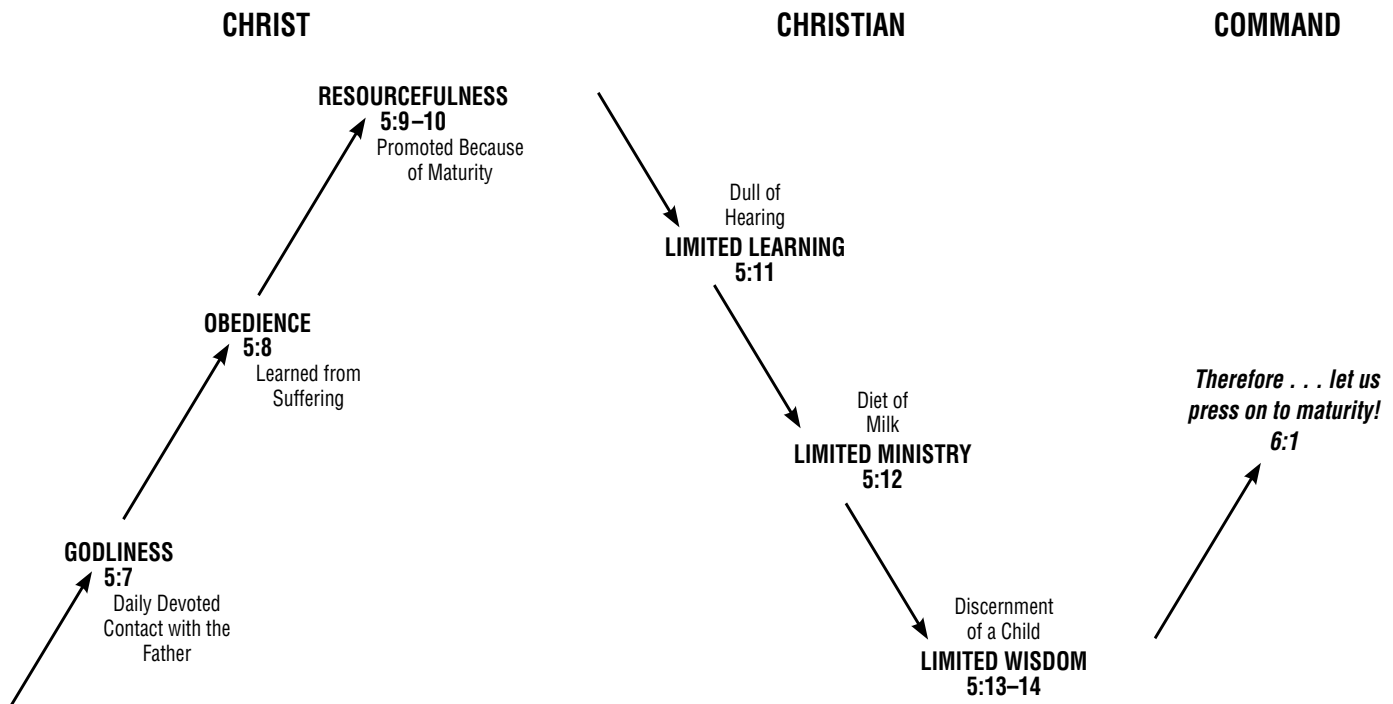


Strike the Original Match

What to Do with an Empty Nest

HEBREWS 5:7-6:1

SURVEY CHART HEBREWS 5:7-6:1



Copyright © 1975 by Charles R. Swindoll. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Strike the Original Match

What to Do with an Empty Nest

HEBREWS 5:7–6:1



The Heart of the Matter

The last stage of marriage is that period of time when the nest is empty—either empty of the children or of one of the mates . . . or both. This is a critical stage in the home. All sorts of strange and unpredictable feelings transpire, and we find ourselves in need of stabilizing thoughts and direction. God gives that to us in this passage from Hebrews. Though it was not originally written regarding marriage, it has practical overtones that perfectly apply to the domestic scene: *pursue spiritual maturity*.



Discovering the Way

1. Introduction: Stages in Every Marriage

Every long-term marriage with children passes through five stages: family founding, child bearing, child rearing, child launching, and empty nest.

2. The Significance of Maturity in Marriage (Hebrews 5:7–6:1)

Christ's maturity shows in the obedience so evident in His life, while the immature Christian shows his or her true colors through a lack of ministry and wisdom. As followers of Jesus, we should all press on toward the maturity of Jesus.

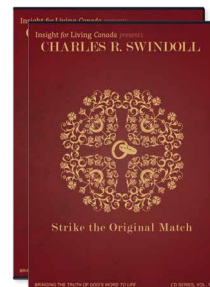


Starting Your Journey

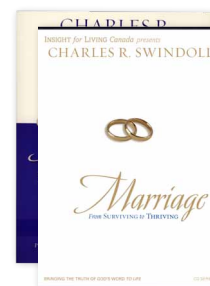
You can find maturity in your marriage when you renew your devotion, receive your situation, realize your promotion, and replace your limitations.



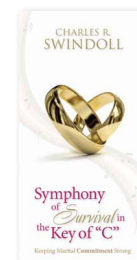
Tools for Digging Deeper



Strike the Original Match
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series of 14 CDs



Marriage: From
Surviving to Thriving
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series of 8 CDs, work-
book, and DVD



Symphony of Survival
in the Key of "C":
Keeping Marital
Commitment Strong
by Charles R. Swindoll
booklet

To order any of these
recommended resources,
call 1-800-663-7639
or visit
insightforliving.ca