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Summary

Guest Speaker Phillip Baker delivers a powerful message about overcoming the cycles of spiritual defeat ("two steps forward, one step back") by learning to handle pressure the way Jesus did. Speaking at World Harvest Church, he emphasizes that while Satan creates infinite layers of pressure in our lives, we have the choice whether to "crack" under that pressure. The sermon focuses on three ways people crack (saying things they can't take back, doing things they regret, and neglecting things they can't afford to neglect) and introduces Jesus's approach to handling pressure, beginning with running to His secret place of prayer.

Top Points

God's 2025 Word to Evangelist Phillip Baker: **"Nothing But Forward"** - The theme for the year is moving forward without taking steps backward spiritually, physically, or financially.

Satan's Primary Weapon: Pressure - Satan has created a world with infinite layers of pressure that affects everyone from young to old, targeting finances, relationships, health, and expectations.

Three Ways People "Crack" Under Pressure:

- Say things they can't take back
- Do things they regret
- Neglect things they can't afford to neglect (prayer, Bible study, church attendance, tithing, serving)

The Altar is Sacred - Religion has stolen the altar, but it's a place where God pours out special grace and where the church family should gather in faith.

Men Must Lead the Way - Strong men create strong marriages, which create strong families, churches, and ultimately a strong kingdom.

Jesus's Response to Pressure - Even under the ultimate pressure before His crucifixion, Jesus didn't crack, and neither do believers have to crack.

The Secret Place is Essential - Like Jesus who ran to the Garden of Gethsemane, believers need a secret place of prayer that becomes more important during pressured seasons.

Top Quotes

On Pressure's Universal Nature:

"Satan is the master of pressure. He has created a world with infinite layers of pressure. And that pressure is exerted on you from the time you wake up to the time you go to bed."

On Not Making Excuses:

*"Don't neglect the kingdom. When pressure mounts, don't back away. What do we want to do? **Lean in.**"*

On Jesus's Example:

"Don't you think it might be wise that we handle pressure the way Jesus handled pressure? That whatever Jesus did, maybe that's what we ought to do?"

Welsh Revival Quote (cited by speaker):

"We've built the altar. We've laid the wood. We've brought the sacrifice. Now we wait for the fire."

On the Secret Place:

"You don't want to crack in the days ahead? You want your best days to be ahead? Your secret place has got to be more important to you this year than it was last year."

On Men's Leadership:

"When men lead the way to the altar... when you have strong men of God, you've got strong marriages. When you've got strong marriages, you've got strong families. When you've got strong families, you've got strong churches. And when you've got strong churches, you've got a strong kingdom."