



“Our Own Worst Enemy” Realizing Your Potential pt. 2

April 6, 2008
Sermon Notes

Why do we shun the whole of who we are?

We can realize our potential when we accept and embrace all that we are and all that we are not without shame.

Truth #1: There is a War Raging Within You.

Romans 7:14- 8:2 (New International Version)

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,^[b] ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Truth #2: We Have a Thorn in Our Flesh.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (New International Version)

⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in

weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Truth #3: You Cannot Crucify Yourself but You Can Rise.

Matthew 26:2 (New International Version)

²"As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Matthew 26:38-39, 42 (New International Version)

³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

Matthew 26:45-46 (New International Version)

⁴⁵Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Truth #4: You Can't Live In Silence, Shame of Who You Are.

James 5:13-16 (New International Version)

¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Conclusion

- 1. There is a war within us, how we choose to respond to that war determines the life we will lead (peaceful or tormented).**
- 2. We have a thorn in our flesh that will never be removed because it reminds us to rely on God and not ourselves.**
- 3. You cannot crucify yourself, it's against our nature but you can rise up and stand against the adversity that wishes to condemn you.**
- 4. Don't be silenced by shame or guilt about who you are or what you are not, for you were created to be who you are and to have life in the full!**
- 5. Don't sabotage your potential by being afraid to be who God made you!**