



*A Man & His Daily Rhythm*  
Dan Dorer

**REAL MOMENTUM**

*"You don't realize what you had until it's gone."*

Regrettably, I have heard this sobering statement made by far too many church leaders over the last 20 years. Greatly gifted men and women who had a vibrant place of service in ministry only to allow the subtle influence of sin and misdirection to take them over and then out.

In my own personal reflection and fear of making the statement above, I found it necessary to challenge myself (and now you) with a proactive list of precautions helpful in avoiding the snares that would cause these words to come from my lips.

I pray not just for myself but at least one other to be spared the regret and to finish the race faithfully.

**Make sure of your Call**

For most Christians who are involved in active ministry, there was a "defining moment" where they heard an undeniable call to serve our Lord and His Kingdom in a particular area of the church. Great fulfillment comes from knowing where to match our spiritual gift with an area of service in ministry. Those who understand their gift and have a great confidence and a joy in using it to bring God glory always carry out vibrant and productive ministry.

Joy and productivity in ministry will always draw the attention of our enemies – the world, the flesh and the devil. This will inevitably produce challenge and even persecution and suffering in the life of the faithful servant. On those days when the pressure increases and the servant is driven to anguish and potentially even disillusionment, an important stabilizer is his or her remembrance of that clear call, which God gave before they stepped in to serve.

*for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

Rom 11:29 NASU

- Are you certain you were called to the place of service you now stand?
- Is there joy and fruit that provide evidence of the call?
- How will you respond to the inevitable tough times that will come?

**Make Confession a part of the "rhythm" of your daily worship**

I recently read a statement that most Christians consider themselves to be "pretty good people who mess up once in a while". This statement sounds great until you test it with the Holy Scripture.

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Jeremiah 17:9 KJV

The Bible calls a man a "fool" who trusts in his own heart. The life of Christ cannot be lived out through a man who has even the slightest strength in himself. The strongest man of God is the one who acknowledges his own weakness and allows Christ to be his strength. Repentance must become a part of the daily rhythm of anyone desiring to honor and to be used by God. We are to daily

“reckon” ourselves to be dead to sin (Rom 6:11). Repentance can no longer be the rare experience of a believer in a church service. It must become the first and most essential part of our daily worship and relationship with God.

- Are you honest with God about your weakness and needs?
- Have you allowed Him to show you your sinful nature and its strength and influence again today?
- Did you allow the old man to get up and live today?

### **Make no mistake about Character**

I am grieved and fatigued over the countless dozens of church leaders who have the curtain of their “secret lives” lifted each year. I often ponder who might be the next one to be revealed. Who among us today is represented, as a wonderful spiritual leader yet has been known by God to be the ultimate hypocrite only to be revealed as such to us tomorrow?

*Make no mistake - Who we are when no one is watching is what everyone will see when God decides it is time.*

God has promised to protect and purify His church. Make sure your place of service is not what gets washed away because of the impurity of your character.

- Are you “a person of God” in every area of your life?
- What is the sin that so easily and so often besets you?
- What are you hiding today that others will hear of when God has had enough?

### **Conduct yourself under the stricter judgment of a teacher**

Many Christian leaders see their ultimate contribution to be their service rather than their life. We cannot effectively lead others to do what we are not doing personally. Followers have a keen insight to sense what is not real and not genuine in the life of a Christian leader. They will learn much more from your example than they will from your words. We set aside our greatest tool in our leadership effectiveness when we ignore our responsibility to experience ministry personally on the front lines of the battle for the hearts of men. The overflow and example of your own experience will provide an edge and a power in influence that far surpasses the mere eloquence and inspiration of our teaching and leadership.

*We can teach what we know, but we only reproduce what we are!*  
Johnny Hunt

*For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.*

2 Thess 3:7-9 NASU

- Would your followers consider you a travel agent or an adventure guide?
- Have you burned all the boats that float your excuses for teaching what you are not living?
- Who do you know that needs a call or a visit from you today?

### **Make sure your Concentration is focused on the right things**

A man's heart is never in neutral or on idle. It serves something and someone every moment of every day. If that someone is not The Lord and that something is not His glory, we are headed away from His blessings and protection and instead toward a life collision with the calamity and consequences of our own way.

Even beyond carnal idols and pride, there is a need for proper concentration in spiritual matters as well. Too often as leaders and teachers we present "a way" that looks like Christ, "a truth" about Christ and "a life" that represents Christ. Without the faith ingredient, the idols of our heart eclipse Christ from being "The Way", "The Truth" and "The Life" and present a powerless message to all who follow us. Jesus and the cross must be both our message *and* the messenger. The power and distinctiveness of your life and ministry don't just come from – they must actually **be** none other than our Lord Jesus who is alive in us.

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified*

1 Cor 2:2 NIV

- What and who is your heart serving today?
- Are you allowing Jesus to live His life out fully through you?
- Is He "there in the midst" when you gather with two or three in His name or do you just talk about Him as though you might happen to see Him later?

### **Make sure you are obtaining proper [Counsel](#)**

Have you come to the place where you have confidently said that there are some folks around from whom you do not seek counsel? They are loved and even appreciated but their counsel is not pure and Biblical. As a result, it is not wise counsel and in its obtaining there is little (if any) benefit and even potential danger.

No man needs the counsel of any man when God has already spoken to him clearly. Yet many ask men what they think before they even ask God. The Bible tells us that the fool has a destructive tongue so we must select fellowship with those who have lives and lips that represent purity and wisdom.

*If the source of our knowledge is false, then what we learn from that source is also false.*

Harold Lindsell

*The counsel of the wicked is far from me.*

Job 22:18 NASU

*A wise man will hear and increase in learning,  
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel*

Prov 1:5 NASU

*The counsel of the LORD stands forever,*

Ps 33:11 NASU

- What is your motivation in selecting who will provide you counsel – a desire for pure wisdom or an emotional stamp of approval?
- Have you asked God for wisdom in the matter you plan to discuss with others today?
- Do you verify the counsel of men against God's Word?

### **Make sure your [Compassion](#) matches that of our Lord Jesus**

Can we really say that we are “living out the life of Christ” if our heart is void of an ever increasing compassion for our Lord, His sheep, the lost and the poor and hurting? This is the litmus test of our love for God. If the “activity of ministry” has become more important and prominent than our love for God and others, we have missed the mark not just by a little, but completely!

We do not find compassion in the activity of ministry – rather compassion becomes the fuel for ministry and is produced as the natural byproduct of our deepening love relationship with our Lord. The difference in these two approaches is not a subtle one. They are diametrically opposed to each other. One is Biblical and anointed while the other, though predominant among us today, is carnal and produces exhaustion in the life of the servant!

*When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

Mark 6:34 NIV

*"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."*

Mark 8:2-3 NIV

- Do others ever describe you as “Jesus with skin on”?
- Has your “first love” become blurry or distant?
- Have the “good things” of ministry taken the place of “God things” in your life?
- What in your life needs to be “eliminated” so that proper “concentration” can take place?