

SAPPHIRE LEADERSHIP GROUP

Noble Subjects of the Great King

DECEMBER 9, 2011 NEWSLETTER

NEW RELEASE



The process for developing a new product is fairly predictable. We receive revelation. We experiment on each other in the office and on anyone else who happens to call in during that season.

If we get good results, Arthur schedules a few seminars to practice the presentation. It is always a mixed bag for those who come. On the one hand, they receive the new insights months before everyone else does. On the other hand, they get a pretty rough version.

Eventually Arthur deems it reasonably well aged wine, and it is recorded. Then Megan, Hanna and Sandy conspire and collaborate to make it beautiful and technically enjoyable.

This year's new message was "Trauma Bonds to Time." Simply put, what makes one event "sticky" while another is not? When two people experience similar trauma, why is one able to put it behind them in a year's time and the other is still marked by that emotion ten years later?

While this is hardly a new topic in the healing community, the model Arthur presents has some very new material, which has been highly effective in many people's lives.

This teaching will be released in a few weeks. Watch the New Products box on the home page of the website for the big news. It will be available as a CD album or audio download. ■



1) THEFT

It is quite amazing how often I receive a check in the mail saying someone copied an album without permission for a friend, and now they wanted to make a donation to cover it.

Try taking something from Wal-Mart without paying for it, but with the intention of paying them a couple of weeks later, and see what they think of your explanation.

2) COWARDICE

As I am sure you have noticed on the blogs, I generally publish comments about me that are hostile. I do so out of a desire to be authentic and to engage in productive discussions with my adversaries.

I generally respond to the critics in the comment section, asking for clarification of their antagonism to me. Almost invariably, there is no response from the attacker.

May I suggest that doing a hit and run attack like that says a lot more about you than it does about me? If you want to assault me publicly, stick around and carry on an honest conversation about the issue, in public.

3) RUDENESS

Why do people make an appointment to ask me about their situation and then relentlessly interrupt me every time I try to explain what I see? If you already know what you think about the situation, don't call me and waste my time. ■



We have progress to report!

After lengthy research and consultation, we have decided on the three pieces of equipment we will be purchasing.

Dr. Norma is taking the training to know how to run the machines.

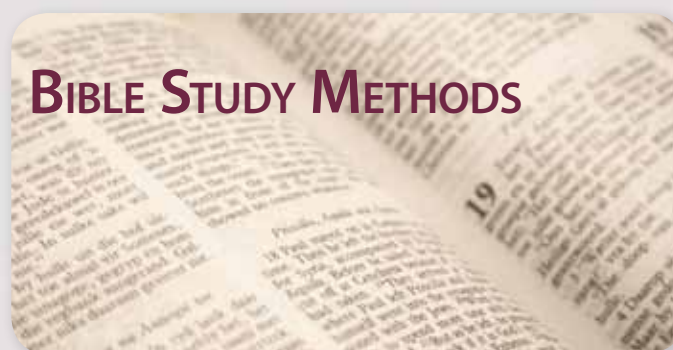
And we are finally ready for volunteers. If you are interested in helping us map the impact of the human spirit on the brain, you can go to www.BrainRenewalProject.com, click on "Volunteer Info" and fill out the volunteer form.

We are especially interested in people from California for starters. After that, we will travel to whatever region has the highest density of volunteers.

On the blog you will find a description of the process as well as our full disclosure and disclaimer statements.

At this stage, we need people at all points on the spectrum – from those with a lot of spirit ministry already to those with minimal exposure to the topic.

We anticipate running our first tests in January. ■



A powerful tool for revealing deep truths in a passage is to explore the verbs. Print out a section of the Word for study, then underline all of the verbs in the passage.

For example, in the Sermon on the Mount, the first Beatitude is present tense. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs IS the Kingdom of Heaven." KJV

But that is not consistent throughout. The next one is, "Blessed are the meek for they SHALL INHERIT the earth." KJV This one is future tense. Why? And when?

Simply studying the tense of the verbs in the Beatitudes will reveal new depths we do not easily see when simply reading or quoting them.

Most other passages also yield great treasures when we explore the verbs. ■

MOTHERING OR FATHERING?



Here are two simple pictures.

1. It is Monday morning. Mom gets the kids out of bed, feeds them a nutritious breakfast, reminds them to gather up their books and homework, and gets them to school on time.
2. At school a teacher communicates ideas and designs a series of activities to help the student develop competency.

The first picture is of mothering. A key part of mothering is to provide the resources and environment for the child to have an opportunity to advance. Ideally, mothering is done in an evenhanded way, giving all the children essentially the same resources. Generally the kids love the provisions from their mother.

The teacher has a fathering approach. His or her goal is to unpack the potential in the child. A seven year old has the ability to learn how to read, but no amount of good environment automatically causes reading to happen. The potential in the child is only unpacked by some strategic pressure from outside. And generally the children do not like the pressure from the fathering components of their society.

Now, if the mothering is not in place first, the child will not learn. It takes a mothering approach (whether by a male or female) to create the environment of a rested, fed, well resourced child at school.

But after mothering has reached high tide, it still requires fathering (whether by a male or female) to create the pressure that unpacks the potential within a child.

A KEY PART OF MOTHERING IS TO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILD TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE. GENERALLY THE KIDS LOVE THE PROVISIONS FROM THEIR MOTHER.

The dramatically different dynamics generate a lot of emotions and expectations. A mother is highly focused on equality. Fathering allows for differentiation as one child excels and another doesn't.

And when a child (or an adult) has had a high level of mothering without parallel fathering, they come to believe the myth that all of their advancement in life hinges on the external environment being kind, gentle and replete with resources.

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To use the dirty word of our culture, excess mothering leads to an entitlement spirit – the belief that one's future is dependent on someone else's provision of the "right" environment for them to succeed.

This is the irony of the Occupy Wall Street movement. There is so much truth on both sides. However, when either side espouses one side of the equation at the expense of the other, it warps the whole argument.

Have the corporate giants been predatory and reduced opportunities in the economic environment so that many people have less ability to succeed?

Absolutely. There is a definite lack of mothering. Much needs to be changed in the corporate economic environment to make it possible for the disenfranchised to get in the game and succeed. Some mothering environmental changes are long overdue. No question.

However, the anti-Occupy movement is telling them to grow up, take a bath and go get a job. Is there any justice in that? Yes, I think so. There are people who have had too much mothering instead of too little and they need pressure, not privilege to draw out their potential.

So mothering has to precede fathering. But fathering has to follow mothering.

And that is where the rub is. People become accustomed to their "mother" doing all the heavy lifting for them and come to the wrong conclusion that this is the way life is, or at the very least, should be.

They come to sincerely believe that if they just had a better environment, they could thrive.

The reality is that the environment only goes so far.

Perhaps no other situation highlights it so well as the time in the womb. The environment there was pretty special, and it allowed the body to develop passively but that is all.

The body did not come to a point of excellence in the womb. It could not do sit ups, run a mile or play the piano when it left that special environment.

**SO MOTHERING
HAS TO PRECEDE FATHERING.
BUT FATHERING
HAS TO FOLLOW MOTHERING.**

The soul was also pretty massively incompetent when it left the womb. And even the spirit, if left alone, is born with huge potential but little impact in life.

After the baby leaves that magnificent environment, everything from nursing, to learning to walk, to learning to read, to learning to make a living requires the child to stretch beyond the benefits of the environment and to unpack the potential that is there.

And the harsh reality is that broadly speaking, the more challenging the fathering environment, the more of a person's potential gets unpacked. Coast Guard boot camp is less intensive (painful) than Marine Corp boot camp, and the outcome is proportionally different. Marines have more of their potential unpacked, on the average.

The homework demanded at Cal Tech or MIT is considerably greater than the homework required at Cal State Fullerton, or your favorite online college program.

And the end result of the harshness of Cal Tech is that a greater portion of your intellectual potential is unpacked by that fathering process.

Cause and effect.

Against that backdrop, consider our presentation of the redemptive gifts. We deliberately began with a mothering approach, but now have shifted to a fathering approach, with the predictable howls of protest.

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE
LISTENED TO THE TEACHING,
FELT IT WAS A POWERFUL,
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BUT A YEAR LATER,
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— JUST INFORMED!
THAT IS MOTHERING!!

The original CD album "[Redemptive Gifts of Individuals](#)" showed how the gifts work in community. You listen passively in whatever environment suits you best. Some listen to one CD repeatedly before moving on, and others breeze through the whole set. Some do it while jogging, others while taking notes.

And the net result varies immensely, but it is mostly data acquisition. People understand more or less, depending on where they are when they start, and they often feel vindicated, explained, or empowered. Not a bad thing in itself, but it falls far short of unpacking the gift.

So many people have listened to the teaching, felt it was a powerful, transforming tool, but a year later, found themselves completely untransformed – just informed! That is mothering!!

We continued in this mothering theme for nearly a decade. The video which is available on [the iPod](#) shows how each redemptive gift interfaces with God differently. This is a different angle from the original interrelationship between each of the gifts in community.

The book, "[Alive with Passion and Purpose](#)" shows how the redemptive gifts play out in the culture, both righteously and unrighteously, in a spiritual context or a secular one.

"[The Gifts and the King](#)" illustrates how individuals can use their gift in ministry in the community.

"[The Majesty of His Artistry](#)" is a grand panorama of how the gifts of individuals, land, people groups and time all are used by the Master in His incredible chess game of world history.

"[Redemptive Gifts of Cities](#)" and "Seven Principles" explain the gifts of the land and show how communities with those gifts can be redeemed, but again, endless people have figured out the gift of their city and found that it was not transformed by that knowledge.

"[Seven Curses](#)" developed the default legitimacy lie of each redemptive gift and the resulting curse that flows from the wrong attitude and life style.

"[Walking in Sonship](#)" explores how the seven redemptive gifts parallel the levels of parenting God ordained.

"[Developing Your Spirit](#)" looks at the finer points of the redemptive gifts as manifested in your human spirit.

All told, there is a plethora of resources in the Sapphire environment for those who wish to learn about the gifts. All of this is in the mothering side of things – a passive environment which is positive, empowering and readily available for those who wish to use it.

And many have used the opportunity to leverage the good data and good environment into transformation.

If you Google "redemptive gifts" you will find thousands of hits, as many people with a spirit of sonship have availed themselves of the mothering environment and unpacked their own treasures, producing a new iteration of the teaching.

THEREFORE WE
DEVELOPED THE
"SAPPHIRE TRAINING CENTER"
FOR THE REDEMPITIVE GIFTS.
THIS IS FATHERING
IN THE EXTREME.
YOU MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
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While this is wonderful, we felt that on the average, most of these second generation teachings were still heavily on the mothering side of things. I travel the world and find people who know the data but are not changed by it! This is not the point.

Therefore we developed the "[Sapphire Training Center](#)" for the redemptive gifts. THIS is fathering in the extreme. You must take advantage of the mothering first. If you have not listened and read and passively absorbed the previously recorded material, you will be hopelessly lost in this training course.

Mothering is not wrong, and it should precede fathering. But it is not enough.

I TRAVEL THE WORLD
AND FIND PEOPLE
WHO KNOW THE DATA
BUT ARE NOT CHANGED BY IT!
THIS IS NOT THE POINT.

As a fathering course, it does not really teach you about the redemptive gifts. Oh, you will learn a little more about them than you knew before, but it is not about helping you master more data.

Rather, it is all about pushing you to unpack what is within you! The tools are designed to reveal you to you, in a dynamic transformational way.

And this is why 95% of the people who sign up don't even finish lesson one! They are accustomed to mothering and emphatically decline to engage in the very challenging environment of fathering. Having to explore deeply who they are, who they have been becoming, and what is there that still needs to be unpacked is plain old hard work.

So, people leave their lessons unfinished and go looking for a kinder, gentler mothering environment that will leave them with more data on the tip of their tongue but without the transformation that comes from the hard work of being fathered and unpacking their own treasures.

A talented musician who can pass any test about the violin, how it should be played, what it is made to do, etc., is not remotely the same as a musician who can play the violin! Knowing who we are is not the same as unpacking who we are.

There are those who persist in the Sapphire Training Center. They lean into the fathering environment and are massively changed inside as a result of the training. It is not about what they learn. It is all about who they become.

KNOWING WHO WE ARE
IS NOT THE SAME
AS UNPACKING
WHO WE ARE.

This is fathering – giving you the opportunity (and the pressure) to unpack what you already have within you.

For most, it is nearly impossible to do without cheerleaders and peer support and all those other crutches in life. But I am reminded of the greatest leadership school in America: West Point.

THIS IS FATHERING:
GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY
(AND THE PRESSURE)
TO UNPACK
WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE
WITHIN YOU.

Although it is a very demanding environment, they train the teachers and upper classmen not to offer verbal affirmation to the younger classmen. Their reason for this is to unpack a vital component of their design: the ability to find joy in a job well done.

So many people don't know how to experience that. From the time we learn to walk, we are looking to other people for a verbal or at least a visual affirmation. We develop the portion of our identity and our brain that allows us to thrive when people celebrate us.

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But West Point understands that true leadership involves doing superlative work when no one is looking. Therefore they force (in a fathering style) the cadets to do exceptionally well, to know they have done an exceptional job, and to find all their fulfillment in that fact, with no outside support.

All of us have the brain and soul software required not to need affirmation. Because we live in a feedback crazed society, few people have been fathered enough to unpack that resource which they DO have.

So today I extend high honor to those of you who have engaged in the Sapphire Training Center process, who have labored long and hard, all alone, and have kept on going. I honor you for moving beyond data acquisition and embracing transformation – unpacking your treasures in a big way.

For those of you who are becoming you, instead of becoming ambulatory encyclopedias, I would love to receive an [e-mail](#), sharing what the process has been like and where the most transformation came from.

I am asking this since we are getting ready to start the second set of lessons, and it will be very different. I want to transfer all of the good tools from the first section, as well as adding new ones we have acquired along the way.

If you will share your experiences, it will help me father better.

And I promise not to praise you in such a way that it would detract from your becoming a West Point kind of leader! ■



The King loves His bride. The devil hates it. Both have vast tools at their disposal and are locked in a cosmic battle.

So what is the score, currently?

There are at least ten thousand metrics we could use to score the game, but let's use just the mothering/fathering metric for today.

In our culture today, most local churches tend to fall into either a mothering or a fathering mode.

In a mothering church everything is about the environment that makes it safe and comfortable for the participant. When that is the focus, people become pampered and broadly useless.

AS USUAL OUR KING IS FAR OUT AHEAD OF THE ENEMY.

These are the churches where people do nothing to prepare for worship but expect the “worship leader” to get them into the presence of God.

They read the Scripture on the big screen and are so Biblically illiterate that they could not sequence Jezebel, Jael and Jediah or tell you where in the Bible you find the fruit of the Spirit.

They read “Blessing Your Spirit” to their spouse and children five times and still utterly lack the ability (or willingness) to craft their own blessing for a loved one.

They are pew potatoes who exchange a dollar in the offering for a broad array of creature comforts and are more or less useless to the King, although they claim profound loyalty to Him.

This is a far cry from the more aggressively disciplined culture of my father’s day. Remember an organization called The Navigators? Hundreds of thousands of young men purchased those sets of key verses and memorized verses with a buddy holding them accountable. They and sundry other organization and growth modalities are largely unknown today.

GOD IS
SUCH A MASTER AT PLANNING
AHEAD.

On the other hand, the churches that do fathering without appropriate mothering are generally program driven. They are the churches that know how to build and have a robustly staffed local church, mission points in Asia, orphanages in Africa, inner city projects, and a preschool to college educational package.

They demand high involvement from their people in the church vision, but altogether too often, they are staffing based on need instead of design. So individuals are placed in assignments because they are willing and loyal, whether or they have the God-given design for that task.

Often there is not the mothering environment that prepares them emotionally and environmentally for the challenges before them, and the strain to deliver the goods in areas outside their design does not unpack it but merely depletes their resources and leaves them exhausted at the end of another month of frenetic activity.

Contrast that with Jesus’ skillful weaving together of both dynamics. He mothered his disciples. They were with Him day and night, and He had endless conversations with them, equipping them broadly.

But He also fathered them, such as sending them out with no mothering resources, not even a cell phone or an American Express card. When they went out two by two, they were expected to draw from what was inside them, not from Him or their own safety net.

A lovely sequence of mothering and fathering.

But today's church does not always reflect the King's skill and values.

I SEE GOD METICULOUSLY,
SYSTEMATICALLY
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WELL MOTHERED FIRST,
THEN WELL FATHERED,
AND NOW ARE READY TO GO FORTH
AND DO HIS BIDDING,
WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES.

Broadly speaking, we have the rampant sissification of America. Whether we look at the secular or religious arenas, the message is the same: people need a better opportunity.

While that is still true for many, it is not the whole truth, because many people have had too much mothering and now need the pressure of fathering to unpack what is in them.

However, there is no reason to despair. As usual our King is far out ahead of the enemy. While the devil was craftily leveraging the society toward softness and entitlement, God was implementing His master plan.

Think of the grand exodus from the institutional church in the last eleven years. Millions and millions have left the church, but not the faith. What is in it for God?

Well, fathering for one!

Think of all the people who have had to learn how to worship deeply and passionately without any corporate environment! When all the mothering support was taken away, they learned to worship with no support at all by unpacking what was within them. Priceless!

Think of all the people who have learned to grow without any pastoral care or other ideal mothering environment. When all the support was taken away, they learned to unpack what was within them in a larger, bolder fashion without being dependent on their environment. Priceless!

Think of all the people who have had to learn how to minister without anyone else providing a smooth, supportive environment around them. They responded to the hard fathering environment by learning how to minister from the treasures that are within them, with good fruit and without complaints. Priceless!

Think of all the people who have learned how to do community without having someone to make it easy for them. Under the fathering circumstances of being disenfranchised, they learned how to build communities for others, instead of looking for someone to do it for them. Priceless!

This is why I am excited about America's future. I see God meticulously, systematically raising up a generation of sons who have been well mothered first, then well fathered, and now are ready to go forth and do His bidding, when the right time comes.

The King has a master plan, and it calls for a huge number of sons who know how to father others, and who, incidentally, have no patience at all for the whining of the over-mothered crowd who is upset when God begins the process of unpacking their own treasures in a high pressure environment.

Aslan is on the move, and as usual the devil's seeming triumphs in the culture and in the church will crumble before the precision and power of our Great King.

What a mighty God we serve! How magnificent it is to watch Him planning ahead, outmaneuvering the devil every time.

A snapshot of the institutional church might make it seem the devil was winning. However, looking at the bigger picture, the King is vastly better positioned than the devil.

And THAT is why I am so excited about The Church today. Our Bridegroom is unstoppable. ■

Arthur Burk

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