

The background of the slide is a solid blue color with a pattern of thin, white, wavy lines that create a sense of movement and depth, resembling a stylized wave or a field of light rays.

Moving From Your Comfort Zone

Part II

Last Week

Faith ~ We Need Faith To Please God

Fear ~ Fear Must Be Overcome By Faith

Focus ~ Losing Focus Will Cause You To Doubt

*Familiarity ~ God Will Use Similar Situations
To Strengthen Your Faith*

*Faithfulness ~ God Uses Your Failure To Reveal
His Faithfulness*

Introduction

The *Spiritual Journey* with God is a **WALK OF PROGRESSION**... The greatest **enemy** to this walk of progression is **Complacency**... **Complacency** has a place of residence called the "**COMFORT ZONE**"... This is a place where our behaviors and activities are comfortable and there is **no stress or fear of risk**. Some people **JUSTIFY THEIR RESIDENCE** in their comfort zone **BY EXCUSES**.

Harold Herrings suggests, Your comfort zone is an **enemy of your future**. . .
A **hindrance to your success**. . . A **stumbling block to your destiny**.

If you stay in your comfort zone, you will never **reach your potential** or **complete your assignment**

There comes a point when you realize ~ what you've been doing is not progressing...
There comes a point when you realize ~ God has so much more in store for your life
There comes a point when you realize ~ God is shifting me to a new level of living

Why keep settling for an **AVERAGE LIFE** when God desires to shift you to a **PLACE OF ABUNDANCE**
John 10:10 ~ I have come so that you might have life and have it more abundantly...

We must careful not to **BECOME COMPLACENT** in our **COMFORT ZONES**

This Can Be Seen With The Man At The Pool of Bethesda

John 5:1-9 (ESV)

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

*2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, **which has five roofed colonnades.** **3 In these lay A MULTITUDE OF INVALIDS—blind, lame, and paralyzed.***

*5 One man was there **WHO HAD BEEN AN INVALID FOR THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS.** 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **“DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?”***

*7 The sick man answered him, **“Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”** 8 Jesus said to him, **“GET UP, TAKE UP YOUR BED, AND WALK.”***

9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

*He has become **COMFORTABLE IN HIS CONDITION** after seeing **NO CHANGE***

Reasons For His Comfort Zone

- 1. His Company/His Crowd of Companions*
- 2. Continuation Without Change*
- 3. Loss Of Desire/Drive*
- 4. A Disabling Dependence on Others*

Examination of the Man At The Pool

John 5:3 ... *In these lay A MULTITUDE OF INVALIDS—blind, lame, and paralyzed.*

Reason #1 ~ His Company/His Crowd of Companions

You must surround yourself with people who refuse to allow you to live beneath your potential.

You must surround yourself with people who seek to maximize your opportunities for change

Mark 2:1-5 (NIV)

1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 **SOME MEN CAME, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.** 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralytic man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw **THEIR FAITH**, he said to the paralytic, "Son, **your sins are forgiven.**"

Mark 8:22-26 (NKJV)

22 Then He came to Bethsaida; and **THEY BROUGHT A BLIND MAN TO HIM**, and **BEGGED HIM TO TOUCH HIM.** 23 So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. 24 And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." 25 Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. 26 Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

Characteristics of this Company

Make An **Impact** Without Being **Identified**

Willing To **Sacrifice** Beyond **Self**

Reason #1 ~ His Company/His Crowd of Companions

You must surround yourself with people who refuse to allow you to LIVE beneath your potential.

You must surround yourself with people who seek to maximize your opportunities for change

Esther 4:13-16 (NKJV)

13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether YOU HAVE COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?" 15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and IF I PERISH, I PERISH!"

Characteristics of this Company

1) Refuse To Allow Your Success/Status Cause You To Forget

- People who keep you Grounded when God Elevates You.... But Not keep you Ground and Prevents Elevation...

2) Courage To Cover You and Check You At The Same Time

Don't always like THEIR INSTRUCTIONS...But I never question THEIR INTENTIONS

Although Mordecai was not as Popular and Esther ~ He served a Purpose

Reason #2 ~ His Continuation With No Change

John 5:3-5 (ESV)

3 *In these lay* **A MULTITUDE OF INVALIDS**—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

5 One man was there **WHO HAD BEEN AN INVALID FOR THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS.**

There is a tendency to lose HOPE when **THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO CHANGE**
BUT NOT OUR CONDITION ~ **COMPLACENCY** begins to set in...

It Is Reflected In Your Vocabulary

Maybe it was meant to be like this **ALWAYS**

Maybe this is **GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE**

Victory Over This Type of Vocabulary

Remember God's Word

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

I have come that **they may have life**, and that they may **have it more abundantly.**

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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.**

Reason #2 ~ His Continuation With No Change Victory Over This Type of Vocabulary

Remember God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NIV)

*7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times 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.***

John 9:1-3 (NIV)

*1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "**BUT THIS HAPPENED SO THAT THE WORK OF GOD MIGHT BE DISPLAYED IN HIS LIFE.**"*

Seek Solutions While Trusting God's Sovereignty

Mark 5:25-29 (NIV)

*25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal **UNDER THE CARE OF MANY DOCTORS AND HAD SPENT ALL SHE HAD,** yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 **When she heard about Jesus,** she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because **SHE THOUGHT,** "If I just touch his clothes, **I will be healed.**" 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and *she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.**

Reason #3 ~ Loss Of Desire/Drive

John 5:1-9 (ESV)

5 One man was there **WHO HAD BEEN AN INVALID FOR THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS**. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **“DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?”**

Dysfunction has a way of robbing you of your **Drive, Determination, and Desire**

Jesus knew his **MAIN PROBLEM** was **NOT PHYSICAL**, but **PSYCHOLOGICAL**

The Question: **Do You Want It? How Bad Do You Want It?**

Is This The Reason There Is NO CHANGE In Your Situation?

- ❖ If you are not careful you will find yourself just **GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS**.
- ❖ If you are not careful, you will find yourself in a **STATE STAGNATION IN YOUR SPIRIT**: nothing **moves you**, nothing **excites you**... You are good **EITHER WAY**...

Jesus' Warning

Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV)

15 I know your deeds, that **you are neither cold nor hot**. **I wish you were either one or the other!**
16 So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--**I am about to spit you out of my mouth.**

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Reason #3 ~ Loss Of Desire/Drive

Those Who Would Not Take No For An Answer....

- ❖ *Woman who pressed the crowd* ~ If I can just touch Hem of his Garment...
- ❖ *Blind Bartimeas* said I'm going to holler til I get his attention/get my blessing
 - ❖ *Jacob* said I will wrestle with you all night until I get my blessing
- ❖ *Syrophonecian Woman* was persistent til she finally says, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from Master's Table"

*Exceptional Drive ~ Exceptional Desire ~ Exceptional Determination
Gets Exceptional Results*

Reason #4 ~ A Disabling Dependence On Others

John 5:1-9 (ESV)

6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “**DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?**” 7 The sick man answered him, “**Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.**” 8 Jesus said to him, “**GET UP, TAKE UP YOUR BED, AND WALK.**” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

*He Responds To The Word With **EXCUSES**... Instead Of **EXCITEMENT***

*He offers **EXPLANATIONS** for his condition, rather than **EXPERIENCING THE CHANGE** he needed*

*We must be careful not to confuse **THE RESOURCES** with **THE SOURCE***

***The Source** of His Change Was The Word Of God*

*Any Change In Your Life/Change In Your Situation Begins With **THE WORD OF GOD***

*Let **GOD'S WORD** Give You That **Drive, Desire, and Determination** to **LIVE AN ABUNDANT LIFE***

In Conclusion... Reasons We Remain In Our Comfort Zones

Reason #1 ~ Our Company/Our Crowd of Companions

*Make An **Impact** Without Being **Identified***

*Willing To **Sacrifice** Beyond **Self***

Reason #2 ~ A Continuation With No Change

*Remember **God's Word***

*Remember **God's Ways Are Not Our Ways***

*Seek **Solutions** While **Trusting** **God's Sovereignty***

Reason #3 ~ A Loss Of Desire/Drive/Determination

*Dysfunction has a way of robbing you of your **Drive**, **Determination**, and **Desire***

Reason #4 ~ A Disabling Dependence On Others

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