



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Loss of Momentum

Passage: Ezra 3:10-13

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: There are many believers today who feel stuck, no longer moving forward, no longer growing, the momentum they once had now gone. The problem is comparison. Comparison always pulls us in the wrong direction. It either fills us with pride or leaves us discouraged, and neither one leads to spiritual growth. Instead of building momentum, it quietly brings everything to a stop.

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” (2 Corinthians 10:12)

God has never loved us based on where we are on our path, yet comparison causes many believers to become discouraged, prideful, and spiritually stalled. As Israel experienced a fresh start and everything seemed to be moving forward, a subtle shift began to take place, one that would eventually stop the work altogether.

I. When We Focus on What God Is Doing (Verses 10-11)

A. There Was Praise

They didn't wait for completion to praise. They praised at the foundation. They praised at the beginning.



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B. There Was Unity

The Bible says they sang together. They were unified around one thing: God is working.

C. There Was Momentum

Momentum builds when people focus on what God is doing.

Maybe you're not where you want to be yet, your life isn't fully put together yet, and maybe it's just the foundation. Praise the Lord anyway.

II. When We Focus on What Is Missing (Verse 12)

Nothing about the work changed. What changed was their focus. Instead of looking at what God was doing. They started looking at what was missing.

A. Comparison

When comparison takes over, we stop looking for God's presence and start evaluating performance.

When we measure growth instead of celebrating it, we become a barrier to the very work God is trying to do.

B. Discouragement

Comparison always leads to discouragement.

When you focus on what's missing, what is happening feels small, what God is doing feels insignificant, and progress feels unimpressive. And what should have been a moment of joy turns into a moment of sorrow.

III. When We Lose Sight of God's Work (Verse 13)



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A. Confusion

At the beginning there was praise, unity, and momentum.
Now there is noise, mixture, and confusion.

When confusion enters, momentum doesn't just slow down; it starts breaking down.

B. Loss of Momentum

When we lose sight of what God is doing, we don't just affect ourselves; we affect everyone around us.

Instead of a clear message, "God is working," people hear mixed signals, and when no one knows how to respond, people stop moving.

When you lose sight of God's work, you don't just lose joy; you lose direction, and eventually, you lose momentum.

Conclusion: In our text, we saw the situation never changed. God was still faithful, the foundation was still laid, and the opportunity to move forward was still there. What changed was the focus of the people. The truth is, momentum is rarely stolen by circumstances. It is surrendered internally. It begins with something small, a thought, a comparison, a subtle shift in focus. Left unchecked, that shift grows until progress slows, purpose blurs, and you find yourself no longer building, but sitting still, watching what could have been.

