

Staying In Tune

What we've learned is this: God does not respond to what we do; we respond to what God does. We've finally figured it out. Our lives get in step with God and all others by letting him set the pace, not by proudly or anxiously trying to run the parade. Romans 3:28 The Message

I was introduced to a guitar at a fairly early age. As a matter of fact, some of my first memories involve guitars and street corners. I didn't actually begin traveling to the evangelistic meetings with my father until I had reached the mature of age of 7 or 8 years old. By the time I was 8 years old my father would take us kids from town to town and we'd set up on a street corner and simply begin.

My brother and sister, who are both extremely talented and much older than, would actually lead the services. They would teach me my vocal parts and tell me what chords to play as we drove towards our next city and upon our arrival in a new town, we'd have church! We jumped out of the car and went to work right out there on the street corner.

Our father would linger in the shadows and oversee the street service, waiting until we had drawn a decent sized crowd. At that point, he would step out of the shadows and begin to preach the gospel with an evangelistic fire an undeniable passion.

My father ran after the lost like a fat man chasing cake! If he knew that you didn't know the Lord, He was certainly NOT going to allow you to hear about him without hearing about his God. I've been blessed to have witnessed multitudes of lives that have been changed by the power of God while standing on a sidewalk in front of a tavern. You would be hard pressed to convince me that God isn't real. I've seen way too much to even consider a thought such as that.

Prior to playing an active role as part of the Fields Family traveling ministry I was involved in the local church. I had already joined the worship team at our home church and participated with the music team beginning at the age of 5. Our Pastor, Rev. T.G. Spradlin, didn't allow me to play my guitar with the team because it was cute. At the age of 5 I was already pretty good! The point is, I've had a guitar in my hands for over 40 years. I know guitar!

There are hundreds of styles of guitars and they are used in every type of music that you can think of. Guitars have been found all around the world and history has recorded their existence for thousands of years. The Bible tells us that David played his guitar to quiet the spirit of Saul. Guitars have been around for quite a while and even though discrete changes have occurred in their makeup, their basic elements have never changed. The guitar is a box with strings that, when played upon correctly, produce a musical sound. A box with strings, that's about it.

The type of wood used to create the box has a dramatic impact upon the overall sound created. Particular woods produce a wide variety of tonal qualities. However, regardless of the quality of wood and craftsmanship used in building the box, without strings the guitar is basically useless. The strings are what create the music!

Most of us realize that when you loosen the strings you lower their tone and when you tighten the strings, their pitch becomes higher. By loosening and tightening the strings we can bring the instrument into tune. When any instrument is in tune it possesses the ability to create wonderful sounds, either alone or accompanied by other instruments that have also been tuned. For the guitar, the quality of sound is produced by the correct tension being applied to each and every string.

A lot of us have found ourselves looking for a lifestyle that is absent from stress. We're doing all that we can to remove as much tension as possible from our lives. Somewhere along the way we've accepted a belief that tension is a bad thing. Without it, though, our lives lose the ability to produce the sounds that we truly enjoy hearing. Music is produced on a guitar by locating the correct position between two specific points. Somewhere between the absence of tension and the breaking point is a place where everything comes together!

Yes, too much tension can cause a string to break. However, not enough tension and the string becomes useless. If our enemy cannot break us by increasing the tension beyond our limitations, he will often attempt to take us to a point of uselessness by leading us away from every tension possible. Either way, the sounds of our life are impacted. Useless or broken, our lives are still not in tune. We need to accept the reality that real life is found in the middle. Not overwhelmed with tension, yet not absent from it, either.

God desires to produce incredible music through your life. As you surrender yourself as an instrument to be played upon by His hands, you are liberating God. It only makes sense to allow The Master, the one who created the instrument in the first place, to use His creation for the purposes for which the creation was created.

He knows exactly how much tension to apply to the strings of His instruments. God isn't attempting to break you. He is attempting to tune you. Once your life is in tune He can add you to the orchestra and create the wonderful sounds that will call creation into His presence.

Don't fight and struggle under the tensions of life. Realize their purpose. God's about to take the stage. Don't attempt to run the parade. Celebrate the fact that you were created just to be in it!

We believe in you!

Pastors Thom and Shelby