

Week 7 – No More Half Stepping

Notes:

As we've talked about the past few weeks, we don't want to work our way through these sessions/go through the motions and at the end, say that sure was (or wasn't) a good study and move on. We want there to be **change** for each of us and to have an impact in our homes, our church and in society.

Make it personal. **Week 1** – No More Hiding Behind the Past: What from YOUR past are you laying down and giving completely to God?

Week 2 – No More Holding Back: Is there something that is and has been holding you back from being who God has called you to be? From **stepping out in faith** and doing whatever God has called you to do? Is it fear? Selfishness (my time)? Lack of Confidence?

Week 3 – No More Weak Leadership: As a man, what is my role and responsibility in my home, church, community and God's Kingdom?

Week 4 – No More Going Through the Motions: What is priority in your life and what defines you? Is it work/career, money, hobbies, status, etc.? When people look at you, what is the first thing they see or think of? How do you want to be seen or thought of?

- For a lot of years I was content to only go through the motions and my life didn't have much 'true' meaning. I certainly didn't have an **impact** in my church and community. It was only when I started making an attempt to put God first in everything that I saw **true change** and **meaning** in my life (Christ's Hands).

Week 5 – No More Compromising Your Integrity: Last week we examined the dangers of going through the motions. Why is going through the motions such an easy pattern to fall into if we're not diligent?

Perhaps because it is easy and comfortable. Everything becomes a routine that has an expected/calculated outcome. Everything is less stressful when '**someone else**' does it. (<https://www.allworship.com/elses-obituary/>)

Week 6 – No More Sifting Through the Rubble: In Week 5 we talked about integrity, what it is and why it is so important not only in our personal lives, but also the **impact** that it has on those around us extending from our family to the members of our church, community and beyond.

Week 7 – No More Half Stepping: Last week we saw that God can build a new foundation on top of sin and brokenness and looked at Peter as an example. Even through his failures and denial of Christ, he went on to have an even greater ministry after he was restored than he ever did before. Of course, we all have failed and in order to be redeemed, we must admit and confront our failures before healing can occur and healing is needed before Christ can truly use us.

For Week 7, Dr. Evans tell us that to be a man of great **impact** and **spiritual significance**, you need to **go all in. Effort. Consistency. Dedication. Hard work. Diligence.** These are the markers of a kingdom man who lives with no more excuses.

We have talked previously about **going all in and being totally committed, completely surrendering our lives to Christ.** Too risky? Too demanding? (**Pg. 114 – The Chicken and the Pig – Involvement vs. Commitment**)

Pg. 108

As you read about sifting through the rubble, what stories of redemption came to mind? Perhaps you have a personal story of redemption and restoration? (CM)

- "Far too many men offer God a half-stepping approach to spiritual development and then expect God to show up and secure the victories they need. It doesn't work that way."

- I lived that way for a long time and often only reached out to the Lord when it was convenient for me and when I was desperate. When I finally put forth some effort and prayed for direction on what and how I can serve Him, my life changed and I feel like I was restored...perhaps a synonym for restored may be more accurate; refurbished! When I started volunteering at Christ's Hands, I immediately met a lot of people that lived just like I did for so many years. No effort, no consistency, no dedication, no hard work, no diligence but still wanting all of the Lord's blessings. In my devotions and as I was preaching to the choir, I realized and was able to explain that 'it doesn't work that way'.
- On page 110, the last paragraph is a pretty accurate description of the lack of surrender I had and sometimes still have in my walk with Christ.

What would happen if you did your job at only half the effort required?

- I would lose the respect of my boss and co-workers. They wouldn't be able to trust or depend on me and I would most likely be reprimanded or even lose my job.
- It goes without saying that we all fail and chances are good that we will continue to. However, if I intentionally approach my relationship with Christ and my role(s) as a Christian with half the effort required...will He not be able to trust and depend on me? Will I miss blessings? Will He find a way to get my attention?

What would happen to a professional sports team if its players showed up for only half of its practices?

- Failure, no chance at success, no chance to make a difference, chaos & turmoil.
- In the next paragraph, Dr. Evans mentions what we read above, to be a man of great impact and spiritual significance, you need to go all in. **Effort. Consistency. Dedication. Hard work. Diligence.** All of these traits have been evident in our study. Each of YOU have made an Effort to show up and been Consistent & participated in each session that we've had. I have tried to put what we have discussed into practice and read more, study more, 'pray in the moment'!

From the Watch Section on page 109, did any of the statements stand out to you?

- **The missing key to seeing God move in the life of a man is surrender. It is when we place all of our strength at God's disposal. It is when we take all God has given us and place in under His control.**
 - How many of us have an issue with control? We talked about a number of 'me' statements in the last session. In regard to control, I can fix it, I can determine the outcome, I will handle it and not involve God or seek His direction when making decisions. 'I' have found that when I depend on 'me' instead of surrendering to Him, things become a mess. Dr. Evans call is a catastrophe (disaster, devastation, ruin, tragedy).
- **God will feel comfortable hanging out with you because He knows you are surrendered to Him.**
 - We talked earlier about being all in and how God sees or looks at us. We also talked about giving only half the effort required on our job. I actually have had this conversation before regarding when you have someone at work that doesn't do their job; it spills over to everyone else in one way or another. How does that make you feel about them? Are you comfortable being around them? What runs through your mind when you see them?

Pg. 110 – MAN UP

'I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.' Romans 12:1

- End of 1st paragraph - "...when men seek to live their lives apart from the wisdom and security of full surrender to God, catastrophes ensue. Surrender allows each of us to live our lives in alignment with God's will."
- Last week we talked about how a greater understanding of God's **intended outcome** can help men rebuild their lives. Remember, He has a plan, but we have a role.

- Dr. Evans said, “God has a purpose for your life. He has a plan for your life, and yes, we messed it up a lot of times, but God knows how to rebuild.”
- **Jeremiah 29:11**
11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
- “I have good news for you. The good news is, God loves you. He has a plan for your life. There’s a purpose for living. There’s a reason for existence. Don’t give up. Don’t let headlines frighten you. God is still sovereign, He’s still on the throne. **And those of us that follow Him and serve Him have a future that’s brighter than tomorrow.**” Billy Graham (<https://youtu.be/vyB0A1HzbYc>)

Dr. Evans defined surrender as “placing all of our strength at God’s disposal.” How would you explain the concept of surrender in everyday, practical terms to a friend?

- Pray for and seek His will daily in every decision we make and for opportunities to be used by Him. Be willing to lay down the things that separate us from Him (Sessions 1 & 2).

Why do we so often give half-hearted effort in our sacrifice to God?

- For me, laziness, a desire to be comfortable, not wanting to take risks or be committed.

When Paul instructs us to present our bodies as “a living and holy sacrifice,” what percentage of our time, talents, and treasure is he talking about? Explain your answer.

- I feel that the goal is 100%. Holy was defined on pg. 109 as to be set apart as unique or special. How can we be holy if we are just like the world and those not living for Christ? What sets you apart?

When has God shown you that His ways are far superior to your own?

- ALL of the times when I have tried to be in control and failed. When I question His will only to see later that I should have surrendered to Him to start with.

What are some ways men disqualify themselves from special use by God?

- “Many shortcomings disqualify us from God’s use. First and foremost is a lack of surrender to His will and purpose for our lives.”
- We read in Session 6 and above that God has a great plan for our lives; we hold the key to whether He will carry out that plan in our lives. That key is called surrender!

What’s one small step you can take this week to increase your level of surrender to God?

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