

Limitations: Friend or Foe?

*"I (wisdom) was there when the Lord set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its **boundary** so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth." Proverbs 8:27-29*

*"After the death of Moses...the LORD said to Joshua..."Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan...into the land that I am giving to them..."**Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon, I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.** From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun **shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.** I will not leave you or forsake you." - Joshua 1:1-5*

I. Introduction

II. Reasons That God Has Ordained Limitations in This Life

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

III. Benefits of Recognizing, Acknowledging, and Learning to Deal With Our Limitations

1. It will actually put things into proper perspective and serve as an _____

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed." II Corinthians 4:7-9

2. It will conceivably serve as a catalyst for _____

"For I (Paul) know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." – Romans 7:18

"When You corrected me, it did me good because it taught me to study Your laws." Psalm 119:71

"Realizing our limitations is grounds for a fresh breakthrough!"

"Mindsets are gateways and doorways to your destiny. The quality of a man's life is directly tied to a man's mindset. A man's mindset can limit God in his life." - Joshua Selman Nimmak

The three main times people change:

1. When they _____ enough that they have to.
2. When they _____ enough that they want to.
3. When they _____ enough that they are able to!

3. It will force us to come to grips with some _____ and deal with them
“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” – II Corinthians 12:9

“Knowing what you cannot do is more important than knowing what you can do” - Lucille Ball

“A man has got to know his limitations.”- Dirty Harry

Problem - Something you can do _____ about

Fact of life - Something you can do _____ about

1. The limitation of your _____

“You have decided the length of our lives. You know how many months we will live, and **we are not given a minute longer.**” Job 14:5 (NLT)

“Lord, so teach us to (number our days) realize the brevity of life, **so that we may grow in wisdom.**”
Psalm 90:12

Fun fact #1 - You cannot live forever (in the natural)

2. The limitation of your _____

“We, however, will not boast beyond **proper limits**, **but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us**, a field that reaches even to you. We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others...” II Corinthians 10:13-15

“**Do not neglect the gift you have**...Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.” I Timothy 4:14-15 (ESV)

Fun fact #2 - You cannot do it all. Team ministry is always best!

3. The limitation of your _____

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **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 Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV)

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." II Corinthians 9:8

Fun fact #3 - You cannot have it all

4. The limitations of human _____

*"Do your best to come to me soon. For **Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me** and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia... **At my first defense, no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me.** May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me..." II Timothy 4:9-10; 16-17 (ESV)*

"Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me." Psalm 41:9 (NLT)

Fun fact #4 - You cannot please all. In truth, realize that people will sometimes fail you, hurt you, or even desert you. In reality, perhaps few relationships ever make it long-term. So, hold things and people loosely, and let your trust and internal sense of well-being stem from your relationship with the Lord - not with people. Key thought: Never place your emotional health in the hands of others!

IV. Wrong Responses To The Realities of Our Limitations

1. Allowing ourselves to get sucked-in to _____ living

*"Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. **But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are foolish and without understanding.**" II Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)*

Spoiler Alert: Scorekeepers always lose!

2. Allowing ourselves to become victims of a spirit of _____

*"The **fear of human opinion disables**; trusting in GOD protects you from that." Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)*

3. Slipping into the abyss of _____

*"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but **envy rots the bones.**" Proverbs 14:30*

*"David faithfully went everywhere that Saul sent him, and did well. Saul had him lead the men of war. And it was pleasing to all the people and to Saul's servants. When David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul...the women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Then Saul became very angry. This saying did not please him. He said, "They have given David honor for ten thousands, but for me only thousands. Now what more can he have but to be king?" And **Saul was jealous and did not trust David from that day on. The next day a bad spirit sent from God came upon Saul with power. He acted like a crazy man in his house...**" I Sam.18:5-10*

"And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, like chasing after the wind." Ecclesiastes 4:4

4. Falling into the trap of being tricked into _____

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." **Romans 15:13 (ESV)**

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul." **Psalms 23:1-3**

"...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." **1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)**

Never Quit - Never Give Up!

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me..."

II Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV)

ANSWER KEY:

II. Reasons That God Has Ordained Limitations in This Life

1. Natural human imperfections
2. Man's need for humility
3. Man's need for God
4. Sin's corruption of human character

III. Benefits of Recognizing, Acknowledging and Learning to Deal With Our Limitations

1. encouragement
2. personal change and growth

The three main times people change:

Hurt-----learn-----receive

3. new realities

Problem---Something you can do something about

Fact of life---Something you can do nothing about

1. The limitation of your days
2. The limitation of your gifts
3. The limitation of your resources
4. The limitation of human relationships

IV. Wrong Responses To The Realities of Our Limitations

1. comparison-based
2. intimidation
3. envy or jealousy
4. quitting—giving up on God's will