



At the Movies July 9, 2017

My prayer for you is that you would have “incredible strength in profound weakness and allow God to do His thing in your life.” Pastor Miles.

1

Encourage:

In this week’s message Pastor Miles uses the movie Eddie the Eagle to demonstrate how we find God’s supernatural power in our own weaknesses, limitations and inabilities. He goes on to remind us that we can’t give up even if it means failing.

Inspired by a true story, Eddie the Eagle is about Michael “Eddie” Edwards, an unlikely British ski jumper who never stopped believing in himself. With the help of a coach, Eddie makes an amazing showing at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

This inspirational film also shows us the importance of focusing on the cheers of One. There are many voices and people cheering for us one day and hating us the next. So fearing God and competing against God’s standard for our life will give us strength to push through the lies and strain towards our God-given purpose.

Ice Breaker: If you could compete in ONE Olympic event, what would it be? Who would be your biggest cheerleader?

2

Scripture:

Read 2 Cor. 12:1-10. What is Paul boasting about? What wouldn’t Paul boast about? What keeps Paul from being conceited? What did he pray for? How did God answer him? What’s the key to experiencing a victorious life according to Paul? (See verse 9).

Paul understood that the reason for his “thorn” was to keep him humble. The Lord was revealing great truths to him. And Paul knew he could not afford to become prideful. So whenever he would have a reason for self-confidence, God would remind him of his real dependence for God. Paul rejoiced in his sufferings because they kept him close to and obedient to Him.

Charles Stanley wrote: “Regardless of your situation, you can trust this principle: Whatever brings you to your knees in weakness carries the greatest potential for your personal success and spiritual victory.”

What does 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 show you about God? And yourself? Are you afraid others will see your weaknesses and laugh? Could a thorn in your life expose your deepest fear?

Without Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5), with Him nothing is impossible. The stresses of life can easily overwhelm us, but they are no match for the risen Son of God. Philippians 4:13 says “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Who gives us strength? What can we do with this strength? How can knowing this help you with your current or next trial? How do you respond to failures in your life? What are you learning right now from your failures?

In the movie we see Eddie, painfully, fall and get back up again again. How did Eddie overcome his failures? How can you apply Eddie's principles in your own life? Who helped Eddie? Who's helping you?

Don't miss the value failure provides and the growth that happens from falling and getting back up.

3

Prayer:

In the movie, Eddie was in the elevator with the world-famous Flying Finn who encouraged Eddie to keep doing his best even if others doubt. As Christians, Pastor Miles reminds us that doing our best is the only option. We have to remember we cannot fear what people think, we have to remain focused on what God is teaching us in the moment.

In group spend sometime time asking and listening to God. Have every take out a piece of paper and pen. Ask the following questions and allow for some time to hear from God. After the prayer time ask for volunteers to share what they heard from God.

How do we keep our eyes focused on You instead of critics? (See Phil 4:4-8 for ideas). In what ways do I fear man over you Lord? What do you say about me Jesus? How will you respond to what Jesus is teaching you? Are you weary from trying? How can we pray for you? How can this group help you?

4

Next Steps:

Today Pastor Miles used the examples of Moses confronting Pharaoh with a stick, Gideon defeating an army with 300 men and David defeating a giant with one rock to show how God is purifying us through trials. Each went on a journey; each man learned to focus on the process and the lessons rather than the end goal. Each learned that the only voice that mattered was God's. What is God asking you to change in your attitude, thoughts, and actions to ensure you only compete against His standards and the lessons rather than the end goal?

Challenge yourself to spend quality time with God this week. The goal is to know God.

Volunteer for a role that requires you to depend on God's strength. Depend on Him every step of the way.

How will you obey what you learned this week? Who will keep you accountable to this commitment?

Who can you cheer for or encourage instead of criticize this week? Who do you know that needs to hear what you learned about Jesus this week? Who will you bring to at the movies next week?