

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



How To Know You Are Stuck

Philippians 4:12,13

Sunday, February 23 & March 1, 2020

"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." ESV

We are dealing with the problem of being bogged down and dissatisfied with our present situation. We know that God is prompting us to make a change; we just cannot find the will to do it.

This study looks at five signs that you are holding yourself back:

- **Feeling you never have enough**
- **Experiencing false limitations**
- **Lacking confidence**
- **Losing control**
- **Ignoring problems.**

FEELING YOU NEVER HAVE ENOUGH

Proverbs 30:15,16

¹⁵The leech has two daughters: Give and Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough": ¹⁶Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, "Enough." ESV

If you look at what you have with a sense of longing for more, nothing will ever be enough. But if you approach life with a sense of gratitude, you will always feel you have more than you need.

EXPERIENCING FALSE LIMITATIONS

The Lord wants us to submit not only our abilities, but also our inability to Him.

A young woman was told by her doctor that she could never escape from her prison of pain and weakness. She quickly replied, "There's a lot of living to be found within your limitations, if you don't wear yourself out fighting them." The lady was Helen Keller, who also said,

"Face your deficiencies and acknowledge them, but do not let them master you."

LACKING CONFIDENCE

We all have a voice of self-doubt, and if we listen to it we will always lack confidence. To gain in confidence, tune out that inner voice by listening intently to the Lord view on you and your abilities. As your confidence in Him grows, you will sense His confidence in you.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; NKJV

FEELING A LOSS OF CONTROL

A father told of an encounter with his 6-year-old, who was helping him in the yard. She chattered away about her Sunday school lesson on Adam and Eve. Dad thought he would test her. "Did you know Adam and Eve sinned?" "Yep." "What did God do to them as a punishment?" Her answer was immediate and matter-of-fact, without even looking up she said: "He made them have kids."

One of the greatest areas in which we experience loss of control is with our children. The problem is that they have brains, which causes them to make really interesting choices that often throw their lives out of balance.

Passivity in this and other areas is a terrible enemy. If you aren't running your life, life can run you over.

IGNORING PROBLEMS

the Israelites hid themselves within their houses from the destroying angel, Noah within the Ark, the Christians before the fall of Jerusalem

Such a man looks around, takes warning from little circumstances which might escape the observation of careless persons, and provides for his safety in good time.

Proverbs 22:3

A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. NLT

Ignoring a problem doesn't make it go away. Instead of putting your energy into dealing with the fallout from it, use it to face the situation and work toward finding a solution with God's help.

"That which the fool does in the end, the wise man does at the beginning."

Chuck Swindoll said, "Every problem is an opportunity to prove God's power. Every day we encounter countless golden opportunities, brilliantly disguised as insurmountable problems."

"Only place on yourself the limits God places on you!"