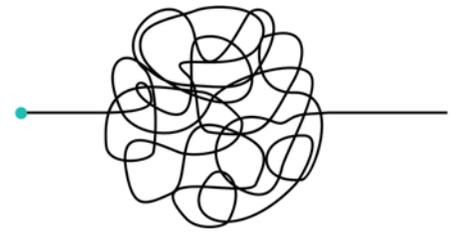


APRIL 27/28

ADMITTING I AM

JOHN FULLER, SENIOR PASTOR



INTRODUCTION

We launch a new three-week series this weekend entitled *Work in Progress*. The focus of this post-Easter series is to help people see faith is a journey, and everybody has to start somewhere. As a “no matter” church, PLC welcomes people where they are and helps them find and know Jesus. In this initial message, Pastor John speaks on the crucial first step of “admitting I am a work in progress.”

DISCUSSION

1. Why is admitting I am broken, lost and don't have it all figured out so crucial to beginning a relationship with Christ? Why is it also crucial for persevering and thriving in relationship with Christ?
2. Pastor John emphasizes how the three characters in last week's Easter message didn't stay where they were. Mary ran to tell the others, the Emmaus travelers hurried back, and the disciples moved from hiding to the public temple. Once we realize and admit we don't have it all together, why is it imperative to move forward from that admission?
3. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-9 aloud.** Note and discuss the progression for Christ-followers of adding goodness, knowledge, self-control, etc. How could these qualities keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in our faith as verse 8 states? Reread verse 9. Why is it so important to remember that, as believers, we have been cleansed from our past sins?
4. Pastor John articulates, “Jesus is finished, but we are not. We are a work in progress.” How can this one truth help guard us against despair? Pride? Spiritual lethargy?

DO SOMETHING

1. **Read Philippians 3:12-14** slowly several times. Seek the Lord's guidance if there is an area you are stuck in and have avoided emerging out of. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you “press on toward the goal.”
2. Delve into **Philippians 1:6** and the Philippians passage noted above further with study tools. Commentaries such as *The Pillar New Testament Commentary - The Letter to the Philippians* by G. Walter Hansen or D. A. Carson's *Basics for Believers: An Exposition of Philippians* are possible resources [both available on Amazon].
3. Memorize Philippians 1:6, and as you memorize, pray it back to Jesus. Thank Him for the good work He has already started in you - hurdles He's empowered you to overcome and doors He's opened in your life. Ask Him to carry to completion until the very end the good works He's started in your life and grant you confidence to overcome through His strength and power.

RESOURCES

1. *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: It's Impossible to Be Spiritually Mature, While Remaining Emotionally Immature* by Peter Scazzero. Available on Amazon.
2. *Look at the Book: Spiritual Growth* - We don't want to become stagnant in our faith. We desire to grow into mature followers of Christ. But we often feel powerless and confused about what it means to mature in our faith. In this series on RightNow Media, John Piper provides clarity for Christians who want to grow up. Using multiple passages of Scripture, he coaches believers into a life of spiritual maturity.
3. What if you were ready for the Big League but still played T-ball because it was easier? This entertaining illustration on RightNow Media is a challenge to get off the bench and into the game where we belong.