

Living Beyond Yourself

God's desire is for each and every one of us to make an impact in the sphere of influence we have been placed

- So many of us don't see ourselves as leaders
- Leadership is defined as influence
- All of us are called to influence others

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Even though most of us are familiar with this passage we have a hard time believing it
- The truth is, most people don't see themselves successful
- We need to look beyond ourselves to experience the success God has planned for us

No one can limit the plan of God for your life except you

Psalms 78:41 (KJV 1900)

⁴¹ Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

- This was a warning for the next generation to not limit and grieve God as their forefathers had
- Our lives go the way of our thoughts
- If we want our lives to change the answer isn't in someone giving us more money or a new job
- We need to change ourselves, our thinking and our mindset
- We can take the limits off God

God has called each and every one of us to do something beyond ourselves

If your vision for your life is something you can do on your own you probably didn't get it from God

We need to get our eyes off ourselves

1 Corinthians 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.*

- That's me
- I qualify
- And so, do you!

If you can say that everything you have achieved in your life is by your own ability, strength, and power you haven't yet tapped into the power of God

- God is big, limitless, and infinite
- He wants us to believe for big things
- Yet most of us only believe for small things

God wanted to do bring the Israelites into the promised land much faster than 40 years

- They sent out spies who saw the giants
- They chose to look at all the reasons they couldn't go
- They refused and limited God
- They allowed the fear of man to keep them in the wilderness

Deuteronomy 34:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

- If God did this for Moses under the old covenant how much more will He do for you and me?
- We just except things the way they are
- We assume that things are just supposed to go a certain way and there's nothing we can do
- We limit God because we just believe something based on what others experience

Deuteronomy 7:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ “If you should say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?’—¹⁸ you shall not be afraid of them, *but* you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:

- The Israelites limited God by saying that the other nations were mightier than they were
- God promised them absolute victory but they waived and began to doubt His promise
- They limited God and He couldn't drive them out

Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV)

² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

- The promises of God must be mixed with faith to be effective
- Everyone can get the same results, yet they are not guaranteed – You must act in faith!

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

- Many people think this verse is saying that God is able to do anything, but they miss the point
- His power is working and active in us
- According – *“in proportion to”* or *“to the degree of the power that worketh in us”*

If we are not in faith we can build ourselves up

Jude 20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit

- We limit the power of God in our lives
- Many people believe that God just sovereignly moves and it has nothing to do with people
- That has never been the case
- God always moves through people

When God moves in a powerful way you will find that someone was praying, someone was believing God, or someone was actively involved to bring about a move of God

- God doesn't move in waves
- He doesn't move in one generation and then allow the next generation to languish
- God wants everyone to walk in His fullness

Life is not a dress rehearsal!

If you are not doing something with your life that excites you and fulfils you, you are wasting your life

- God has a purpose for you and when you find it, you will be fulfilled

God doesn't call us all to do the same thing but He did make everyone special and has called us to do something that will fill our lives with joy and peace

Many of us are just living our lives a certain way because our families or someone else said our life should be a certain way

- Many of us are depressed and unhappy
- We should be doing what God has called us to do
- It's the only way to find joy and fulfillment

A safe life will never produce the kind of life God has in store for us!

The problem is we limit God by comparing ourselves with others

- We look at our parents
- We look at our grandparents
- We look at TV
- We listen to people's stories about how bad things have happened to them
- We start expecting the worst
- Or we see someone doing something great and think that could never happen to us

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- Don't compare with others
- Do what God tells you to do

Don't let finances keep you from believing God for great things!

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

When there is a shortfall so many of us cut back on giving

- We should cut back on debt and spending
- The worst thing you can do to limit your harvest is to cut back on sowing
- If anything, increase your giving!

Most people don't think this way, so they limit God

So many times, we see ourselves doing better than others and we think everything must be ok

- It's not about others, it's about what God has for you
- He always wants to do more
- Don't compare yourself with others
- I don't care if everyone in your family is a loser that doesn't dictate what will happen to you, unless you believe it!

Don't listen to the news and the commercials that say the flu is going around and you're next

- We think, oh its flu season and I'm only human
- There's no season when the word of God doesn't work – not even flu season

Psalm 91:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

- Don't settle and say, "*well I'm only human*"
- If you are born again you are one third Holy Spirit!
- We should not get the same stuff the world gets!
- We shouldn't be comparing ourselves with those who don't have God living on the inside

Most of us just believe that's just the way it's been and the way it will always be

- You need to let the word of God get in the way of what you believe

When we get a negative report from the doctor or don't feel well we seem to find out everything we can on the internet and elsewhere to confirm how sick we are, or who sick we will be

- When you expect sickness, you limit God!

3 John 2 (NKJV)

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

- We need to see ourselves well before wellness can manifest

Many of us just settle for average lives

- We are not meant to be average

Revelation 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Many of us look at others and think...

“well, most people don’t see things come to pass, so its ok for me not to see total victory either.”

When we think this way it’s because we don’t have a close relationship with God and we truly aren’t seeking Him and His will for our lives

- We limit God by the way we think!
- If God did for one, He’ll do it for another

God is no respecter of persons!

Romans 2:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

Are you limiting what God wants to do for you by comparing your life with others?

- Do you really want to be like everyone else?
- Sickness, disease and a short life?
- Financial and emotional problems?
- God never intends for us to live mediocre lives
- God’s word will make us far, far above and not beneath

Deuteronomy 28:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe *them*.

- Don't say, "*well, I'm doing pretty good under the circumstances*"
 - What are you doing under there anyway!
- We are to live above and not beneath
- We're to be the head and not the tail
- We're supposed to be rejoicing in the midst of problems

I'm not saying that we live in a perfect world without any problems

- Many times, there are reasons we have problems
- But God didn't create anyone to be a failure
- If you're experiencing failure, understand He doesn't want you to live that way
 - God loves you!
 - He wants you to win!
 - You were created to be a winner!

Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Psalms 65:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip *with* abundance.

You have got to change your perspective on life

Mark 2:22 (NKJV)

²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins.”

- You can't go around thinking mediocre thoughts and expect abundance – New thinking!
- You must have a bigger vision for your life!
- Don't let your mind talk you out of it
- Don't let circumstances dictate what God can do in your life
- God is *still* in control!

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

- What is in our heart is what comes out of our mouth
- What comes out of our mouth is what we produce
- If we think and speak lack that's what we have
- If we think and speak abundance and success that's what we have
 - Regardless of our current state of affairs
- You will never live the life beyond ourselves until we see ourselves the way God created us to live

If we settle for average we are limiting God in our lives!

A fisherman on a riverbank saw another man fishing nearby. He noticed that he would throw back the big fish but keep the little ones. This went on for a while until he went over and asked why do you throw back the big fish but keep the small ones. "Oh, that's simple" he said. "All I have is a ten-inch frying pan"

"God, I'm ready. I'm taking the limits off of You. I'm enlarging my vision. I may not see a way but I know You have a way."

– Joel Osteen

- We have got to stop thinking the cards are stacked against us
- We've got to stop thinking we'll always be lacking
- We've got to stop thinking the favor of God is only for someone else
- We've got to stop thinking we don't deserve it
- We must believe it is for us!
- God wants to BLESS us!

There is a story in **Genesis 48** about the time that Jacob is close to death. Joseph was Jacob's favorite child

- He was also His youngest son – Coat of many colors.
- Jacob and his son are reunited just as Jacob is about to pass away
- Joseph is standing before Jacob with his two sons in order for him to bless them before his death
- Instead of placing his hand first on the oldest son, Jacob places his hand on the younger – Jewish tradition

Genesis 48:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this *one is* the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

We must stop accepting and expecting things to be the way they always have been

- It's time to believe for supernatural favor
- It's not something that we earn or deserve
- Say I'm not settling for second anymore
- I'm God's favorite!

From now on I'm living a life beyond myself!

Deuteronomy 8:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones *are* iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.