



Welcome to all you fellow mighty men and mighty women of valor. I'm Pastor Glenn and with me is my beautiful wife, the love of my life, Pastor Theresa. So, the ongoing question is, "How do we know we've won? We're one!" One with the Mighty One on the winning team and in order to know that we have to understand our positions on the team.

Let's open up with the prophet Jeremiah, where he says in chapter 50, verse 34 *"Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of Armies is his name. He will fervently champion their cause (everybody say, "champion their cause") so that he might bring rest to the earth but turmoil to those who live in Babylon" (Jeremiah 50:34 CSB).*

Kinda like, the Buccaneers bringing turmoil to the Chiefs. Last week Pastor Mark taught us about how to be a mighty warrior like Gideon.

We know that Jesus is Our Redeemer, that He paid for our sins and we know that He is the Lord of Heaven's Armies. Now, the prophet Isaiah also refers to Jesus as "El Gibbor," (try that "El Gibbor," or "Mighty One") and in some translations, "champion."

Now, when we identify someone as champion, we know there was a victory. We also know there was a struggle of some kind. In our context, we know that God came to earth as a baby and grew up to be the greatest example of overcoming struggle in order to walk away with the W. So by the Holy Spirit's power, the victory is now having the ability to participate in God's game plan establishing Heaven on earth. Looking back, I like to think we were invited, that we were recruited, that we were welcomed to play on team Jesus.

So today, we'd like to share, what we call Your "Best self is less self" mindset. Turn to your neighbor, wag a finger at them and say, "Your best self is less self."

Over time, Jesus coached me where I needed to improve. He encouraged my strengths and showed me how I could become a valued member of His team. Personally, I decided to be a major player for Christ. I desired to play on the Champion's championship team. I wanted the gold medal for life and I was excited to share with others how they can win their gold medal of life. In doing so, Coach Jesus helped me to develop new skills, new disciplines, a new mindset as well as replacing bad habits with better ones. I needed to start training and training to be the best version of myself so that I could be the best for the team.

Question #1. Reflect on your desire to be a valued member of the Champion's championship team. How would you describe your "gold medal for life?"



So, your “best self is less self” mindset is to first learn what God says about you. Proverbs 29:18 AMP *“Where there is no vision [no revelation of God and His word or His guidance], the people are unrestrained; Being unrestrained means you lack discipline, you’re unmotivated, you’re unaccountable, meaning you answer to no one. Then it says, But happy and blessed is he who keeps the law [of God]. That’s someone who not only listens for the voice of God, but listens TO the voice of God. Tell your neighbor wag a finger at them and say “You gotta listen to the coach!”*”

We need to develop disciplines in order to seek Christ’s coaching. Most times, coaches yell at their athletes in order to bring out the best in them because they know how capable they are of performing.

Yes praise God we have Jesus, through the Holy Spirit to coach us to be our best Self! But unlike earthly coaches, he’s not a yelling coach. The word of God tells us in 1 Kings 19: 11-13 (NLT)

“Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?””

I felt the Lord said the same thing to me when I first started on the team at NHCO. I had no clue what I was doing! Filled with panic and problem after problem, Jesus in a whisper said what are you doing Theresa? I was so insecure and constantly playing the comparison game! I needed to realize that Jesus loved me and there was nothing I could do about it. I needed to discover who I was, what position on the team I’d play and be secure in that person. I had to allow the lover of my soul to show me that I was NOT just His servant but that I was his daughter first. All the while I was still figuring out what my strengths were and worse what my weaknesses were. If that wasn’t a hand full to deal with then I had to figure out how to work with Glenn, my key team player. Don’t get me wrong, I loved him, but I surely didn’t know how to work with him. You know that Disney song from the movie Camp Rock II:

Like fire and rain | You can drive me insane | But I can't stay mad at you for anything | We're Venus and Mars | We're like different stars | You're the harmony to every song I sing | And I wouldn't change a thing.



In our hearts we wanted to make harmony but at first we were making sparks! LOL. So how did we figure it all out you ask? One step at a time. We both got more secure as children of God and from that relationship we became servants of the Lord. When you are secure in your relationship with Jesus you no longer have to COMPETE with those on the team instead you COMPLETE those on the team. Remember we are all ONE TEAM! There shouldn't be any competition with one another up in this house! Can I get an Amen!! And when we learn to hear the coaches voice then He can start doing some supernatural things!

Question #2. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of new growth. What are you learning about yourself? Old and new mindsets? Old and new disciplines?

YES, Jesus is coaching us to bring our natural, so that he could bring His supernatural. He's coaching us to bring our ordinary so He can bring His extraordinary. Knowing this we need to always elevate and bring our "A" game.

Colossians 1:27 makes a wonderful statement. It says that *"For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory."*

"For God wanted them to know. Now who's them? The them are non Jewish people. Praise God Filipinos are included! Now follow me! God wants people that don't know Him to know Him so that those that now know Him will tell others about Him! And that all will come to know the riches and glory of knowing Christ Jesus. The bible refers to this truth as a mystery. A mystery is simply something that was once concealed that has now been revealed. Now turn to your neighbor and say: this is the secret: Christ lives in you! Now say, but, I'm his favorite! Amen!

Hallelujah! Once you know who You are; then you know the power of whose in you! Turn to your neighbor and tell them... It ain't about you! It's about who's in you! What's the prize for winning? Bottom line Jesus is the prize! Knowing Jesus, Being with Jesus and Intimacy with Jesus is the prize! Jesus is the most valuable riches and glory anyone could ever attain! And along the way we get to know our TRUE SELF. OUR BEST SELF.

Question #3. The journey to understanding God's definition of our true selves may take a lifetime. How are you at patience and persistence?



Secondly, your “best self is less self” mindset is to take responsibility and grow yourself for the benefit of the team.

One of my favorite athletes is Manny Pacquiao. He has an incredible story, growing up in extreme poverty, so much so that his father butchered the family pet dog to provide for dinner. Manny was so upset, he left home, lived on the streets and found himself working at a gym, doing odd jobs to survive, but he kept up with his training, because he had a vision. He learned new skills and developed disciplines. He desired to improve his life so that he could benefit and bless his family. His big break finally came when seemingly, out of nowhere, he won a match that originally wasn't his to fight and the rest is history as he praises God at the end of every match, win or lose. He is a wonderful example of an individual taking responsibility, taking ownership and being accountable to a cause bigger than himself. Living the best self is less self mentality.

I love that word - OWNERSHIP! Turn to your neighbor and say OWN IT! You and I get to own our personal growth and development! When I began to serve the Lord it was because he gave so much for me, so how can I sit on the sidelines and give nothing for Him! I thought Jesus didn't give me left overs, HE GAVE ME HIS BEST! So I would not give him anything but my best. Giving my best required me to improve and grow. I guess that's why I could take soooo much correction from Coach Jesus and Coach P. Mike! I just wanted to always get better for Jesus. I began to read my bible every day, listen to podcast, watch dvd's on worship, read every leadership and worship book I could get my hands on. I went to any conference this church recommended me to go to because I was down right hungry to be my best and to give my best for Jesus. I realized God would bless the labor of my hands but I needed to labor! Can I get an amen? Transformation takes work and commitment and allowing yourself to be held accountable by your coach. The most important thing I learned about personal growth was get planted! You can't keep jumping from church to church, coach to coach every time resistance and struggle happens! Its working through those struggles that brings growth. But more on that next week!

Question #4. Taking ownership means taking responsibility for where we are and where we're not in life. The Holy Spirit is our personal head coach appointing other coaches over us. How well do you obey advice, counsel and instruction?

Lastly, your “Best self is less self” mindset allows us to lead a self sacrificial life and that is simple to understand and never always easy to do.



It so ironic if you think about it! You go through all this knowing and growing of yourself only to find out the jokes on you! Why? Because on this journey, and it is a journey not a destination, you realize that the only way Christ can truly shine through you is IF YOU get yourself out of the way. Galatians 2:20 NKJV tells us, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* And then if you go to Romans 12:1 NIV, which has become my life's verse, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."* When you are crucified with Christ, there is a dying to self. When you offer your life as a living sacrifice, It's a dying to self. NOW THAT IS COMMITMENT! It's like that story of the chicken and the pig:

A pig and a chicken were walking down the road. As they passed a church, they notice that a potluck charity breakfast was under way. Caught up in the spirit, the pig suggested to the chicken that they each make a contribution. "Great Idea!" the chicken cried. "Let's offer them ham and eggs!" "Not so fast." said the pig. "For you, that's just a contribution, but for me, it's a total commitment."

You mean I gotta become bacon? What's all this dying stuff? Its rooted in the Old Testament Guidelines for the priestly duties of offering sacrifice. For every kind of sin they had to offer an animal and burn it for sacrifice. They would reserve the best part of the animal - the FAT - for the Lord. And we all know the best parts of the meat is the fat! Well as they burned that fat the word of God tells us it was a sweet aroma to the Lord!

Question #5. Become a valued member of the Champion's championship team. Don't be a chump, be a champ! Will you contribute, will you commit or will you quit?

When we train as champions for God's team we allow the Lord, the refiners fire to burn away all those things of our flesh that hold us back from walking in the Spirit. So we burn away and die to anger, jealousy, pride, sexual immorality and the list goes on! You die to the flesh so that the Spirit can shine through! Turn to your neighbor and say burn away that fat and getting ripped for Jesus!

On this journey of discovering your best self is less self, realize that its not so much about what you do but more about who you are becoming! A perfect and sanctified vessel to carry the presence of God! Your Best Self is LESS SELF!



You may be thinking woah Pastors G & T that's a lot! I don't know if I can do um! Remember its a journey and not a destination! Next week P. Earl will encourage you more in this vital TRUTH. Turn to your neighbor and say, NO MISS OUT!

So mighty men and mighty women of valor, let's press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Trust our coach and trust our training. The victory is ours, So let's get in the game, own it and take it!