and have found them to be very effective as teaching tools.

We invited Wilbur and Imalee to hold a meeting at the Cushing Christian Church in Cushing, OK. While there

Wilbur need additional printed material for his study series. The church had an A.B. Dick offset press and a plate burner, so we started on the project of printing the needed materials. About half way through the project, the press began to do all kinds of odd things. After washing the cylinders several times, Wilbur suggested that we have a prayer session and ask the Lord to "fix the press" and at the same time build a hedge of protection around us to prevent Satan from invading the area. We started the press again and it worked perfectly. I soon discovered that this reliance upon the Lord was a regular experience for Brother Wilbur and that he spent time every morning praying for his family, travel, meetings and a closer walk with the Master. After following his example, it became obvious that this process had tremendous power and I continue to practice the process each day.

One of the most impressive aspects of my relationship with Wilbur and Imalee, is their ability to "wait on the Lord." I have observed the Lord providing their needs physically, financially, spiritually and in fact every need in their lives. It has been a real blessing to share with them on special occasions and to keep contact through e-mail with their lives and family. I really relate to Brother Wilbur's statement, "The Lord can use any crooked stick to accomplish his Will if they are available." I'm not too sure how much of a "crooked stick" Wilbur and Imalee are, but the Lord has certainly used them."

**Charles "Chuck" Thomas - Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*Bro. Chuck Thomas has been a special friend of mine for over fifty years. I'll not repeat what he said above about our meetings, labors together and fellowship across the years. For

many years now Chuck as served as a Director of our Faith Alive Days ministry, prayed with and for us, shares monetary gifts including a Compaq computer a few years ago.

"Singing I Go" is the name of a beautiful song suggesting we sing while traveling our Road of Life. Chuck Thomas is a Brother who *sings* for Jesus all along his way--always sharing, teaching, preaching, living helping others as a Minister, husband, father of four children, Church elder, Youth worker, Bible Teacher, certified by the State of Oklahoma as a Substance, Alcohol and Abuse Counselor. He holds an A.B. degree from Midwest Christian College of Oklahoma City and a B.S. degree in science from O.S.U.

His attitude of "Bloom where you are Planted" advances him from a bud to a bloom of beauty. The words of this old hymn sum up Chuck's Helpfulness.

*"Somebody did a golden deed, Proving himself a friend in need;
Somebody sang a cheerful song, Bright'ning the sky the whole
day long,
(That) was somebody (Chuck)! (That) was somebody
(Chuck)!"*

*"Somebody make a loving gift, Cheerfully tried a load to lift;
Somebody's work bore joy and peace, Surely his life shall never
cease,
(That) was somebody (Chuck)! (That) was somebody
(Chuck)!"*

by W.S. Weeden and adapted by Wilbur Johnson

With deepest gratitude -- Wilbur S. Johnson

Maturity Menu

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Quotes worthy of note

**"Growing old is inevitable, maturing is optional." Jewel Diamond
Taylor**

**"We cannot control our circumstances but we can learn control over
our response, and that is maturing. When we make the right
decisions in the difficult times of living then we are maturing." Joel
Osteen**

**"Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans.
Maturity is what happens to you while you are living and
experiencing trails." Art Linkletter**

**Those who desire to pursue this ...atter of maturity will find much
help in my study book *The Holy Spirit Applied*" which is available
from our office at Box 146, Ashland, Kansas 67831 . e-mail
johnson2@ucom.net or Phone 620 - 635 - 2826**

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Other translations used will be designated as follows:

NKJ - New King James Version
ASV - American Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
LB - Living Bible

**Hereafter, in this book, all special markings of italics, underlining,
or all-caps in Scripture verses are mine.**

-- Introduction --

Meant to be read

In the first three chapters of this book I discuss the meaning/definition of maturity, and in chapters four through eight some of the tools we can use to mature.

The bottom line of maturity vss perfection is contained in the following conversation:

As I sat drinking coffee with Charley Monroe at Bricks Cafe in Arkansas City, Kansas our conversation went like this:

WSJ --"Charley are you perfect?"

Charley: "I try to be"

WSJ-- "Well, what keeps you from being perfect?"

Charley: "Sin keeps me from being perfect. We all sin you know."

So, there we have it in a nutshell. People like you and I and Charley try for perfection; but, it is not possible for we all sin. And the "trying" aspects become impossible as with various devices of religion and subterfuges (sometimes they are the same) we strive vainly to be 100% perfect. But only maturity is possible, and that is all God requires.