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### Wardle Reading Report

The author's intent on writing this book is to address a crisis of immaturity among Christians, and the necessity to grow in Christlikeness. According to Wardle, many churches and leaders of churches are living spiritually as infants. Even though, they have faith and believe in Jesus most of them are immature Christians. He gives good guidelines for Christians to recognize this pattern in their lives and to help them to experience, be transformed, and mature by the relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. The guideline addresses eight characteristics that every Christian should nourish and nurture to grow in maturity: Identity, Intimacy, Community, Character, Brokenness, Ministry, Empowerment, and Authority.

It is a reality nowadays, many Christians are babies, they do not grow on the knowledge and on experiencing God. They are trying to find their identity on created things instead of on the Creator. It is amazing how the necessity, the desire of being accepted, of being recognized by earthly achievements steals from man the security of everything that Jesus has already accomplished for us. When we do not have clearly in our minds as Jesus did the purpose of our lives in this earth, we do not just fail to accomplish the mission he gave us, but we inflict in ourselves pain and unnecessary frustration. I believe that is why the author starts addressing the problem of Christian immaturity with identity. If we don't see ourselves as children of God, as temple of his Spirit, chosen people, royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, we fail in all the rest.

As the author talks about intimacy, it called my attention the importance of having a “sacred space” in our lives to meet with Jesus. As I was meditating on it, I related with my relationship with my husband. The most intimate part of our relationship has a special, a separate space to happen. If we want to experience intimacy with God to the deepest level, we must make time and space for it. In addition, we must be attentive to his presence not neglecting his calling to experience Him. The same way that we can neglect our relationship with our family and people around us because of the distraction of this world, we can also neglect our relationship with our Lord.

I agree with the author on his point of the American culture emphasis on individualism and how it is totally contrary to God`s calling for us to live in community. In a time where the focus of love is people`s own “belly”. It is a challenge to love one another genuinely to the point of committing to love and serve one another. To live in the unity of the Spirit and putting to use the gifts that God gave us to build His church.

Again, only when we do understand who we are in Christ, the mission that he gave us on this earth, we are able to mature in his presence. A sign of Spiritual maturity is character, the author rightly says that we should behave and bear fruits of change in our lives. The seed of Christ it is in us, but it must be watered every day to grow. In addition, we need the help of others to point the failures in our character that sometimes we fail to see and be humble to recognize and ask God in prayer to change us and reflect Jesus` character in us.

Another in important point the book addresses are brokenness, and how dysfunctional behavior many times is a sign that there is something broken in ones lives that needs to be fixed. What I find interesting about this topic is how it is so difficult for us as human being to be mindful of the healing that we have in Christ, and how many times it takes so long for us to just

humble ourselves, go to the father in prayer and tell him what He already knows, and take possession of the freedom that He has for us. Unfortunately, the pride of recognizing brokenness prevents us to be made whole and to be an instrument of healing on the Father's hands. Many times, when the brokenness is not addressed earlier in life it may affect the life later, not just our own lives but of those around us. The mature Christian understands that God will use his wound to heal others. And the more we experience intimacy with Christ the more we mature, and the more we have from him to give to others. Like Jesus, who was so intimate with the father that He only did the things of the Father, what pleased the Father. Spiritual Maturity make us like Jesus and transforms the broken in a wounded healer who minister the life of Christ.

Even though we may think that we are not capable of doing the things God calls us to do. We can be confident that we can, because its not in our strength that we are going to do it, but on the Father`s strength. Jesus did not call many of us because we were wise or powerful, in the other hand, he calls the weak and humble and give us His power to boast only on Him. I love how the author reminds us that the most essential thing for us to fulfil the great commission is the Holy Spirit. He is our Helper, but we must be filled with His power every day of our lives.

Finally, we do not have to worry the enemy attack against us, because he cannot do anything against the authority of the name of Jesus in our lives. This authority is a gift that can only be found on God`s throne of Grace. Therefore, we should be disciplined to enter His presence every day and be transformed by the power of His Glory. We can only be transformed in the likeness of Jesus if we walk close to Him.