

## PARENTING AS PROCESS

*I have parents say this to me: "I've tried everything you have suggested and it hasn't worked." My question at that point is, "How do you know?" You must be committed as a parent to a long-view parenting because change is a process and not a series of dramatic confession-confession events...we want parenting to be a series of events rather than a lifelong process...the desire for overnight change gets us in trouble...seldom is change the result of a dramatic moment.*

*A misunderstanding of what you've been called to do as a parent will always set up unrealistic expectations of your children and frustrations as a parent that will tempt you to do and say things that you shouldn't say or do.*

*Parenting would be infinitely easier if all you were dealing with was wrong behavior. But what you're dealing with is something deeper and more deadly...**blindness**. It would be bad enough that children are predisposed by sin to rebel against authority, to want to write their own rules, and to therefore do what is wrong. But as you're dealing with these things, you're also parenting a little person who does not see his sin or himself accurately. What is wrong doesn't look so wrong to them, and who they are isn't apparent to them. Your children are not just selfish and rebellious; they are blind.*

*Spiritual blindness is unlike physical blindness in one very significant way. When you are physical blind, you know you are blind and you immediately do things to compensate for this significant physical deficiency. Spiritually blind people—every child of every parent—are blind to their blindness. They are blind, but they think they see quite well.*

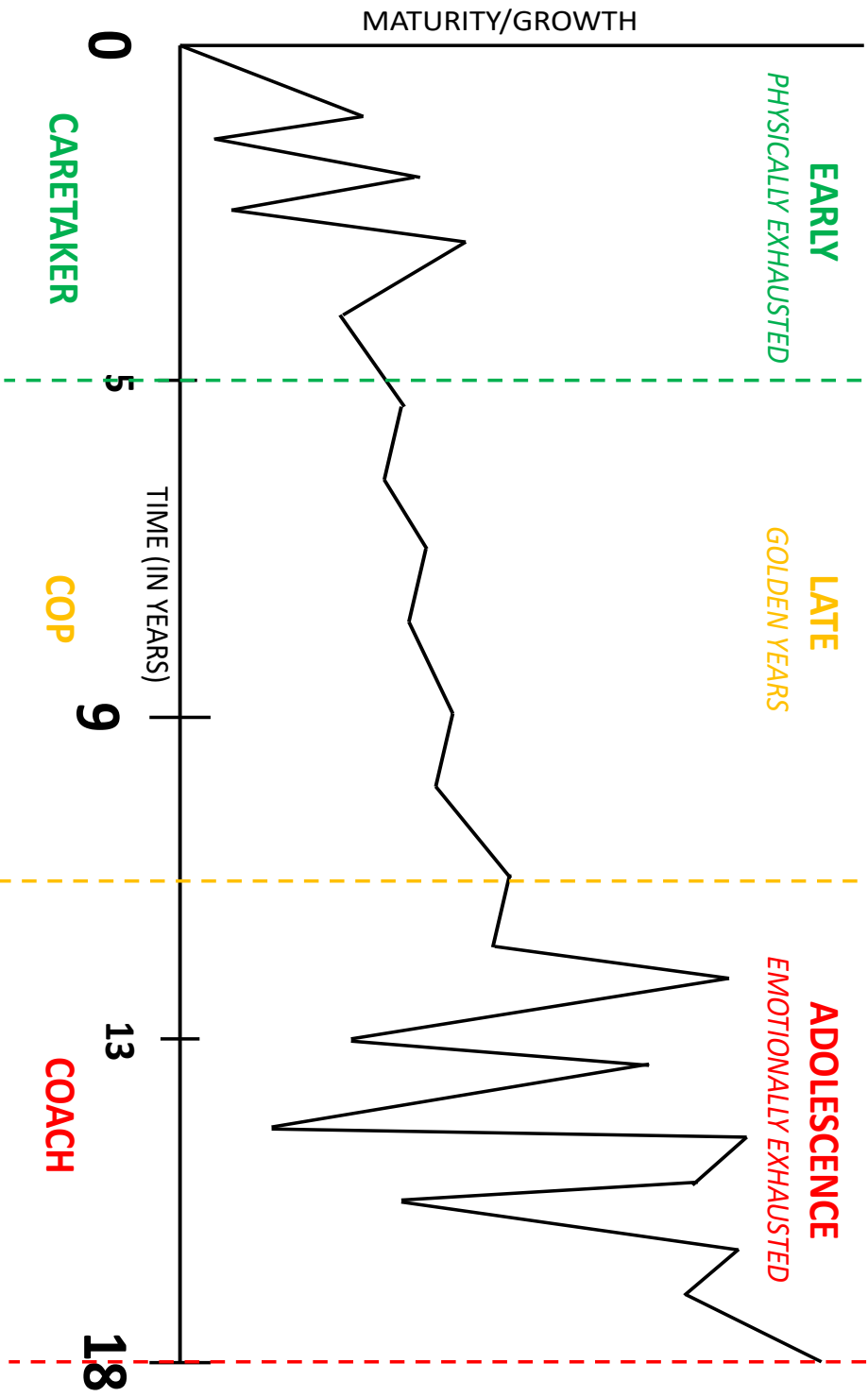
### 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:1

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

\*Your child is born blind.

\*Your child only gains sight through the veil being removed by the work of Christ/the Spirit.

\*Your child's sight recovery is an ongoing *process*. "One degree of glory to another."



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*I often like to say, "Sin blinds. And guess who it blinds first?" We have no problem seeing the sin of our children, but we can be quite surprised when somehow our sin is exposed.*

*When it comes to our children, you and I are more like our children than unlike them. Sin renders us blind too. Sin causes us to see ourselves as okay when we're not okay. Sin causes us to resist correction and to be offended and defensive when we are confronted.*

*Like our children, we are in need of a Father who will patiently work over a long period of time to help us to see. We need a Father who, in mercy, will not demand instantaneous change. We need a Father who understands our condition and confronts us not just with his rebuke, but with his grace.*

*Although you are an adult and have perhaps known God for years, you still have pockets of spiritual blindness in you and you still tend to resist the care that you yet need.*

*Like our children, you and I do the same wrong things over and over again because we are not only blind, but we are blind to our blindness. We need compassionate, patient care if we are ever going to change, and so do our children.*

*—Paul Tripp*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13:10-12

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. **For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.**

\*You were born blind to a glory you now partially see.

\*You only gained sight through the veil being removed by the work of Christ.

\*Your sight recovery is an ongoing *process*.

## CONCLUSION: FOUR-BITS OF ADVICE

### 1. Pray for sight recovery for your child (and yourself).

- “Do not lose heart” (2 Cor 4:1) in this ministry. It is vital to their growth + your release.

### 2. Hold on to your ideals and flex your expectations for your child (and yourself).

- The expectation is decreasing blurriness over time.
- The ideal is 20x20 vision. It happens when we see Him face-to-face. Not before then.

### 3. Consider your child (and yourself) as a *process* more than a project.

- Project is fixing; process is love.
- Do not parent in a such a way that your child regularly hears or experiences:

*I long for the future version of you.*

*I love you for who you're becoming, not who you are.*

### 4. Remember *God the Father*—how He works change in your life as His child—and remember His good news to you:

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that *while we were still sinners*, Christ died for us. —Romans 5:6-8*