

CONFESSIONS OF A PASTOR

Part 5 | Sunday, October 9, 2016

"I have to work hard to overcome my faults and weaknesses."

❖ The roadblock to growth is _____.

com·pla·cent: Contented to a fault; self-satisfied and unconcerned.

2 Samuel 11:1-2 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful...

❖ We must choose to be a _____ rather than a custodian.

❖ Growth is _____, not accidental.

John 5:5-7 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" 7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

❖ Successful people have taken the _____
_____ necessary to exceed ordinary!

AN IMPROVED VERSION OF YOU

1. Be humble and _____ . Never stop learning.

1 Peter 5:5-6 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

2. Remain firmly _____ in Jesus Christ.

John 15:1-8 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- My faith in Christ is not something I do, it is _____.

Isaiah 64:8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

3. Obey the inside _____.

1 John 2:20 & 27 AMP 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One [you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit], and all of

you know [the truth because He teaches us, illuminates our minds, and guards us from error].

27 As for you, the anointing [the special gift, the preparation] which you received from Him remains [permanently] in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But just as His anointing teaches you [giving you insight through the presence of the Holy Spirit] about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as His anointing has taught you, you must remain in Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him].

GOING HIGHER

Set aside 30 minutes this week for self-examination and consider the following questions:

1. What areas of your life have you grown complacent and tend to function in "maintenance mode?" Your job? Marriage? Attitude? What would it take to shift into "builder mode?"
2. Make a list of your faults and weaknesses. If you have trouble thinking of any you might want to ask a family member for some gentle reminders.
3. Which one has the greatest negative impact on your life? What would be some intentional steps you could take to establish new habits?
4. If Jesus Christ were coming into town to stay with you for the next seven days, what things would you easily bump from your schedule to spend more time with Him?
5. The top three things I can do to improve my walk with Jesus are . . .
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

**All scriptures are from the NIV translation unless otherwise noted.*