I just returned from my fortieth high school reunion. Although it was a delight to see so many friends, I walked away realizing that some had not changed at all. Even though so many of us looked old, there were so few of us making a real go at maturity. There was in all three a pathetic sameness that I am sure some saw in me too. Maturity looks like this. Moreover, spiritual maturity requires discipline and a daily commitment to the Holy Spirit. One way God maturity comes to both expositor and listener is by letting the Spirit apply the meaning of a Bible text to their everyday life. I have been asked to write on sermon application, particularly applying Jonah.

Jay Adams likens the idea of applying Scripture as “to land onto something (or oneself) something else.” Adams compares sermon application to applying paint to a wall. The fresh paint changes the appearance of the wall. When applying Scripture then, one ought to remember the immense change the Spirit brings in mind; a transformation from pathetic sameness to maturing Christlikeness. Effective application is rooted in the pastor who allows the text to plow down deep into his soul, revealing his own inadequacies; he receives discipline and a distinct surrender to the Holy Spirit. One way spiritual maturity comes to both expositor and listener is by letting the Spirit apply the meaning of a Bible text to their everyday life. I have been asked to write on sermon application, particularly applying Jonah.

Kelly Burton is Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Alba, Texas.

APPLYING JONAH

KELLY BURTON | OCTOBER 23, 2019

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