

## “BE REAL BECAUSE FAKE IS EXHAUSTING”

We are called to be people of integrity, authentic in all areas of our lives. In short we are called to be “real” before God and before people.

Sometimes it’s difficult to discern the difference between “condemnation” and “conviction”. Condemnation will come in quickly like a flood, but a big clue of its identity is that it will drive you away from God. True conviction calls us to God, it calls us to make a move, not run the other way.

God has pursued us, he has come a long way toward us and is calling us now to make a move toward him.

As we look into the book of Hebrews and consider the mentioned biblical characters in Hebrews 11 we realize we all have issues. Some were liars, fearful, day dreamers, a murderer, a prostitute, loved prostitutes, suicidal, too emotional, religious, etc....so we have to ask ourselves why not you?

- ✓ Hebrews 10:19-25 *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching”.*

### ✓ IT’S YOUR MOVE TO...

#### ✓ #1. IT’S YOUR MOVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR APPROACH TO GOD

- Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily*

*such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame”*

- Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence”*

Do you have confidence to move into his presence and be in relationship with him? When was the last time you spoke to God about something you’re struggling with?

Some ask why does God speak in a whisper at times, could it be that he wants us to be in close proximity to him to hear it?

If we have secrets in our lives it’s not only important to seek forgiveness from God, but to get healing by confessing it to brothers or sisters.

✓ **#2. IT’S YOUR MOVE TO NOT BE AFRAID**

- Mark 4: 40 *“He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”*

✓ **#3. IT’S YOUR MOVE TO DREAM DREAMS AGAIN**

- Mark 10:51 *“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked”*

✓ **#4. IT’S YOUR MOVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR APPROACH TOWARD OTHERS**

- Hebrews 13:6 *“So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”*

✓ **#5. IT’S YOUR MOVE TO BE SINCERE IN YOUR APPROACH TO GOD**

- Hebrews 10:22 *“let us draw near to God with a sincere heart”*
- 2 Cor. 8:21 *“... Aim to be honest and above suspicion, in the eyes of God and man”* (Amplified)
- Acts 2:46 *“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts”*

✓ **5. IT’S YOUR MOVE TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO FOLLOW AFTER CHRIST**

- Hebrews 10:24-25 *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching”.*
- Proverbs 11:30 *“He that wins souls is wise”*

## Discussion Questions

- 1) What does it mean to be "real" or authentic in our lives before God and people? Also, what is the difference between "condemnation" and "conviction"? In a very practical way how do you tell the difference?
- 2) Have you had a time in your life when you felt like a failure or that God couldn't use you because of "issues"? Maybe a simplistic question, but what does God want us to do with our issues and what role do other believers play in that?
- 3) Pastor Rick challenged us that it was "our move" to "*HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR APPROACH TO GOD*". After you review Hebrews 12:1-12, what does this mean to you?
- 4) It is also "our move" "*TO NOT BE AFRAID*". In Mark 4: 35-41 we read the story of Jesus and his disciples on a boat and a terrible storm rolls in. As you read about the aftermath of the incident, what do we learn from Jesus statement about fear?
- 5) Next, Rick challenges us that it was "our move" "*TO DREAM DREAMS AGAIN*". As we read about "Blind Bartimaeus" in Mark 10, in verse 51 Jesus will ask him what sounds to many to be an odd question; "**What do you want me to do for you?**" Jesus knew he was blind, what do you believe Jesus was after with Bartimaeus? Do you have dreams, have you given up on any, are there still some alive?
- 6) Lastly, it is "our move" to "*ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO FOLLOW AFTER CHRIST*". We know this is part of the great commission. Does winning souls and discipling others still burn in your heart? Please share ways you have encouraged others to follow after Christ.