



Coaching Tool:

Performance Doesn't Bring Life

It's my responsibility to perform perfectly on my own, even if it's a façade.	Vs.	God brings life through us rather than expecting us to manufacture strength and wisdom on our own.
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Examples Of What The Enemy Wants You To Think:

- It's safer to pretend like I am perfect.
- People will only like me if I keep up the persona.
- I would be rejected or laughed at if I show any weakness.
- God wants our obedience, so I have to make sure I do everything right.
- If I mess up, God may not love me or at least want to punish me.
- If I only tried harder, then I might be good enough to help more people.
- It's my responsibility to have the right words to say to encourage others.
- It's all on my shoulders to make God and others accept me.
- I can't make God look bad, so I have to be perfect.

God's Truth Says:

"The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." – 1 John 2:17

1) We can only give the love that we receive.

- a. 1 John 4:8 "Whoever does not love God does not know God, because God is love."
- b. God did not design humans to be their own source of wisdom, strength, or love. He designed us to receive those gifts in abundance by continuously being in relationship with Him in worship, in prayer, and in the word.
- c. You may have heard the phrase, "you cannot pour out of an empty cup." Well, in this analogy God designed us to be His cups - or vessels – He did not also design us to be the water in those cups.



- i. He pours His living water into us. That is the same water we can pour out into others' lives.
- ii. If we are trying to manufacture love, wisdom, or strength from our own performance, it will be human - broken. When we pour out love, wisdom, and strength, that we first received from God, we are giving gifts that are eternally blessed.

2) We can only step in a life giving direction if we are listening.

- a. Luke 11:28 "Blessed are rather they who hear the word of God and obey it."
- b. When we assess the world around us, we are limited to our perspective and knowledge alone. We have no ability to see how others' lives and future decisions may impact us down the road. But God does. God has the ability to understand every perspective and what will happen in the future. Why would you rely on your own limited knowledge if you have access to an all-knowledgeable God that is working for your good?

3) We can only bear fruit if it comes from God.

- a. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit." - Matthew 7:18
- b. John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."
- c. We were never meant to be able to live self-sufficiently. God asks us to be His hands and feet to bring His love story to the world. He never asks us to have the power to do it all on our own.
- d. If we ask God to bless our plans, then we are asking Him to bless a broken plan without the full knowledge of His best for us. If we, instead, ask Him to show us His plan for our eternal best, then our obedience will produce the fruit that comes from God – good fruit.
- e. The more we look to God for direction and walk according to His will, we can be invited deeper and deeper into what His plan. We can see first hand how God orchestrates our words and deeds to show others that He cares and He is listening.

Listen To This Song:

Listen to "Strong Enough" sung by Matthew West.



Questions To Help You Process This Concept:

1. Have you ever striven to produce love, wisdom, or strength in your own power, without God?

2. How did your attempts to perform ultimately harm you or others around you when you ran out of steam?

3. In what areas of your life are you still trying to produce good fruit without seeking God's will and strength to carry you through?

4. What would it look like for you to listen to God's plan in those areas and follow His prompting rather than your own?



5. Have you seen yourself as an empty vessel ready for God to fill and work through?

Exercise:

1. Get a piece of paper.
2. Make a list of all the things you've done right in your life?
3. Circle the ones that you did in your own strength.
4. What ones have you done only through God's power? Where you know you couldn't have done it in your own strength?
5. What things did you do wrong because you weren't capable of doing them right?
6. Take both lists to God. Surrender them to Him. Repent for any areas where you thought you were doing stuff in your own strength. Thank Him for the areas where you let Him work through you.