



# God's Point men Pt 9 Nurturing

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>*

God has commissioned the Father to act as the "Point Man" in the spiritual battle for the hearts and souls of his family "unit".

To succeed we must: Accept your Responsibility (*to lovingly lead Eph. 5:23-25*); know your Enemy (Eph. 6:12) and Get equipped for the challenge. (Eph. 6:10-18) 2 Tim 2:1-3 *"be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also...Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."*

A good "Point Man" must be:

**P:** Prayerful, Provider, Protector, Patient, Persevering, Partner, Patterned after Jesus, Perceptive.

**O:** Observant, Open, Optimistic (courageous), Obedient (to God), Objective (Mission Minded!)

**I:** Inspires (by being) Intentional, Involved, Interested, (takes) Initiative, Intimate, Models Integrity

**N:** Nerve (courage) and Noble in calling and character.

**T:** Trustworthy: By becoming Truthful, Trusting, and Teachable.

**M:** Mentor: (Mature, Motivated, Mannered)

**A:** Available (Aware, Appreciative, Affirming)

**N:** NURTURING

"Nurturing" has been Feminized and therefore minimized by Men.

## 1. Nurturing Defined:

**A. Etymology:** (History of the word)

Latin: Nutrire: to feed, cherish → the French Nour'eture: to nourish → English: Nurture

**B. Definition**

1) As a verb: *To feed and protect: To support and encourage: To foster: (help develop growth) To bring up, train, and education.*

2) As a Noun: *Rearing, upbringing, training, educating, Something that helps development.*

**Practical Definition:** *To care for & encourage the growth & development of another.*

## 2. Nurturing Refined *God commands Men to nurture:*

**A. Their wives.** Eph. 5:25-30 *"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth (ektrephō: bring to maturity) and cherisheth it, (thalpo: brood, protect) even as the Lord the church:"*

**Note:** Women have similar responsibilities.

1) Gen. 2:18 *"It is not good that the man should be alone. (It's hard to fully develop (mature) alone!) I will make an Help meet ('ēzer: aid) for him" from āzar': counterpart to surround & protect!*

2) Titus 2:4-5 *"teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, (Oikourgos': guardians of the home) good, (agathos': beneficial) obedient (hupotasso: prioritized, arranged) to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

**B. Their Children** Eph. 6:4 *"fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up (ektrephō: nourish, mature) in the nurture (paidei'a: education, instruction) and admonition (nouthesi'a: warning. From nous: mind and Tithemi: to grow in, call attention to) of the Lord."*

1) They were made for (and belong to) Him. Ps. 127:3 *"Children are an heritage of the LORD"*

Rev. 4:11 *"thou has created all things for thy pleasure (thel'ema: purposes) they are created."*

- 2) It matters for time and eternity! Jn 10:10 *"might have life, and that more abundantly"*
- 3) Point men should point the way! Pr. 22:6 *"Train up (ḥānak: dedicate, make narrow) a child in the way (derek: course of life) he should go: (peh: commandment, appointment) and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

### C. Their own relationship with God

- 1) After describing the eventual destruction of our world, 2 Peter 3:17,18 closes with: *"seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*
- 2) Business is not the same as blessedness! Mark 8:34-37 *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; ... For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

### 3. Nurturing applied. *"to care for & encourage growth and development"* **TO WHAT END? (Remember the Rich Fool? Luke 12:19-21)**

- A. To encourage growth and development...Toward God's goals. 1 Th 2:11,12  
*'ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged ... you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory"*

#### B. Nurturing involves:

- 1) "Exhorting" (parakale'ō) to walk/call near.
- 2) "Comforting" (paramythe'omai) to; encourage, empathize, relate near)
- 3) "Charging" (martyreō) witness, challenge, NOW!

### Conclusion: Nurturing involves: Being "NEAR" and acting NOW!

- 2 Cor. 6:1,2 *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

### Application: Nurturing is necessary for all of us!

- 1) We'll occasionally get wounded and need a "medic". Gal. 6:1
- 2) We must learn to Care for and occasionally "Carry" each other when wounded. (Gal 6:1,2)
- 3) Nurturing involves healing and helping to avoid further injury through godly instruction.  
 2 Tim 3:16-17 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

Gal. 6:6 *"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."*

- Are you grateful for your point man? Are you supporting and "nurturing" him?
- Are you serious about the safety (Spiritual, emotional, relational, physical) of your "Team?"
- The success or Failure of the Point Man will greatly affect the success or failure of his unit.
- The success of the point man's patrol also affected the safety and success of the entire company. So the success (or failures) of our families will have long term affects on our church, community, nation, and succeeding generations. (Isaiah 58:11,12)  
*"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. <sup>12</sup>And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."*