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L I F E S P R I N G

F O U R S Q U A R E C H U R C H





We GROW

By Pastor Jesse Mendoza

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BREAKAWAY[®]

LIFE. GOD. TRUTH. FOR GUYS.

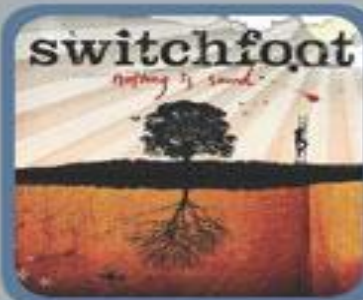


Switchfoot

The band talks about identifying with Christ, serving others and singing about redemption and forgiveness.



"Do you want to play it?" I couldn't believe that Jon Foreman, Switchfoot's frontman, was handing me the 1959 Gibson 125 he'd just purchased at the Dallas Guitar Show. Gulp. "Umm . . . yeah," I croaked.



That moment speaks volumes about Jon—and the multiplatinum band he leads. But after spending 90 minutes talking with him (as well as his brother and bass player, Tim Foreman, and drummer Chad Butler), I can't say I was totally surprised at his easygoing generosity.

You never know exactly what to expect when you meet celebrities. And despite their humble attitudes, the guys from Switchfoot definitely qualify for that title. Their 2003 album *The Beautiful Letdown* sold 2.5 million copies and spawned two Top 20 singles, "Meant to Live" and "Dare You to Move," songs you could have missed only if you were living under a rock that year. Since then, the San Diego quintet has followed up with two more albums, 2005's *Nothing Is Sound* and 2006's *Oh! Gravity*.

As it turns out, these guys wear the mantle of success well. If you didn't know any better, you'd think they were simply some of the coolest surfer dudes you've ever met (which is also true). Perhaps that's because the members of Switchfoot have a deeply grounded—and deeply biblical—understanding of what true success really is.

I had the privilege of hanging out with the band in Arlington, Texas, right before the last show on the *Oh! Gravity* tour in late April. Not only did I get to strum Jon's vintage Gibson and then catch a terrific concert, but I got a brief portrait of the band's history and its somewhat complicated relationship to the Christian music scene. I also learned how these artists' faith shapes not only their music, but also their convictions about what matters most in life.

IS SWITCHFOOT A "CHRISTIAN" BAND?

I remember exactly where I was the first time I heard a Switchfoot song. I was driving under an Interstate overpass in Colorado Springs when I heard "Dare You to Move." I wasn't paying much attention when these words jumped out at me: "Maybe redemption has stories to tell/ Maybe forgiveness is right where you fell." Did he just say something about redemption and forgiveness? I wondered. So I tuned in and turned up the radio: "Where can you run to escape from yourself/ Where you gonna go? Salvation is here." Wow, I remember thinking, that's gotta be a Christian band.

I was right—sort of.

Growing up in San Diego, the members of Switchfoot had little exposure to Christian radio. So when they signed with Charlie Peacock's Christian label, re-think, in the mid-'90s, they did so, according to Jon, without much knowledge about the world of contemporary Christian music.

"We were certainly all believers," he explains, "but being from San Diego, you have no idea of the behemoth that is the industry of Christian culture. You're just thinking, 'Wow, here are some believers who make music too, just like us. And you dive in, and suddenly you realize that there's this whole Christian industry. When we dove in with Charlie, it was with a very naive understanding of everything.'"

As a result, Tim says, the guys didn't think that they should be making music only for other Christians—but that they could definitely influence the culture with a message shaped by their faith.

"As far as Christian radio goes, we didn't know the thing existed," Tim says. "We're all pastors' kids, but we grew up in an environment where there wasn't this hard line between sacred and secular. But there was this idea that if the God we serve is great and wonderful, why wouldn't there be things of beauty and truth—His fingerprints—all over the culture, not just in the guy who's making music for the church."

Given that background, Jon says that he's somewhat leery of the "Christian band" label but eager to claim allegiance to Christ.

"The conversation about 'What is a Christian band?' could go in so many different ways," Jon says. "But at the same time, as believers, we've always been honored to be affiliated with the name of Christ. That's something that for me is a true honor and not something to be taken lightly."

CONFRONTING THE AMERICAN DREAM

One biblical truth the band's songs often illustrate is how the stuff of this earth won't ultimately satisfy us. Perhaps the song that best sums up that message is "Meant to Live," where Jon sings, "We want more than this world's got to offer/ . . . And everything inside screams for second life."

Throughout the band's career, Switchfoot has slammed the idea that we can so easily place our faith in material things rather than in God. Two songs into *Oh! Gravity*, for example, I

found myself wincing as I listened to "American Dream": "I want to live and die for bigger things/I'm tired of fighting for just me." Ouch, I thought. That really nails it. I do want to live for more than just myself. Still, even though I know better, sometimes I'm tempted to believe that what matters most in life is getting the next thing I want.

On "Burn Out Bright," Jon suggests an alternative: "If we've only got one try/if we've only got one life/ . . . Then before I die/I want to burn out bright." When asked what this song means to them, the guys were quick to point to how Scripture teaches us to serve others' needs.

Tim says of this track's meaning: "I think our society teaches us that burning out bright is going out with a lot of toys or a lot of recognition, at the peak of stardom, whatever that looks like. I think in the kingdom of heaven, it looks completely the opposite. The person who couldn't care less about what he's wearing but who's devoted to serving the people around him—that's a star."

"When I first heard that song," Chad adds, "I thought of this experience I had when I was a kid. I went to London to see Mother Teresa and Francis Schaeffer speak. I remember my parents telling me about Mother Teresa and the work she was doing [serving the poor in India]. Then I remember years later when she died, feeling like that's the model, that's the bar that's been set of someone who was living for others to the very end of her life."

how switchfoot rocks HERE'S A SOUND CHECK FOR YOU SERIOUS FANS AND MUSICIANS.



JEROME FONTAMILLAS:
Gibson guitars, Korg and
Fender Rhodes keyboards

TIM FOREMAN:
Lakland basses and
Gallen-Krueger amps

JON FOREMAN: Gibson electric guitars,
Taylor acoustic guitars, Tap Hat amps, Cusack
Screamer and Tap-A-Whirl effects pedals,
Boss DD-5 digital delay pedal

CHAD BUTLER:
Tama drums and
Paiste cymbals

DREW SHIRLEY: Gibson
guitars and 6S Amps

“The tension is here The tension is here
Between who you are and who you
could be
Between how it is and how it should be
I dare you to move
I dare you to move”



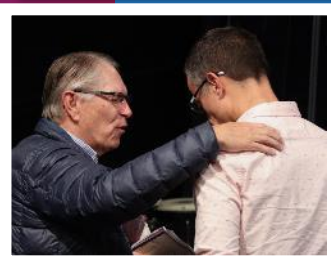
Ephesians 4:14-15 NIV

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.



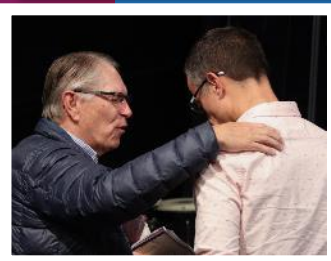
Ephesians 4:14-15 NIV

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."



Ephesians 4:15 ESV

“We are to grow up in every way
unto Him who is the head, into
Christ.”

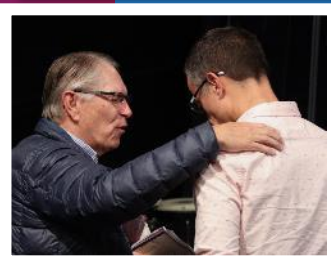


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Hebrews 6:1, NLT

“So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature.”



1 Peter 2:2, ESV

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, [of the Word of God] that by it you may grow up to salvation.”

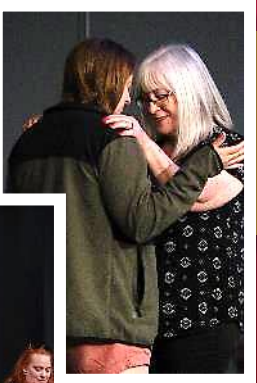




We Must Desire Spiritual Maturity

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We Must Develop Spiritual Maturity

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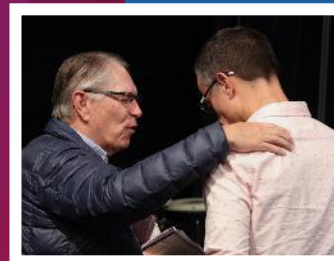
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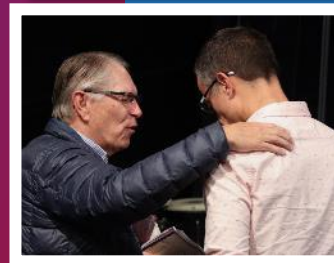
II Timothy 3:16, NKJV

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction and righteousness.”



Rick Warren

“The last thing many believers need is to go to another Bible study. They already know far more than they are putting into practice. What they need are ministry and evangelism experiences where they can apply what they already know,

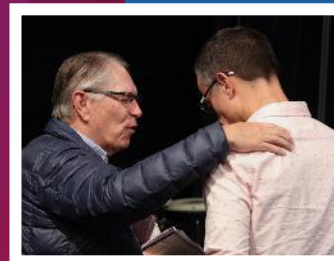


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Rick Warren

relational experiences (like a small group) where they can be held accountable for what they know and meaningful worship experiences where they can express appreciation to God for what they know."



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We Must Demonstrate Spiritual Maturity

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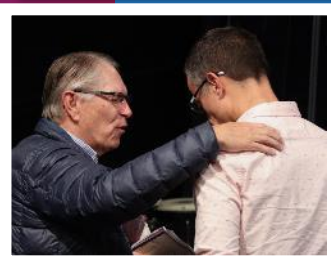
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James 3:13 NASB

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show it by his good behavior.”

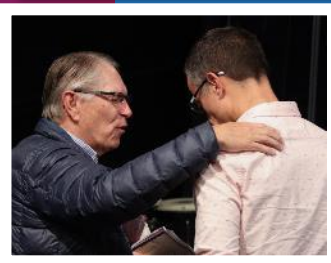


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James 1:21

“Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to His word; instead put it into practice.”

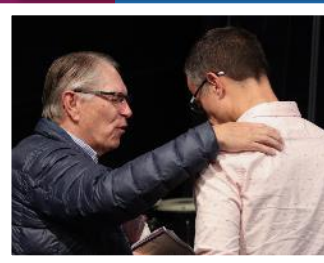


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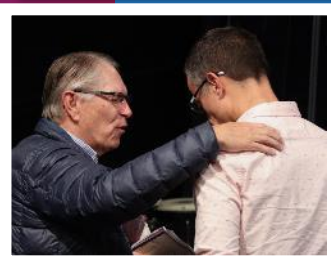
James 1:2-4 NLT

“Whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.



James 1:2-4 NLT

So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.”



1 Timothy 2:9a

"Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly,"



Colossians 3:12-13

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another,



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Colossians 3:12-13

and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”





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2 Peter 3:18. Psalm 1:1-3

Be Nourished by the Word – This is the Foundation of Growth



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Galatians 5:22-23

The Fruit of the Spirit – depicts Evidence of Growth in our Life



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2 Corinthians 3:18

We must be transformed into His Image – this is the Goal of Growth



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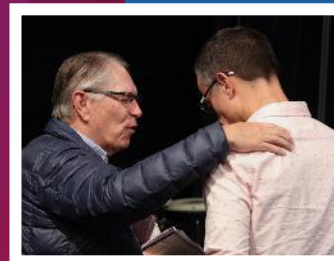
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1 Corinthians 2:12-14

We can't grow without the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit Illuminates the Word – and is the Mechanism of Growth



We are all called to the duty of Empowering the Next Generation



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- 1. We Must Desire Spiritual Maturity**
- 2. We Must Develop Spiritual Maturity**
- 3. We Must Demonstrate Spiritual Maturity**

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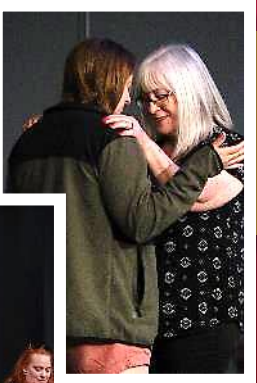
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We Must Develop Spiritual Maturity

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