

OWN THE PURSUIT

Devotionals for 21 Day Fast

DAY 20: Friday, February 4th — *Embrace God's Gift of Limits*

⁸⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, ”declares the Lord.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Am I willful or willing?

The answer will expose our level of surrender and trust in the Lord.

The world tells you to break through all of your limitations. But this thinking can be extremely destructive. Here's why...

God created you to live within limits. Both for your own well-being and to be reminded that you are not God. When we choose to ignore our limits, we hurt ourselves and others. (Genesis 1:16-18)

John the Baptist, Paul, and Jesus all submitted to the limitations given to them by God. Without a deep theological and practical understanding of limits, we severely compromise our ability to love God, ourselves, and others over the long haul. Limits are a deeply spiritual issue. The examples of Adam and Eve, Jesus, and John the Baptist demonstrate that what we do with our limits has far-reaching consequences, for good or ill.

In bypassing or denying our limits, we bypass and miss God as well. Limits offer many gifts. They protect us, keep us grounded and humble, and break our self-will. They are God's means of giving us direction, wisdom, and encounters with himself.

We each have a unique set of personal limits related to six areas of life: personality and temperament; current season of life; marriage or singleness; emotional, physical, and intellectual capacities; family of origin; and time.

God invites us to break through some limits by faith so that others might know him, or so that we might become the person he intends.

- ▶ **Limitations Are Normal** -- some of our limits are inherent in our humanity
- ▶ **Limitations Teach Us Something** -- God is God and we are not. We serve a God who has no limitations ([Psalm 121:4](#)). If we were not given limitations, loss, or suffering we might become comfortable with life on this earth.
- ▶ **Limitations Are a Gift from God**-- limitations often unlock our usefulness for God's glory.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What were some limits God placed on John the Baptist, David, Jesus and Paul?
2. What limits do I need to receive and submit joyfully as God's invitation to trust him?
3. What limits is God asking me to break through by faith so that others might know him, or so that I might become the person he intends?
4. How do you understand the differences between legitimate strengths and weaknesses with your gifts, and immaturities or weaknesses of character?

Even at times our limitations come in more painful forms which can be discouraging and overwhelming. The key to embracing our limitations is not found in our own strength. Rather we find the key to our strength in the strength of Another—the **God** who loves us dearly

The original sin was one's refusal to accept limits. It still remains the driving force today because at its core is rebellion. Let's not make the mistake of using worship, prayer, and the scriptures to mask our willfulness to justify our attraction to control, but willingly surrender our hearts to "Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

(Source: <https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EH-Discipleship-Study-Guide-2021.pdf>
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/limitations-our-gift-from-god/>)

**– RESTORE –
BE IN THE ROOM
WHERE THINGS HAPPEN**

LIFE APPLICATION

KNOCK
*Prayer is the secret
to an open door*

Devotional Text

Isaiah 55:8-9
Genesis 1:16-18
Luke 4:1-13
2Corinthians 12:6-7

**God never hurries.
There are no deadlines
against which he must
work. Only to know this
is to quiet our spirits
and relax our nerves.**

A.W. TOZER
THE PURSUIT OF GOD