

Story about Marlinda & David – basic training bible study turned to an kingdom clash event when I invited the Holy Spirit

Flow

1. God weaves our redemption and healing in silence in the background (that moment was building)
2. Something that could have taken years of counselling or possibly never been revealed (power encounter)
3. Set free from torment in an instance in a sudden growth event

Transition- While we are here, we are growing, God has a customized spiritual growth plan for our lives, today I'd like to share with you another key element regarding "how we grow"

II. How do we grow, what are the basic components?

1 Co. 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

God uses different elements

People bring grace/truth

A. God, by His Holy Spirit is responsible for our growth plan –

Block

1. Phyteuō (foo-to-oh – to plant – to instill doctrine, truth – Paul)
2. Potizō (pa-tede-zo – to water – to bring satisfaction, grace – Apollos)
3. Auxano – to cause to grow

maturity wholeness...

Inspiration sense of God's love - feeling

B. Practically speaking- Spiritual growth happens by way of both process and an event.

1. In process we develop as we mature over time as we experience grace and truth –

- a) Much like a tree developing fruit / or an infant needing milk / or more mature needing meat
- b) This type of growth happens in stages.

continues after 2nd coming Christ...

1 Jn 2:12-13 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

Flow

2. In the "event" – the Lord accelerates our growth by means of an "Aha – Eureka – Power Point

- a) These occur when we interact with objective markers – Core Christian truths that move us.

Example – The James F. Engels scale (process or persuasion evangelism), "stages in intellect (from a little to a lot) and attitudes (from hostile to responsive) that people go through in Christian conversion. There is always someone in our culture on the verge of converting. Openness to the gospel can be measured based on this process of intellect and attitude toward the Gospel. Wimber taught "Power Evangelism" – clear presentation of the Gospel, and a demonstration of the Kingdom

Transition- Consider Paul's Event growth experience, when He meets Jesus on the road to Damascus. His interaction with Jesus significantly thrusts His spiritual maturity forward

Read Acts 9:1-19 (A little background on Paul acts 7)

C. Suddenly- Saul's personal agenda was interrupted by interaction with Holy Spirit's divine agenda

1. Eks – ife- naze/ communicates 2 primary concepts
 - 1) Eks- is the idea of a Kairos and Chronos moment combined- Its an event that is made up of "right time, place and cause"
 - 2) Ife-knee-dee-ahs – unexpected/interruption where God Shines light/revelation in a moment of time.
 - 3) Paul's "Suddenness revelation" was like the putting on of a new garment

Block

D. Spiritual growth is God's intentional plan

1. This "suddenness event" gripped Paul and revealed His purpose and calling in moments.
2. A powerful encounter with Jesus can move us beyond a rational lengthy process.
3. These events if embraced will move us into a place of victory, freedom, purpose and calling

Paul turned on like a light - and was forever set on a path toward Spiritual Growth.

III. How does Paul's suddenness event relate to me?

Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

3 principles: 1) The Holy Spirit is always at work, running the Father's growth plan 2) God will use a "suddenness event" as part of our growth! 3) God is always building us and preparing us for growth events

A. As he was travelling: - This is a representation of our own lives and agendas

1) The Holy Spirit is always at work, running the Father's growth plan

1. Saul's agenda- Verse 1 gives us a picture and illustration into the agenda that Paul had
2. "Breathing threats" - his soul was intoxicated with his self-reliant agenda...
3. We all have an agenda without Jesus

Block

B. "It happened" - What happened? Saul's "The sudden growth event" - This moment had been coming for a while

2) God will use a "suddenness event" as part of our growth!

C. "As he approached Damascus" - Silent is the sackcloth weaver

3) God is always building us and preparing us for growth events

1. Damascus represents the "Sudden growth event"
2. God is weaving your Growth as we speak...
3. Every event we encounter – whether positive or negative adversity has redemptive qualities
4. God wants our ultimate allegiance

Transition questions

IV. Can I grow up, can I overcome, get beyond this?

- A. Everyone here has a story and a past- we all came from somewhere – you are not alone
- B. Regardless of what you've done or where you're at, no one is beyond hope
- C. Even though your past is stained, we can all find a new beginning in Jesus