

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Explore New Places Along the Way

Regardless of where you are in your walk with God, the best growth often comes when we step outside our comfort zones

Psalms 25:4-5, 40:3, Colossians 3:2, Ephesians 1:7, 4:29, & 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:7, 5:9 These above scriptures are used in this study

Definition: Our walk with God starts with the pockets of time we spend with Him. It gets us in the mood, so to speak. It starts the engine for us before we set out on the path. Sometimes, however, we get disconnected, and don't engage Christ. Off His path we begin to become less effective for Him. God wants us to be effective, even if it is just speaking kind words to others. Lifting them up, and being a life-giving help to others. But what if we are facing uncertainties in our own lives that make us feel like we can't be a help to others? God tells us His grace is sufficient to sustain us. He wants us to step out, even if we are uncomfortable, and be a light among the darkness.

Audio Segment: *Stepping Out (Jennifer Rothschild)*

Segment Questions:

- After thousands of words spoken today, were any of them "life-giving" to others? What do the words you spoke today reveal about you, and your heart?
- Can uncertainties in this world and/or in your life be a good thing? What is God trying to tell us? Teach us?
- Is it hard for you to recognize God's voice? What might be getting in the way? Should His voice be a "certainty" for you to act, or step out?
- What gets in the way of your engaging with God? What is a strategy the table can come up with to avoid these road blocks to God?
- How do you focus not on earthly things and instead on heavenly things? If you've never been there before, how do you think on such things? What is Colossians 3:2 saying?
- Do you make excuses, try to rationalize and grow defensive with God, due to your uncertain or negative circumstances?

Action Questions:

- What are three "Pockets of Time" you can create during your day to stay "connected/engaged" with God?
- If you had 3 minutes to write one paragraph about the path you BELIEVE God has you on right now, could you do it easily?
- What is one uncomfortable "stepping out" idea you can do to help someone else?

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It may be our circumstances, our personal make-up, or busy life that is getting in the way of us knowing God's plan, doing God's work, and being truly effective...

If we stop and think about our current circumstances, we might say this is a busy time of life. Work, children, grandchildren, activities, eating, IU games, shopping, you name it, they all get in the way of us engaging, and spending quality time with God. Maybe we aren't busy! Maybe what is getting in the way is the terrible circumstances that we are going through. Are you the type of guy that falls further from Christ the better your life gets? Complacency? Or do you get frustrated and more distant from God when times get tougher, possibly directly or indirectly blaming Him for the circumstances?

We all seek our purpose in this world, and as Christians, if we are honest, we really want God to show us that purpose so we can just follow the instructions. Doing our "duty" as men is easier than trusting in this path we are going down as a God ordained path for our lives. Does it bug you that you can't with 100% certainty know you are on the right path?

It all starts with creating pockets of time to engage with Him so He can speak to us. How can we know the path He wants us to follow if we aren't listening? How can we have FAITH in the path we walk, trusting He is guiding us, if we don't pray?

We all battle disconnection from God from time to time. We can have all kinds of excuses, and many would be quite good ones, but we need to constantly be trying to create pockets of time with God to get re-engaged, no matter our circumstances. Why battle to keep connected? Because He is building a foundation for our lives. A foundation of Trust that He wants us to have in Him. Uncertainty requires FAITH. We must put our trust in Him, rely on Him, and depend upon Him. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 He says His grace is sufficient for you.

Once we are engaged we can start being effective for Him. It starts with what SHOULD be the easiest, the WORDS that come out of our mouths. Luke 6:45 says the words that come out of our mouths speak to the heart within us. Let us start with being a positive influence on others with the words we speak to them.

Once this foundation is set, and we realize there is no perfect time to Step Out and be a light to others, the quicker we can just get to it and do God's work. Jennifer Rothschild was an introvert, she was blind, but she stepped out in faith, very uncomfortably, and gave a simple meal to a new neighbor. Listen to the impact!