Here for a Reason

humble, loving servant leaders

- humble, loving servant leaders
- patient, sacrificial people

- humble, loving servant leaders
- patient, sacrificial people
 - You put up with our weaknesses as leaders!

- humble, loving servant leaders
- patient, sacrificial people
 - You put up with our weaknesses as leaders!
 - You love the most vulnerable.

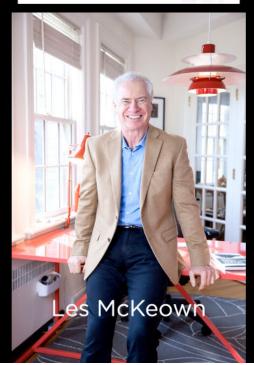
- humble, loving servant leaders
- patient, sacrificial people
- the love of Jesus

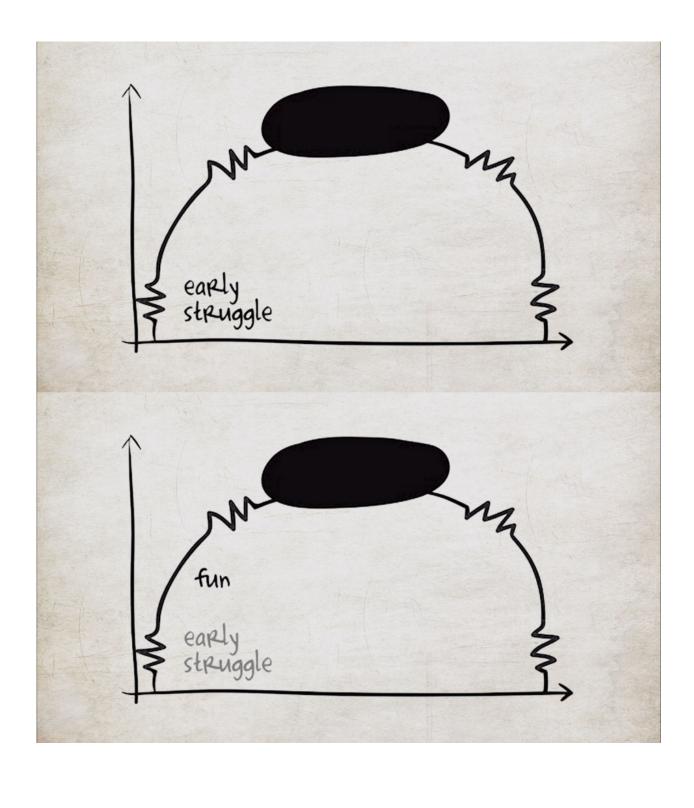


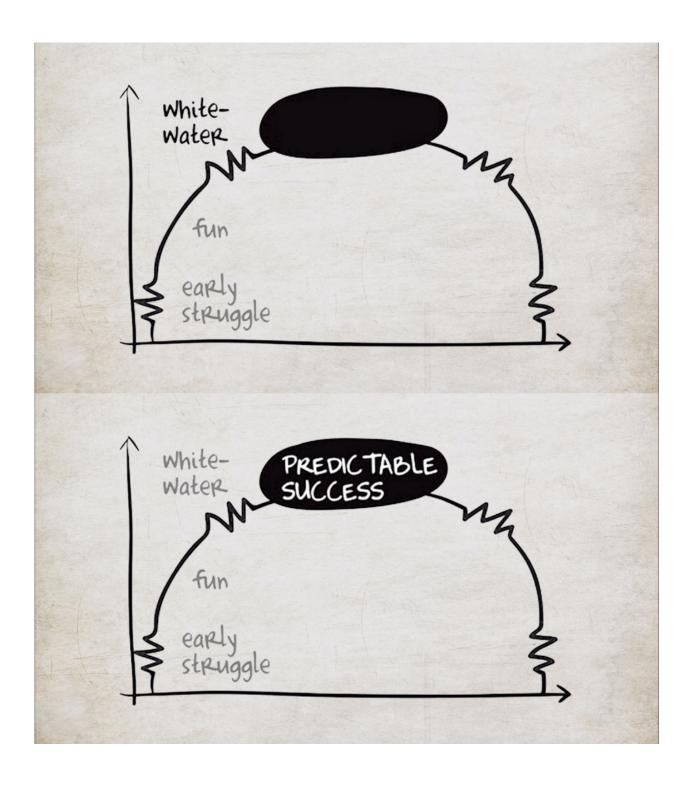
PREDICTABLE SUCCESS

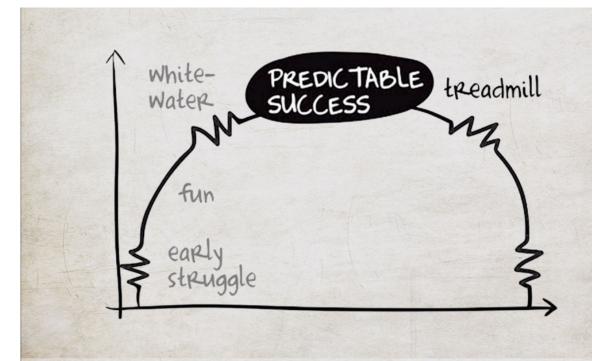
GETTING YOUR ORGANIZATION ON THE GROWTH TRACK—AND KEEPING IT THERE

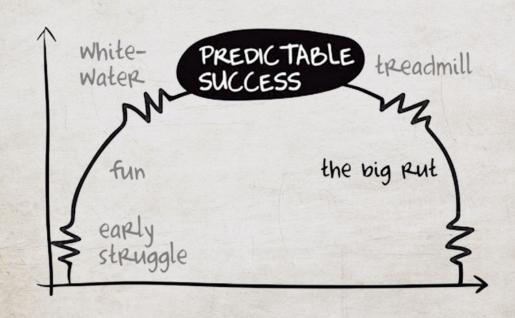


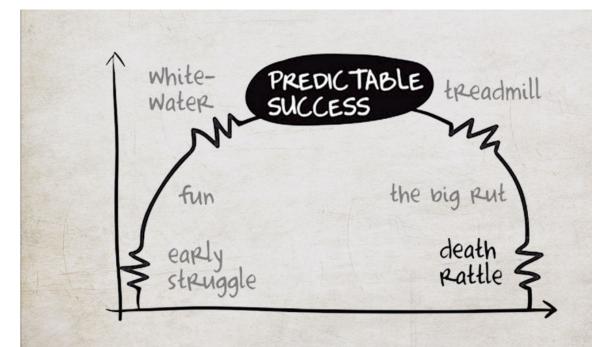












The provision

Context - The Book of Ephesians

The provision

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places."

Ephesians 1:3

- The provision
- The power

Context - The Book of Ephesians

- The provision
- The power

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father ... that according to the riches of his glory, he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being."

Ephesians 3:14-16

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

Context - The Book of Ephesians

- The provision
- The power
- The practice

- The provision
- The power
- The practice

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Ephesians 4:1

unity of the Spirit (4:2-6)

- unity of the Spirit (4:2-6)
- **diversity** of the gifts (4:7-12)

- unity of the Spirit (4:2-6)
- diversity of the gifts (4:7-12)
- maturity of the body (4:13-16)

Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness Stability - "every wind"

Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness

Stability - "every wind"

"So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."

Ephesians 4:14





Alister McGrath

"The wisdom of our age is often seen as an embarrassment by the next generation.
When I was an atheist, back in the late 1960s, everything seemed so simple.

"Religion was dying out. A bright new dawn lay just around the corner. Religion would be relegated to the past, a grim and dusty relic of a bygone age.

"God was just a cozy illusion for losers, ideal for very inadequate and sad people. It was all over. Just a matter of waiting for nature to take its course "But it just hasn't worked out like that.

These ideas may have been fashionable.

They were certainly influential. But they were equally certainly misguided."

Alister McGrath

"The veneration of doubt and the excoriation of commitment within our culture do not mean that the gospel is wrong.

"It just means that our culture is going through a passing phase that brings it into conflict with the values of that gospel. And the culture will move on, even though it makes life uncomfortable for us now!"

Alister McGrath

Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness

- Stability "every wind"
- Symmetry "every way"

Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness

- Stability "every wind"
- Symmetry "every way"

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."

Ephesians 4:15



"speaking the truth in love" =
"truthing it in love"

Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness

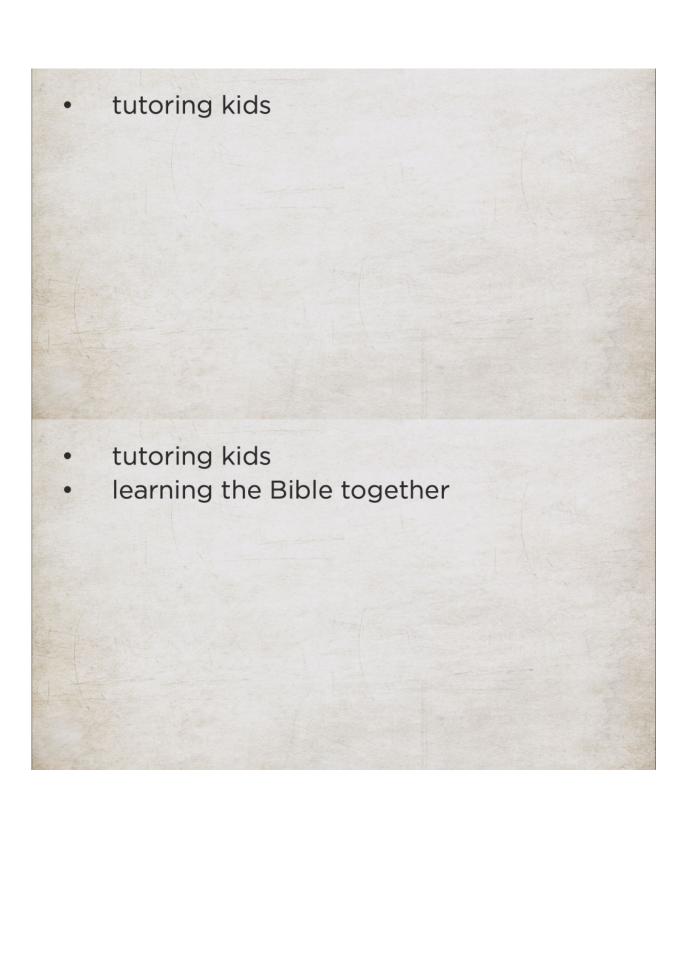
- Stability "every wind"
- Symmetry "every way"
- Synergy- "every joint"

Three Signs of Maturing Christlikeness

- Stability "every wind"
- Symmetry "every way"
- Synergy- "every joint"

"From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Ephesians 4:16

synergy = when parts cooperate to produce a greater effect than the sum of their separate effects



- tutoring kids
- learning the Bible together
- helping marriages

- tutoring kids
- learning the Bible together
- helping marriages
- encouraging singles

- tutoring kids
- learning the Bible together
- helping marriages
- encouraging singles
- getting counsel for addictions

- tutoring kids
- learning the Bible together
- helping marriages
- encouraging singles
- getting counsel for addictions
- cooking meals for those in need

- tutoring kids
- learning the Bible together
- helping marriages
- encouraging singles
- getting counsel for addictions
- cooking meals for those in need
- praying for healing and revival

"From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Ephesians 4:16

A church family characterized by

 convictional <u>stability</u> -"Believe God's Word"

A church family characterized by

- convictional <u>stability</u> "Believe God's Word"
- developmental <u>symmetry</u> "Connect with God's Family"

A church family characterized by

- convictional <u>stability</u> -"Believe God's Word"
- developmental <u>symmetry</u> "Connect with God's Family"
- functional <u>synergy</u> "Share God's Story"

"She broke the flask and poured it over his head."

Mark 14:3

"We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19

How deep the Father's love for us How vast beyond all measure That he should give his only Son To make a wretch his treasure