

## THE PERILS OF YOUTH AND IMMATURITY

September 8, 2019 Job 32-37 by Bob Branch

Thinking About Suffering with Faith and Truth, part 8

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**BIG IDEA: Immaturity is dangerous but not fatal, if we are wise and open to what we don't know and adopt a humble, learning attitude.**

- Speaks from frustration-anger. (32:1-5; 18-20)
- Prove Job wrong—he's wicked. (32:12)
- Vents arrogantly, claim objectivity. (32:21; 36:1f)
- Showboats his knowledge—but restates only. (33:29-30; 34:11;)
- Myopic lens: "Big God," interprets thru. (34:14-27; 36:26; 37:1ff)
- God's not silent; listen; mortals. (33: 14-20; 34:18-19, 29; 35:12-15)
- He *gets* God's majesty, misses love, mercy, kindness.<sup>(all)</sup>

### 1. What we say and do **REVEALS** our maturity or immaturity—and, what is inside us!

"Then Elihu... burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. He burned with anger also at Job's three friends..." **Job 32:2-3, 5** ESV

**"The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him." **Matthew 12:34-35**

*What does what you're saying reveal about what's inside you?*

### 2. We **SPEAK** and **INTERPRET** from the maturity we have—not what we do *not* have!

"Milk is for beginners [infants], inexperienced in God's ways; solid food is for the mature, who have some practice in telling right from wrong." **Hebrews 5:13-14** TM (1 Cor. 13:11)

### 3. Immaturity can be **HURTFUL** when left unchecked, unmentored and without honest self-reflection.

- **Slow it down.** "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" **James 1:19**
- **Ask the Spirit for insight and direction.** "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." **James 1:5** (Jn. 5:19f; 8:6-8)
- **Be generous with your love and use fewer words!** "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless." **Jas 1:26**
- **Find someone mature to walk alongside.** *Ask. Submit.*

### 4. Youthful zeal can also be beautiful and **PRODUCTIVE**.

Building a container—Filling the container.

#### **MATURITY—a running start**

- **Loving God the most.**
- **Loving others more**—"people who are turning into love"
- **Knowing, owning and submitting to truth.**
- **More humble, more dependent, more trusting, more thoughtfully slow and intentional**
- **Less self-reliant, less certain of everything, less stuff to prove.**
- **Knowing both God and ourselves better**
- **Being a learner!**
- **Letting God balance pain and joy**—"a bright sadness and a sober happiness" Rohr