

PRACTICING SURRENDER **"Inside Out, Upside Down Living #2"**

Amos 4:11-13
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"¹¹I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

¹²"Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

¹³For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!"

Amos 4:11-13 (ESV)

The message of Amos: "Sin separates us from God, and the sin of pride especially brings with it dangerous consequences."

"When we lose intimacy, we lose our ability to hear God."

1. Examine where I am **prideful or arrogant** in my spiritual life. (6:1, 4-8)

¹Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!

... ⁴Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall,

⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

⁶who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away."

⁸The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts:

"I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."

- **Operating in my own strength produces an illusion of self-security.**

2. Recognize that God is **merciful and patient** with me. (3:1-3, 7)

¹Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

²You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

³Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?

...⁷For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets."

- **Trusting in my self instead of God opens the door to a dangerous world.**

3. Focus on learning from my **mistakes and experiences** in life. (5:21-24)

²¹I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

- **Yielding my self to the authority of God over me leads to serenity.**

4. Humble myself in my daily **walk with God**. (9:11-15)

¹¹In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old,

¹²that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the LORD who does this.

¹³Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

¹⁴I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

- **Knowing that God is unwilling to let me go sets me free.**