

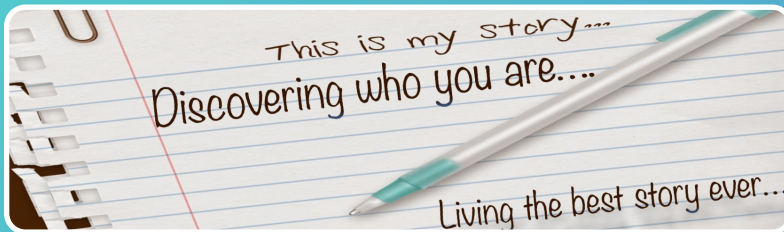
November 19, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

Compliance
one
foot in the
grave!

Name:

Take me home!



DON'T FEAR FAILURE.
DON'T DWELL ON
MISTAKES. DON'T
GROW PRIDEFUL OR
COMPLACENT DURING
SUCCESS.

COMPLACENCY ...

enough is enough...

Over the past few months we have been looking at how can we make our life all that it was meant to be! All that God wants it to be. We have been challenging you to think about how you spend your time and we have been asking you to think about your comfort zones. Many of us never leave our comfort zones and stretch out to see what we are capable of. Now we are going to look at the silent killer of complacency... So do you always do you best? Do you always seek to improve and get better? Complacency is defined this way... a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements. We think that we have arrived and there is nothing else to work on. What we do is good enough, and we don't need to try any more. Some people call this working smart "do only what you have to, to get by." People who live this way say things like, "I could do better, but a B is just as good as an A." "I could do more but I will have to put in more effort, people are happy with what I am doing now, so why bother." Complacency kills us silently because we are so pleased with ourselves that we think there is nothing more we need to do. You become so caught up in all that you have done you don't see the need to do more and work harder. You become

satisfied. To write the best story of your life you have to strive, you have to strain, and push for something more. If you are happy with what you got chances are you will not get anything more than what you got. We all can fall victim to being complacent it is an easy thing to do especially when the expectations that are around us are low, and just keep getting lower. To beat complacency we have to rise above the expectations that the world puts on us and set our own expectations and rise to the challenge. **Proverbs 1:32-33 says 32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.** Those are some pretty sharp words. the complacency of fool will destroy them. God does not call what He creates fools that often. He has a ton of grace. Here it is written that those who live in complacency are foolish and that very thing will destroy them. I Love the contrast of verse 33 and how it states that if we are not fools we are listening to God Himself and though we are striving and going for more we will be safe and at ease as we strive for more. I considering striving for more to the the opposite of complacency, cont pg 3

Would you rather....?

...do just enough to get average grades or work really hard to get the best grade?

...try something once and fail and quit or fail and fail and fail and then achieve the goal?

...have people praise you for your average work or work really hard and have people be amazed at what you achieve?

Living Extreme means...

Have you ever said that you did your best? I mean we all have, it is a common phrase.

To say that we have done our best, we are now done. That is not the life of an extreme person... No we press on and even if we did our best and it provided awesome results we still strive on and keep pressing on because we need to know that we are going to get better. That sounds extreme and it sound critical like we are over achievers never satisfied. If you are not careful that can happen as you strive for the best, and as you seek to improve the best that you have done.

Staying away from complacency is more about wanting to give your best to God, sometimes we can slide by and things go great. Then we decided that we don't have to truly try harder, our average is better than others. Complacency settles in and we no longer try new things we become happy with the status quo. To defeat complacency we have to realize there is more out there, for us to experience, more for us to understand, more for us to share with others. When you think of the last statement share with others it takes the focus off of us and put it on those who will benefit from our striving. We do all we do to give God the glory and to show Him that we want to be just like Him, as much as we can. Why? Because we are so in love with Him we only want to give the best of our best!

DIG IN

Proverbs 1:32-33

32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

What areas in your life are you complacent in?

What areas in your life are you not complacent in?

What makes you complacent?

Think of a time that you gave more than your best, where you had to try and try again to do the best of your best. What did it feel like to go beyond your best?



How does life look when you put verse 33 into action?

Why does complacency lead to our destruction?

CHARACTER

You have to guard yourself against complacency because it is sneaky and before you know it you are living on cruise control. What you have to do is develop your character to never allow you to fall into complacency. You have to make the desire for the best to be something that is just part of who you are. Make your passion for God no. 1 and your character will guide you to do your best and to always strive for more.

Complacency...

MEET MR. COMPLACENCY The Myth of Adolescence tries to get you in one of two ways. The first is to flat-out brainwash you with low expectations. If that doesn't work, it happily paints you as an exception. In this case, being an exception means that compared to the irresponsibility, immaturity, and incompetence expected from teenagers, you are officially "above average." Wow! A gold star for you! But wait a minute. Being labeled an exception when you're barely even trying quickly turns into a trap of its own. You can become like Sarah, floating along on your above-average status in a river of meager requirements. Your gold star reduces the chances that you'll ever live up to your actual potential. Before long you'll become blinded by complacency, which is defined as a smug feeling of satisfaction with who you are and what you've done. Recognize that feeling? We do. We like that feeling, honestly. But we're learning that smug satisfaction leads to genuine disappointment before long. Here's why. Like pride, complacency thrives when hidden behind rationalizations ("Hey, I did my best..."). Obviously this means that the majority of complacent people don't think they have a problem. And as many wise men throughout history have observed, the most dangerous enemy is the one we fail to recognize. Since you don't think you have a problem How could you? You're above average! You're an easy victim for a lot of sweet-sounding lies. Imagine if complacency were a person in your life. Mr. Complacency would come up beside you, admire that shiny gold star of yours, and then whisper smugness-inducing flattery like:

- "People think you're so great. Lucky you you've got it made without even trying."
- "Everything is going just fine. Why accept a new challenge where you might fail?"
- "You're okay just the way you are. Why work to improve yourself?"
- "Compared to some people cough you're not that bad!"
- "From what I hear, Thomas Edison and Bill Gates never got a gold star."

Listen to Mr. Complacency long enough and he'll convince you that what you really, really need is a nap. But don't kid yourself. The cost of complacency is real, and it can be tragic. We slide into habits of mediocrity and excuse making. Life gets boring, and we're not sure why. We know, or at least suspect, that there's a lot more we could do or be. But floating along, there's no way to be sure. Might as well take another nap. The daily periodical Bits & Pieces shares this chilling picture of what's really happening: Complacency is a blight that saps energy, dulls attitudes, and causes a drain on the brain. The first symptom is satisfaction with things as they are. The second is rejection of things as they might be. "Good enough" becomes today's watchword and tomorrow's standard. Complacency makes people fear the unknown, mistrust the untried, and abhor the new. Like water, complacent people follow the easiest course downhill. They draw false strength from looking back. Proverbs 1:32 is even clearer: "The complacency of fools destroys them." Over time, refusing to reach higher, try harder, and risk more robs us of the glorious purpose and wonderful future God has created us for. If we're fortunate, one day we'll get a wake up call like Sarah's a jolt that makes us see how our real life is drifting by and we'll decide to reach for more. Hopefully a lot more. **THREE STRATEGIES FOR STEPPING HIGHER:** We recommend that rebelutionaries do three hard things that go above and beyond what our culture expects and take us closer to what God expects:

1. Do what's hard for you.
2. Be known for what you do (more than for what you don't).
3. Pursue excellence, not excuses.

Do Hard Things
by Brett and Alex Harris



Think about it...

Living a life above and away from complacency: Take a look at these three things and ask how can you put them into practice for your life.

1. Do what's hard for you.

(Okay what is hard for you should not take you long to think some things up. Process and set some goals to do some of these hard things.)

2. Be known for what you do more than for what you don't.

(You hear it all the time all the things that you are not doing, or what you did not do yesterday. Fight back and be proactive and get things done beyond expectations.)

3. Pursue excellence, not excuses.

(You know what you can do, and you know that you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength. So now go do, quit making excuses and run fast and hard.) No more excuses!

Continued from page one "Complacency"

because striving for more means that you are always looking to improve and grow. It does not mean that you are dissatisfied, it means that you want the best and that means you have to give your best. Even if we have worked hard we can still fall into complacency, take a look at this parable Jesus told. In Luke 12: 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." reminder to me that I must always keep going and never just do my best and then call it good. God longs for us to offer our lives to Him for Him to use. We must rise above expectations and go for more. God's love is always there and it is great, but just because I have gone this far does not meant that I am ready to stop. Keep reaching!

Think about this: How will you make sure you are not living complacent?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The paper has rounded corners at the top and bottom. There are approximately 20 evenly spaced lines across the page. The left edge of the paper appears slightly shadowed, suggesting it might be part of a bound notebook or folder.