

Four Perspectives...

The WORLD says...

- ▶ Find people that make you happy
- ▶ Invest in winners
- ▶ Just put them in the too hard basket

CONCLUSION: Don't bother!

GOD says...

- ▶ My mission is to the sick (Mark 2:17)
- ▶ I've chosen the foolish and weak things of the world to shame the wise and strong. (1 Corinthians 1:27)
- ▶ I am God, nothing is too hard for me (Jeremiah 32:27)

Four Perspectives...

SELF says...

- ▶ I know they're in the wrong and I am justified to feel annoyed.
- ▶ How long will it take for them to get it!?
- ▶ I just want to slap some sense into them!
- ▶ I need to get it off my chest, so I'll share my frustration with anyone who will listen (and hopefully they affirm my thinking)

CONCLUSION:
I'm better than they are.

GOD says...

- ▶ Do not criticise or judge each other (Matt 7:1-5, James 11-12)
- ▶ God will complete what He's started (Philippians 1:6)
- ▶ Put away anger and slander (Colossians 3:7-8)
- ▶ Be patient, not grumbling against one another (James 5:7-11)
- ▶ Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:14-15)
- ▶ Be humble, not self-righteous (Matt 23:23-24, Hebrews 3:13, Philippians 2:3)
- ▶ Remember your old ways, and who saved you (Titus 3:1-7)
- ▶ Help your brother or sister (James 5:19-20)

Four Perspectives...

The ENEMY says...

- ▶ They're not going to change
- ▶ It's ok to feel discouraged and disheartened
- ▶ You should withdraw to protect yourself
- ▶ Life is better (healthier/more free/fruitful etc) without them

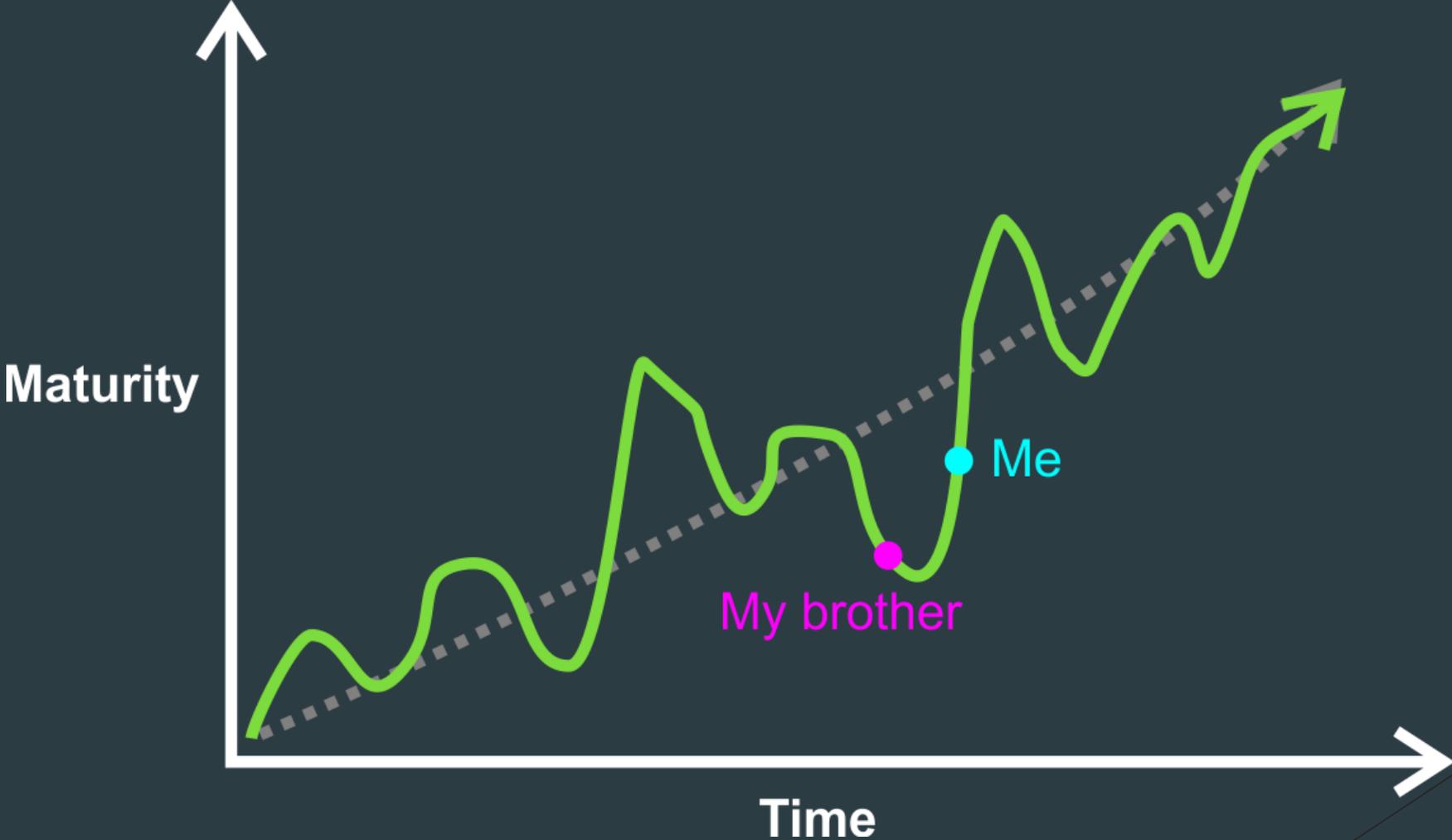
CONCLUSION:

There is no hope here.

GOD says...

- ▶ God used “the chief sinner” (Paul) as a prime example of His great patience (1 Timothy 1:15-16)
- ▶ Rejoice in the Lord always! Think about praiseworthy things! (Philippians 4:4-8)
- ▶ Don't isolate yourself (Proverbs 18:1, Ecclesiastes 4:12, Hebrews 10:24-25)
- ▶ The strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak (Romans 15:1)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit fills us with hope (Romans 15:13)
- ▶ God will complete what He's started (Philippians 1:6)

Growth isn't linear



Our response as Jesus followers...

- ▶ Model (right living)
- ▶ Pray
- ▶ Respond biblically in love
(encourage, promote unity, teach, exhort)