

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? STRETCHING

Last week we talked about three things the Lord wants us to do.

1. Wait upon the Lord.
2. Band together.
3. Stretch.

Today we are going to focus in on the stretching part.

A professional athlete will always stretch before an event.

Sometimes it hurts to stretch, but there is a value in being stretched.

A little bit of pain can help you avoid big pain.

There is a benefit to being stretched physically,

But there is an even greater benefit to being stretched spiritually.

Jesus stretched His disciples spiritually.

Jesus stretched His disciples in their obedience and in their relationships.

Sometimes people talk about something happening in their lives that is “really stretching them.”

Are you being stretched spiritually?

God wants to stretch us, the enemy wants to isolate us and immobilize us.

The enemy wants to convince us that our situation is unchangeable.

Sin and pain are immobilizers.

Even if you feel like you are the victim or were born into something and it is beyond your control, that does not make your situation unchangeable.

Maybe you have been damaged by the effects of someone else's sin.

We were not born with depression, anger, discouragement, fear, loneliness, or dread.

We were not born with broken hearts, aborted dreams or lost vision.

Life events can immobilize us and we quit dreaming, quit reaching, quit expecting.

We settle down into some kind of existence that is far less than the life Jesus died to give us.

Don't settle for just existing.

Don't settle for being immobilized.

Don't settle for being crippled and remaining in the same spot that you have always been in.

God has something more for you!

Jesus wants you to have life and have it to the full!

Jesus wants you to have peace, to have joy, to have healing, to have motivation.

Jesus wants young men to be able to dream dreams and old men be able to see visions.

Peter and John set their agenda aside to follow the Spirit of God and heal the crippled man.

The power of God is available for us today, but it takes stretching to access it.

We may have to do something different from what we have been doing.

What are you passionate about?

Don't let passion for any other person or thing get in the way of your passion for the person of Christ.

Are you willing to accept what God is giving you even if it's not what you asked for?

We are only responsible to present Jesus to others, we are not responsible for how they respond.

We do not know what that seed planted in someone else will produce years down the road.

We encounter people every day that need to be connected to Jesus, don't pass them by.

### **How does God want to stretch us?**

1. Put no confidence in the flesh.
2. Put your passion in the person of Jesus Christ.
3. Put your purpose in connecting others to Jesus.

## **SCRIPTURE LIST**

### **Pastor Steve Ford**

Joshua 1:1-11

Joshua 3:15-16

Joshua 4:18-19

### **Chris Wiatrolik**

John 8:34-36

Romans 6 (Whole Chapter)

1 John 2:1

### **Pastor Andy Hansen**

Acts 3:1-10

John 10:10

Philippians 3:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:4-5