

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

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We live in a gap between our current reality and our Potential and it's good to know your potential...

Most of us realize that there is a gap between God and Me, and sin is in the middle. When we accept what Christ did for you on the cross, the sin Gap goes away.

As a Christian though, we still have a GAP between who we want to be and who we really are...our solution is usually to try harder which only makes us frustrated.

You are not you when ...hungry, tired, uncomfortable. You are not YOU when you try to be someone else.

Your life is not your project, only God knows what your full potential is, His best version of you. God is more committed to you meeting your full potential than you are.

What if there is another way. Jesus would make these crazy statements...one day Jesus just stood up at the feast of Tabernacles and uninvited to speak, he said...

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Great scene, everyone is eating, food in pots, drinks in barrels, they remember Jesus one time made wine and it was GOOD wine, so everyone perked up... Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit...

To thirst is this day meant to be driven by unsatisfied desires, to be discontent with life, to be frustrated with the life you're living.

Streams of living water (150 times in the Bible) flowing from within you...

King James says "out of your belly" to the core of who you are, that place so deep within you that you can't fake it.

Weakness is the HOLY SPIRIT'S best working environment. What is a good working environment for you? I had an attic in Huntington, I had the best office, but I had to work in the attic. NO distractions is my best working environment.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 ***8 Three times*** (a figure of speech meaning for multiple seasons of life) ***I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*** ***Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.***

The good news if you have a weakness you are struggling with today is that this is an area the Holy Spirit wants to show up and work in your life (through life, marriage, addictions, etc.)

Spiritual maturity is not about strength, it's about dependency. The more mature the believer, the more dependent on God. The immature Christian is the one always telling you what THEY are going to do for God.

Admitting weakness requires humility – humility is the right perspective of who we are toward God and man, "humility is I can't but you can."

James 4:6 ***"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."***

I hear people say "Christianity is for weak people" and I say exactly! Many times God will let us get to the bottom or at a point where we look up and say "God, I can't do this" – He may even let you wallow in it for a while at that point we are right where God wants us and where the spirit can work in our lives...At the end of the process of the Holy Spirit working in your life you will not feel more powerful, you will feel more dependent. Surrender is the goal of the working of the Holy Spirit.

TRUTH IS THE HOLY SPIRITS PRIMARY TOOL

John 8:31-32 ***"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."***

The Holy Spirit will constantly expose lies in your life and exchange them for truth.

The best thing we can do to walk in the spirit is to be sensitive to the teachings of this book, saturate your mind with the teaching in the Word (not so you can get a check by your name)...

The Bible is the holy spirit's thoughts on paper, in black and white, everything the Holy Spirit will lead you to do is found in this book. This is why one of our core values at RHCC is to Study God's Word. If we ever get sidetracked where other things take priority over that, we're in trouble.

Illustration of using truth: Jesus at his temptation in the desert. Remember Jesus is God but he gave up his rights as God to die like a man. Remember the Spirit led him. He used scripture (truth) to defeat the lies of Satan.

You may say, "I just can't memorize scripture" when you hit rock bottom, you'll be surprised what you can memorize or remember if you read God's Word. The spirit of God is available ALL the time to give you life, that is why Paul says, "DON'T quench the spirit"

Ephesians 2:10 ***For we are God's workmanship*** (handiwork) ***created in Christ Jesus*** created with the idea that in Christ amazing possibilities open up to what God wants for to accomplish through you (In Jesus you become more like the person God created you to be in the first place.. You become Youier!

We are God's project, He's the one working on us individually. I am the only me God has ever worked on in history, God made you to be YOU, a redeemed you, but YOU, growth is handcrafted not mass produced.

What would grow watermelons would drown Okra. What would feed a mouse would starve an elephant.

Parents all think they will treat their kids exactly the same way, UNTIL they have kids, they are all so different!

God always knows exactly what every person needs

God had Abraham take a trip
 Joshua walked some laps
 Elishah take a nap
 Moses a 40 year time out
 David 5 rocks and a slingshot
 Paul a pen and paper
 Wrestled with Jacob
 Argued with Job
 Whispered to Elijah
 Comforted Hagar

Jesus was tough with the rich young ruler
 Tender with the woman caught in adultery
 Brutal with the Pharisees
 Challenging with the disciples
 Caring to the children
 Gracious with the thief on the cross

God never works the same way in two people.

God is a handcrafter not a mass producer.

God has existed from all eternity but you are the first you he has ever had a relationship with. The biggest problem I see with people growing spiritually is that they listen to someone they respect as an expert, talk about what they do and then try and do that. You have a unique personality.

We have different temptations, different seasons of life.

Now, it's your turn, God has never had a you before to work with...
We get this crazy idea that if I were more spiritual my life would look more like someone else's.

To do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Advance = God promises that He knows what you're supposed to look like in finished form and He knows the best route to get you there.

Today, in light of these scriptures

Would you...

Admit that you're thirsty (driven by unsatisfied desires)

Bring God your weakness (best working environment)

Fill your mind with the truth from God's word

Watch God take you to your full potential and do things you never thought you were capable of!