

## Slow Down Spirituality | Part 2 | Symbiosis

### ONLINE RECORDING

#### NOTES ARE IN APP - Not on screen - Download

- <https://theelement.church/app>

#### Connect with us - Next Steps Form

- Text "Element" to 97000

#### 21 Days of Prayer

- Date/Time: Jan. 10th - 28th 2022 | M-F | 7-8 am est
- Location: Zoom: your computer from wherever you are
- **Meeting ID: 830 9349 2677**
- **Passcode: element**
- Short invite link: <https://bit.ly/3EUUM0U>

#### GIVING TIME:

- **4 WAYS TO GIVE**
- ONLINE: <https://theelement.churchcenter.com/give>
- APP: Give Tile
- TEXT: Text an "amount" to 84321
- MAIL: PO Box 52 East Lansing MI 48826

### TODAY: Part 2 of Series: Slow Down Spirituality

#### ILL. Cars: Speed Bumps & Vehicle Speed

- Hit a speed bump at 50 = through the roof, destroys car
- Hit a speed bump at 5 = an easy blip, car continues
- Going slower = going faster/more effective

#### More than cars. Spiritual reality for experiencing life...

ILL. Morning Routine: Slow down at the glass door (see pt. 1)

#### Slowing down goes against our cultural conditioning

"Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day." - Dallas Willard

**“Hurry Sickness”**: consider the following possible symptoms. Which one do you identify with most and why?

### **HOW ALWAYS BEING IN A HURRY HURTS YOU**

- **HURRY increases my stress:**
  - “I had no time to care for myself . . .” Song of Solomon 1:6 (TEV)
- **HURRY decreases my joy:**
  - “My days go by faster than a runner; they fly away without my seeing any joy.” Job 9:25 (NCV)
- **HURRY makes me less productive:**
  - “A person in a hurry makes mistakes.” Proverbs 19:2b (GW)
  - “Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind.” Proverbs 21:5 (MSG)
- **HURRY keeps me from hearing God:**
  - “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

### **Hurry keeps me from hearing God**

**Mutualism**: a relationship between two organisms where both organisms benefit from one another.

- Whale Shark/Remoras
  - Remoras are protected from predators by large whale sharks
  - Whale sharks’ food scraps
- Remora fish and Shark:
  - Remora attaches itself to the shark:
    - to travel different parts of the sea by floating with the shark.
    - It helps the remora fish to travel without burning energy.
    - They also get to eat scraps of food dropped by the shark.
  - Shark surrounded by remora:

- Parasites live in the shark's mouth and the remora cleans the surrounding areas by eating their leftover scraps of food.

**Commensalism:** is when two organisms are living together, but only one organism benefits the other, the other organism neither does harm or benefits

- Clown Fish & Sea Anemone
  - Anemones provide a safe shelter for clownfish (clownfish's mucus protect it from the anemones toxins)
- Tree Frogs use plants as protection

**Parasitism:** relationship between two organisms in which one benefits at the expense of the other, sometimes without killing the host organism.

- Lamprey & Sharks

### **Mutualism is best because**

- Mutually beneficial life to both organisms, but each takes responsibility for its own health when a host isn't available.

### **Living "off of something else" (parasitically) is a problem because**

- When a host isn't available, the parasite dies.
- It has no ability to live on it's own.
- When connected to a source/host it is alive, but when left to itself it shrivels and dies.
- Parasitic is a problem because when a host isn't available, it dies.

Q: Do I live parasitically off **spiritual things** or do I take responsibility for my own spiritual life & then bring something to mutually benefit the life of the spiritual community?

**Matthew 7:21-23**

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!'

## **Do we know God or “live off” spiritual things?**

### **People living “off” spiritual things but missing God.**

- Worship music good if a means, bad if an end
- Bible teaching good if a means, bad if an end
- Spiritual friends good if a means, bad if an end
- Reading Bible good if a means, bad if an end
- 21 Days of Prayer good if a means, bad if an end

Maturity has nothing to do with age, but with the acceptance of responsibility. - Edwin Lewis Cole

“All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone” - French philosopher Blaise Pascal

**Responsibility to sit and pray = maturity**

**I am convinced that many live parasitically when they are designed to live mutually with God & His people**

**Moses - People want an “in between” - parasitically living**

**Exodus 20:18-21**

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance  
19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” 21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

**Compare & Contrast in the Bible**

- A mountain top revelation
- Invitation to PERSONAL ENCOUNTER with God

**Moses - people are afraid = parasitic living**

**N.T. - contrast (go to God yourself...)**

**Story Transfiguration of Jesus –**

**Synoptic Gospel:** 3 different NT books (Matt. 17, Mark 9, Luke 9).

**Matt 17:1-8** “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His

clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard [it], they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”

### #1.) God invites us into a relationship with Him *personally*

#### Recount Story just read

Jesus wants to teach his Disciples & us something about God’s approach to His people.

#### Moses and Elijah Represent the Old Testament

- Origen was the first to comment on Moses & Elijah
  - Origin = the presence of **Moses = The Law**
  - Origin = the presence of **Elijah = The Prophets**
- Martin Luther continued to see them as the **Law** and the **Prophets** respectively, and their recognition of and conversation with Jesus as a symbol of how **Jesus fulfills “the law and the prophets”**.
- **Moses represents Jewish law** and is important because he was the figure believed to have given the Jews their basic laws and to have written the five books of the Torah — **the basis of Judaism itself**.

- **Elijah was** an Israelite prophet
- **Moses & Elijah Represent the Old Covenant – law & prophets**

**Peter wants to build “memorials” to honor ALL THREE**

**“Let’s honor all three... Jesus, Law and Prophets”**

### **WE MUST UNDERSTAND HOW MOSES/ELIJAH/JESUS WORK**

- **Purpose of the Law/Moses**
  - to show us our guilt & brokenness
  - to show us our need for a Savior
- **Purpose of Elijah**
  - to point to the Savior (John the Baptist Matt. 17:11-13)
- **Purpose of Jesus (ONLY)**
  - to introduce us to the solution for shame/guilt & brokenness
  - To INVITE us personally

### **Romans 3:19-22**

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. 21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

### Gal. 3:24-25

24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

### Romans 5:20

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Mary in the Garden post resurrection

- Mary Mary - Personal
- My God and Your God - Invitation

Continue the transfiguration story...

### God brings clarity – AUDIBLY & CLEARLY

### Matthew 17: 5-8

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard [it], they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” Matt When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”

- Greatly Afraid = Law (Moses)
- Jesus came = incarnation
- Jesus touched them = personal & involved
- Jesus told them = Arise & don't be afraid



- They saw no one but Jesus... only.

When the disciples look up:

**The Law & Prophets have served their purpose...**

**ONLY Jesus remains.**

- Jesus **came** = incarnation
- Jesus **touch**ed them = personal & involved
- Jesus **told them** = Arise & don't be afraid
- They saw no one but **Jesus... only.**

The law & prophets can make you afraid to approach God

Jesus invites you to approach God

### **Hebrews 4:16**

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### **Salvation → Sanctification**

- Romans 7 & 8
- Salvation is a promised moment
- Sanctification = a promised PROCESS
- Jesus wants to save us & stay with us

## Meaning of Peter, James and John

- All three accounts in the Bible give the names of the three disciples who accompanied Jesus and who stood as human witnesses to the glory that was Christ's.
  - Peter – Stone (Law & Prophets/Old Testament)
  - James – Supplanter (supersede/replace)
  - John – God is gracious
- (James and John are brothers... the “go together”)
- Put it in order:

### God's Grace supersedes/supplants the Law

## THE LAW DOES IT'S WORK BUT ONLY JESUS REMAINS

We need a revelation of God's Love to BE WITH GOD

instead of being around God

Music

Preaching

Church

Friends

God invites us into relationship with him personally

Moses' mountain = people are afraid

Jesus' mountain = don't be afraid

Elijah's Spirit = fire consumes

## **Jesus' Spirit = the Spirit is fire in us/with us**

### **People living “off” spiritual things but missing God.**

- Worship music good if a means, bad if an end
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Maturity is about moving from being a dependent to contributor

Maturity has nothing to do with age, but with the acceptance of responsibility. - Edwin Lewis Cole

### **God loves you & wants to be with you**

#### **Hebrews 4:16**

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**Q: Will you take responsibility, the step of maturity, to take time & be with Him?**

**Decisions for Jesus** - “Scott, I've never said yes to Jesus”

First time or commitment again

Prayer with me  
Salvation Prayer

### **Encounter Time:**

- I love what God does *in* this room but also what He does *from* this room

### **REMINDER & PRAYER/CLOSE:**

- 21 Days of Prayer starts tomorrow morning