

Limitations are NOT restrictions BUT reminders.

Main Idea: For the Devoted Follower: our limitations are not restrictions but reminders.

I. Introduction

We allow our self doubt, weaknesses, limitations, inadequacies, shortcomings, failures to define us AND hold us back from experiencing the Love of God & power of God on our behalf.

Listen: Everyone take a deep breathe - All of us in some way allow something (weakness, self doubt or limitations) restrict us from experiencing Love of God AND restrict God's work in and through us.

II. The Issue

What is the issue?

- Does God really love me, really forgive me, really have a plan for me, want to fill me with His power and His presence? OR
- Is the issue within me? My self confidence? Lack of faith? Limitations and self doubt?

Put it another way: Is God lying or am I believing lies about myself?

III. THE GOSPEL

Here is the good news that apart from Jesus Christ we all do fall short, we are limited , inadequate, weak, defined and condemned because of our sin. Everyone of us.

But the truth is that when we put our faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins=> There is therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION - we are accepted by God at our worst and yet seen by God as if we are at our best!

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 tells us that through Jesus

We all have weakness - God works powerfully through our weakness. It becomes Clear that its about Him and its not about me! Shift happens where suddenly we do not run from situations that reveal our weakness but we walk in them with faith expectation that God is going to come through because He loves to show off His power in my weakness!

The gospel of Jesus forgives you and unites you to right relationship with God But it also frees us to WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.

God is calling some of you to get up and walk this morning - to leave behind you what has been hindering you and to walk with God - believing what He says about you! A shift is happening in some of our lives today and I pray that we would begin walking in this newness of life that God has for each of us!

IV. The Shift

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I am weak BUT my God is strong - yes I fail But my God's grace is sufficient for me- I cannot comprehend why God would love me - but I am believing what my God says when He declares that I am CHOSEN!

Our limitations which used to restrict us from experiencing God and His love for us. Used to restrict us from allowing God to work in and through us NOW have the ability to to paralyze us but are reminders of How God is with us!

V. Shift in Peter READ ACTS 4:13-31

Here we see a Shift has happened where Peter is not denying - he is not allowing his failure or rejection in the past to keep him back- rather he is standing in the power of his connection to God.

Peter's lack of training, qualifications, rejections, limitations all fall away and now Peter and John - we cannot stop talking about what we have seen Jesus do and what we heard Jesus say.

Look back at this prayer at the end of what we read READ v. 28-31 (Circle your/you)

This shift happened within Peter - He began believing not in Himself but He experienced Jesus and his trust is in Jesus.

We can experience similar thing within us - when we focus on our connection to Jesus it gets our eyes off of ourselves and focuses them onto our Lord. When this happens gives us expectation that He is at work and that He can come through for me right now. (Smaller me Bigger picture of God)

Peter and John along with the rest of the disciples were well aware of the danger they were facing, the trouble they were feeling, their own limitations BUT what we see modeled through this prayer is they are not living in the bondage of their limitations but leaning into God as a reminder that He is in control.

Summary - God we have no idea what is going on here - But we trust You and can Know Your plan is working out - we need Your help God - You provide us with the ability to speak when we would rather stay silent - Give us the words to say where we don't know what to say - God as we show up weak YET available - We are trusting you are going to show up and Do what only You can do.

VI. Are you like Peter ?

Amazing example for us to grow along this process of trusting and believing what God says about you! Peter grew in his acceptance and reception of this over the course of his life. Where are you at in the process?

While Jesus was here with them on earth ministering He spoke how He was going to use Peter - Jesus sees this incredible potential ahead - **READ MATTHEW 16:18-19**

Then later on in Peter's life he cannot contain it any more - Peter grew even more in his belief of God's love for him and desire to use us through our weaknesses that HE needed us to believe too when he wrote **READ 2 Peter 1:3-11**

VII. CONCLUSION

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Jesus Loves You - Jesus is For You - Jesus Forgives you - Jesus Embraces You - Jesus desires for you to walk in the newness of life

How do you need to stand up and walk?