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Finding your expression

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# Getting used to your new environment

Get your dentist saved, he will have lots of testimonies! :) I like the last time because it is me charging you out there and empowerment.

6 places I'd like to cover. This is my personal experience and interacting with other alumni. There is an observation I have made: "it takes 2 or 3 years to adjust to the world you just moved back into. ”

That makes complete sense, there is momentum you've stepped into and you can leave as a completely different person. You are different than you were. Hopefully, you are not the same still ;P Something dramatically shifted in my life in the last 2 years. I have seen this happening where it takes 2 years to adjust back to your environment.

We have to understand we are humans with feelings, emotions and it will take some time to get used to your new environment.

# Post-modern world

A shift from someone telling me what something was to I get to determine what is true. A piece of art that a man made, a journal took it off the wall, signed it and he said it is a fountain. It is up to the person to define stuff. It is kind of cool, but dangerous. The catalyst of gender, theology being redefined in our lifetime.

Post-modernism is free refilled and endless fries. In modernism, you should just have a few fries, not that much soda. In postmodernism, it was about you what to do. The power shifted from government to a person. We live in that world, anyone can redefine anything. It is a brand new ball game and is only going to be bigger.

Value for being original is essential, it is the vehicle where the purity of the Gospel will be preached.

# We are His masterpiece

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Workmanship is translated as master of peace. It is very rare for an artist or musician to have multiple masterpieces. A masterpiece in a human sense is very rare, they don’t come around very often. But God the Creator says: “Every human being is a masterpiece” What does that mean?

“Every unique human being has the potential to demonstrate a unique aspect of God that can not be duplicated.” I find that extremely fascinating and encouraging. We have the ability to be the most original person on the planet.

# Working with Him

God is doing something, but we have to work with Him! What is He doing in your life? You owe the world! You can’t just sit back and relax without expressing what God gave you! Your primary job in life is finding a way to articulate Who God is in you! If you stumble day after day you have to be diligent! If this doesn't make sense right now, believe me, there will be a point where you will get it!

# Keys to finding your authentic self

I want to share some things that will help you go down the road of finding your original and authentic self.

Since we live in a world that is constantly redefined we need to come back to, what does it mean to be human? We don’t like that word because of humanism, but we have to understand that we are His masterpiece and we should be our original expression of Him

Your goal in life is to stay on the journey of finding out your originality and who your authentic self is!

# 1. Sometimes you have to be forced to find it yourself

Put yourself in situations to force yourself into who you are. We live in a day and age where comfort and convenience are our goals. Always try to reduce stuff that is not fun and have more comfort. What we're missing if we miss those moments and seasons of life is not giving life the ability to shape who we are.

I would do things with the youth group that was not normal for the kids, we would take them and let them do manual labor in a hot environment. To serve, but I also needed them to have them in a place in over their heads, beyond convenience and their physical strength.

We went backpacking with our youth group. Backpacking is disappearing into the wild and live off the land. Mountain Dew and Halo was all they drank and played all the time. Sean was whining all the time and complaining it was too much. Now I was letting him do 5 miles of a hike upon the mountain the lakes are beautiful. Roughly a 4-hour hike, but Sean began to throw a fit after 5 minutes on the trail.

I did every tool I knew, passive-aggressive, passive and aggressive approach. Everything failed. He wore me down. I looked at him tore his backpack off his back, he had it under his arm. Now he had to make a decision, follow us or get stranded by himself. About an hour later he says give me my backpack. Stopped talking to him, not any attention. Then we get to the lake and he has the time of his life! Something came out of him I had never seen before. He said thank you so much for dragging me up here, I didn't realize I could do it.

Many of us try to avoid conflict, inconvenience and we don’t know how deep we are and how much we can handle.

Mission trip to Mexico same story; cement, water on the ground. Some of them didn't know what a shovel was. This is a shovel, this is how you use it. I am getting them out here, after 5 minutes they’re all freaking out. Put sunscreen on because the sunlight is different. They're hurting, but a dozen of kids on the trip or months after were super thankful for what they did.

You have to force yourself to find yourself, especially in today’s culture. There are easier ways to get this done. Don't say no because of inconvenience and un comfortability, if you make a mistake and lose it you're like okay I am this shallow. Next time I go deeper in. Put yourself in scenarios to find out who you really are. If you don’t do that you won’t be able to find your true self.

# 2. Values vs methods

"The disclaimer, we're not quite like Bethel yet." We're working on it. Timeout stop, don't talk anymore. You have to understand 2 things. Bethel is 60 years old, if your expectation is to have Bethel happening super fast, move out of expectation and into expectancy.

You need to understand the difference between values and methods.

It was a dream of mine to have Brian Houston come to us. He said yes to the first invite, I wanted my dad and I wanted him to get in the same room together. They had never met before that, a lot of good friendships, but for the biggest guys, they had never even met!

I wanted an opportunity to interview them at the conference. I learned a valuable lesson that day, I am in there interviewing them. About half through I asked one of them a question and go to the next one. Nope, he said exactly what I was going to say. By the end of the interview, it got that way, we had some other settings where there is a prime example of 2 guys, 2 significant movements around the world having the same value system around the world.

Not a big ministry, but big people.

Hillsong and Bethel movement looks completely different. You can have the same value system, but it oddest look the same! What are the values I leave Bethel with? Not the methods! There is a context that models and methods are birth in!

Please leave here learning how to differentiate between Kingdom Values and methods & models. They only work in church contexts!

You can't use everything from the church into education. Context is huge! But in the Kingdom values, it is a value system you live from!

You’re not running out of here with this is how Bethel does it, but this is why Bethel does it! My value is this, but you're responsible for finding methods that match that!

I don’t want to see you in your nations and say were not like Bethel yet. Please don’t feel any pressure to become like us. What means more to us than anything is a value system that works in context.

Nothing was working for us here, but I was copying Bethel instead of putting the values into their own context.

This can take some time for people!

# 3. Copy and paste, find yourself!

David is a young guy that comes to the battlefield bringing cheese and bread. 12 or 13-year-old boy in there. Prize reward was no taxes for the rest of their lives and marrying the daughter of king Saul.

1 Samuel 17:34-35 (ESV) But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

David got in hand to hand combat with a lion and a bear! That is impressive!

1 Samuel 17:36-40 (ESV) Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” So David put them off. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

One of the greatest victories in the Bible, if not in time. We are often told not to copy anyone else but finding yourself. People can be a role model but you can’t be them. I disagree, part of finding yourself is to copy and paste! In that process, you find out who you really are. The only way David could find out it didn't fit in, but it doesn't work for me.

I can't tell you how many people I have copied that. Not for the purpose of copying, but I copy and paste to find out who I am. You're only trying to copy and paste when you're trying to find you, not to find someone else. If you want to find yourself part of the journey is copying yourself!

Bands sound a lot like certain people, you can tell where the influence is coming from. At some point, they find their own voice! Part of your journey is finding your own voice, and if you need to copy, try that out! Methods and trying it out, is finding out who you are in the process!

# 4. Trust the process

Philippians 1:6-7 (ASV) being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ:

A lot of us let the Lord start something in our life, but we feel the responsibility to finish it. Do you realize you can do nothing to speed up or to accomplish something in your life? You're not the author! Not sitting back, but working with him!

What is success? If you feel a bit responsibility to fulfill your prophetic words. Success will be when you are there. The completion would be success, but according to Scripture that is not success! It also means, was I faithful in the process?

There is another paradigm you need to determine which one you carry, if you don’t believe God is the author and finisher of your faith you move into self-promotion.

Self-promotion is a lack of trust in God.

Some of the stuff I am teaching, going after, giving my attention to. I remember God giving seeds of the ideas 10, 15 years ago. A layer of revelation from prophetic words or Bible verses that I am working out right now. He is giving you an idea of what He wants for you, so when you are ready He can put it on your life where you can sustain and give it through to the next generation.

Now after 15 years he is ready to receive the words. He is doing stuff right now in my life that was promised 10 15+ years ago! Now I am stepping into it, I needed 10 years to get it to carry it very well! Sometimes we want to skip the process, but God wants so much fruit it is ridiculous! His whole premise is us bearing as much fruit as you possibly can! John 15, the only time God will cut you off is if you are not grafted into the True Vine!

Why does Jesus say that? Because there are other vines! You will realize real soon what it means to not be grafted into the True Vine! One of the most intimate metaphors between Jesus, God and you! Up unto this point, it was about sheep and the shepherd. Is that true? Yes! But Jesus was walking down the road one day and he needed another interaction, sheep, and shepherd only go so far. He walked by the vineyard, he saw one of the branches down in the mud, made a bad decision, not just getting him out of there, but the vinedresser cleans off the leaves and dirt and puts it back up where he belongs.

That is the illustration I will use to show the relationship between you, God and Me!

What does that mean? It can take 10 years! We justify our case, pick up our speed and do selfies with other people. Spend 2 hours a day coming up with a perfect quote, or stealing someone else’s quote and put my own name on it! That is self-promotion, you don’t trust God!

Trust the process! You're going to have rough days after school! You are going to want to quit! You can not make a decision upon a moment! It might take time to walk in what He told you years ago! I can’t tell you how many believers jump ship the day before! Keep going! You have nothing to loose! Have a value for the moment and the process. If I am faithful, I am successful!

The dumbest question you and I can ask is: what is the will of God for my life? It says it in the Bible, we have made it the most complicated thing; what city do I have to live in? The world is more free than you! Do you understand that we are supposed to be the most liberated persons on the planet? But for some reason, the Church thinks the Vinedresser will cut us off if we make one wrong move! We are just paranoid about the will of God! I have seen people ask that question for 20 years and do nothing!

The right question is this: what are You building in me? Son: I am trying to teach you how to man up! Daughter, I am teaching you to have joy without any reason!

# 5. Patience

If you want revelation, ask for patience!

Most people ask for revelation, but they never ask for patience! Unload Scripture on me, give me the depths and mysteries of heaven. A day goes by, a week, a month, a year goes by. Sometimes you have to live 10 years before you step into that revelation.

Leadership is work! A lot of glorious things, but that is about 10% or less!

You didn't come to BSSM to be right! Now go back to your environment and tell your leader I can fix all your problems right now. It sounds good on paper, but you will get into situations where that environment is very different from what you've experienced the last few weeks. You can’t roll into any environment and say I can fix this, you need to understand why something works that way!

You came here to learn a value system! The why! Your job is to go back and serve! You will be there and you have to learn how to go low and serve. Sometimes everything you've learned here you need to put it on a shelf. If your sin a place for 6 months that is not going to do much!

If you're there for the long haul find out the vision become clear on it, understand it. Let it be who you are! Then let it come out. That leader has been working and investing, pouring their lives out! Whether it is right or wrong doesn't matter, some guy or gal coming up and saying they have the solution doesn't work.

Go low, serve and trust the process.

# 6. Why change is hard

Secretly inside of us, we are like: "I need to be the person that loves change." I think that: "for one to like change is because you've already changed, when the change came at you, you already knew it." Change is hard, I don't know if it is ever meant to be easy.

It’s okay if it is hard for me to change.

* Economics, change affects your economics, of course, it is hard. Unless it is positive, I got a raise! Change is your actual getting paid less, don't get paid or have to go somewhere else
* Political influence, your position. One of the greatest untaught transitions is David and Solomon. I am eager to talk to David and Solomon, I have set up an appointment already. I have fascinated for my entire life, David passed away, Solomon stepped to the throne. One of the greatest transitions. Solomon, how hard was it? King David was all about being a warrior! There is my guy to conquer land! War, killing people and on the cutting edge of warfare. In David’s era, the industry that was most powerful and lucrative was anyone that made weapons. A sword maker's dream in David's day was an army contract to buy your sword, that would make you super rich and influential! Massive influence when you were a general, that world was modeled after David's call. An entire system that had generated from war, the only big problem David had was when he wasn't at battle! He is in the right place on the battlefield. Solomon comes on and says we're not going to war anymore. Overnight an entire economy crashes! Lumber, horses, swords everything! Your political influence, an expert in that season and the next day you're no longer needed?! It affects your livelihood!
* Personal identity, when change happens and this is where it gets tricky for us! 2 sided coin: don’t have your identity too close to what you do, because when you fail to do who you are you will crash as well. I partially agree with that, but when you do something you pour yourself into it! You determine what you want to do, but anytime change was hard I gave my entire life to it. There is a process of hardship. Can I move out of it? Sometimes your assignment changes and we think identity changes.
* Personal comfort, when change happens with your comfort it that is hard!
* Definition of the Kingdom, let me say it differently; our understanding of how the Kingdom works. When something changes to a whole other paradigm and doesn't fix in how our Kingdom works, we have a reaction. The hardest one is all of the 5 changing at once! My whole world just fell apart. Not to discourage you, but because there will be change! Some of you feel anxiety, what will be next? The road is unclear, your economics changed, role changes. The key is: find tools and move out of that moment rather than making a moment a lifestyle!

# Q&A

**How can we foster connection when churches get bigger?**

Somewhere between 2007 and 2010, we had to address this. The school was doubling every year. We had a conversation, the bigger we get the worst we have community with each other. In a school context!

We were having a meeting, but I felt like the Lord said: “You have to confront the lie that the bigger you get the less family you have!” So we shifted our attention to how do we do this well?

Studying the book of Acts from 2-5 there are numerous times where the word revival and family are the same words! But in the Western world, we have separated revival and family, but it's actually the same thing! Acts expansion of signs and wonders, paid together, apostles doctrine and ate together. We have the public space if Sunday morning is your point of deep connection you're missing the point. The primary point is to celebrate, worship, get fed and let do God what He wants to do!

So the rest of our lives need to pick up on this! Anyone in Bethel has to answer the question, who are you doing life with? Private life I guard my evenings as a religion. They are sacred, days off are even more sacred. If I give up on those moments, that is a family decision. It is a lot more work to have community in this environment than in Weaverville.

A couple couples we hang out with. On a staff level, we are all really great friends. We are doing work with our good friends. We don't get together on the weekends but work together.

**Modern day the shift from Bill to you, are there things that happened?**

There has been a shift of course, but actually, there has been an addition. We have always dreamed about multigenerational leadership. In the end, dad really is the one that decides. But his leadership style is enormously empowering and a ton of trust. That comes from his family. Don’t want big ministry, but big people.

We never wanted to create an environment where one generation has to leave for the next one to come in. How do you do the shift? How long have you known each other? If you only know each other for a couple years it won't work. It is all about the relationship history we have together.

We are in this together even if it hard. It also has been a lot of work. When you have a very top down environment you have all soldiers, but we have more generations leading. But it is on purpose and by design. When Candyce and I stepped into our role someone left and we fill up the space. Not just me and my dad, but a lot of other people as well.

But I don’t recommend it to everybody, but because we have so much relationship it works out.

**How do you work through someone pioneering a new ground but somebody being against it?** Example: Everyone is supposed to be healed, does the Kingdom changing work that out?

I think the theology is very important! Not everything has to be written out, but a solid thesis is a must. If you base it on hyper-spiritual, mysticism, extra-biblical experiences that is dangerous. We always make sure is it clear in Scripture? Does it trace back to Jesus? If it doesn't trace back to Jesus, then we're not talking!

What does it mean for the environment, how much does it cost, does it fit into our vision? Back in the day when empowerment was everything it was super easy with 5 people. You could afford everything, but when you have hundreds of people it is hard. We can’t afford that, even though it is a great idea! But when the Lord says you have to do it we ask: "anyone have enough money?" No? Then we all go to the drawing board. Reallocate resources, shut down something and start something else.

Learning how to lead an empowered culture rather than having one!