

# Nimble Elasticity

Long Beach Alliance Church August 24, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

*~John 15:5 (ESV)*

## 1) **Spiritual Maturity**

- A) Spiritual birth (John 3:3) transforms a person from sinful separation from God to a justified (righteous) relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:20-23). While Good News, it still leaves you in a state of immaturity (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- B) Spiritual maturity moves past elementary details of faith (Hebrews 6:1-2) to a progressively sanctified (according to God's purposes) life of Christlikeness (Ephesians 4:13-14).
- C) Maturity in Christ reinforces the foundational response of faith in Christ regularly and in a dedicated manner (Philippians 3:8-9). Maturity pushes deeper, seeking complete identity with Christ (3:10-11), with intentional Gospel passion (3:12-15).
- D) God transforms our lives from immaturity to maturity to glorification (Philippians 3:20-21) by His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17-20).

## 2) **Developing Gospel Centered Elasticity For Real Life**

- A) Intentionally reading God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) actively engages God's voice, His Spirit (John 14:23-26), training us to live spiritually at all times (Romans 12:1-2) in spiritual conversation (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- B) Engaging God's voice includes reading His Word and prayer, as well as praying the God's Word in our lives (e.g. Colossians 3:1-17). Singing is a significant way to intentionally engage God's voice in our lives (3:16). Memorizing key Bible verses and storylines is both recommended (Psalm 119:9-11) and exemplified (Matthew 4:1-11). Finally, study God's Word together (Colossians 1:28-29), for deeper understanding.