A PLACE OF CHANGE MINISTRY

THE FULL MESSAGE

CHOOSE CONNECTION OVER CONVENIENCE

PASTOR TJ TYUS

52 Days of Rebuilding

August 8, 2026

> Pastor TJ Tyus on John 15, a week of broken planes, a pair of corded headphones, and the four months God spends on the builder before He spends 52 days on the wall.

THE ONE THING

THE GREATEST THREAT TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS NOT REBELLION. IT IS CONVENIENCE.

I want to begin with the Word of God this morning. Is that okay?

> I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.
>
> JOHN 15:1-2 (NIV)

I want you to catch it. He cuts off every branch in me that does not bear fruit -- but every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes.

So maybe when I am going through difficult times, maybe I ought to praise God. Because that means God is pruning me. Let me say it this way: maybe I ought to praise, because that means He has not cut me off. If you are not being fruitful, He is cutting you off. But if you are bearing fruit, He is pruning you.

So I praise God for the pruning, because that means I am bearing fruit. Every season is my season. It is either my sowing season or my reaping season. But I am going to bear fruit. Prune me, Lord. I am ready to bear fruit.

EVERY SEASON IS MY SEASON. EITHER MY SOWING SEASON OR MY REAPING SEASON. BUT I AM GOING TO BEAR FRUIT.

Pastor TJ Tyus

REMAIN

Ladies and gentlemen, I went through that quickly, but in case you did not catch it -- what was the word that kept coming over and over in that text?

Remain. It is spoken more times in that passage than any other word. I declare to you that when you talk about being in God's will, when you talk about pleasing the Lord, you have to remain in Him and He must remain in you.

> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
>
> JOHN 15:4 (NIV)

Take your pen and paper out. Take your phone. I am going to help you

today, because you hear the word remain, and remain means to stay with. So you are asking God -- how do I remain in You?



From the deck - R.E.M.A.I.N.

R.E.M.A.I.N.

RETREAT. Remove competing inputs.

When you read the synoptic Gospels -- Matthew, Mark and Luke -- Jesus did something often. He retreated. Every single time, before He had to make a decision, He left the disciples. He left the people. He retreated so

He could guard Himself against competing inputs.

ENGAGE. Pray consistently.

You have to make sure that on a consistent basis you are engaging with God. Many times we engage with Facebook, social media, whatever it may be, but we are not spending time engaging with God.

This morning at five thirty I was walking, and I had no back pain. I said, oh, praise God, my back pain is gone. And I heard the birds. And I felt the wind. And I was just praising God for how beautiful today was. And I simply said: God, I just want to hear Your voice. I hear my mama's voice. My dad's. My wife's. I want to hear Yours. I do not want to guess or assume what You want me to do. I want to hear You say, TJ, left foot. TJ, right foot. TJ, stop. TJ, turn.

And God said, just remain in Me.

MONITOR. Pay attention to what God is doing.

Pay attention to what God is doing in your life and what God is doing around you. We spend too much time focused on everybody else's stuff, and we are not monitoring what God is doing.

What did Moses say? He said, is that true? Because I have never seen a bush like that. Is that You? He paused, because he wanted to make sure.

And can I tell you a secret? Sometimes God will send somebody to speak to you who you do not like. Who gets on your nerves. You have been praying for an angel, and God sends somebody you call an enemy. Anybody heard of Saul? They said, we cannot listen to him, he was a

murderer. God said, no, no -- I picked him up, I turned him around, I put his feet on solid ground, and I sent him to speak to you.

But if you do not engage with Me, if you do not know My voice, you will not know when I am speaking through somebody.

ALIGN. Filter decisions through God's will.

Every decision I make, I filter through God's will, so I can make sure it is His will and not my will.

INTERNALIZE. Put the Word inside you.

This is a big one. When Jesus was tested, when He was tempted, He responded with only the Word of God. You can only respond with the Word of God when you have internalized the Word of God.

I will be honest with you -- I was a sinner back in the day. When I was in my twenties there was a song, I ain't never scared. And for some reason, when I internalized that, somebody would bump into me and I was ready to go to war. Then I became a Christian, and I was reading the Word and praying and fasting and preaching -- and somebody would say something sideways, and I am like, what's up? Knuckle up.

And God is like, wait a minute. What chapter is that in? And then I would get sweet with it and say, oh, I am an Old Testament Christian, because the Old Testament said an eye for an eye. My wife would say: that is the old you. Do not try that.

So do not just read it. It has to become who you are, so you can respond automatically with thus saith the Lord. Not thus saith Beyonce. Thus saith

the Lord. What are you internalizing?

NAVIGATE. Choose obedience over emotional impulse.

Or as I love to say: be purposeful, not emotional. Which simply means I can have emotions, but my emotions do not have me.

> FRUIT IS THE EVIDENCE OF CONNECTION. YOUR WORDS MAY LIE. YOUR FRUIT DOES NOT.
>
> Pastor TJ Tyus

Whatever fruit you are bearing is evidence of what you are connected to. I am not judging you. But your fruit does not lie. You may be in here looking pretty, dressed up, praising God, looking like a super Christian. Your fruit does not lie.

Do not tell me you are a Christian. Show me you are a Christian. Do not tell me you are a disciple. Show me. You will be tested and you will be tempted. How will you respond?

FIVE PLANES AND A PAIR OF HEADPHONES

I was on a trip to see my mother last week, and it was the worst trip in the world. We left Kalamazoo and flew to Detroit, and the flight was delayed,

so we missed our connection. I was not frustrated. I was bearing fruit. I was patient. I had my great niece with me, seven years old, and my nephew. Praise God, we are going to have fun.

We board the next flight. Sit down. And: guys, we are having some technical difficulties, bear with us. God is good. It is not denied, it is just delayed. I kept speaking the Word.

Then: this is your captain speaking, get your things and get off the plane, this plane is out of order. Okay. Maybe God wants me to be patient. I am being tested. I am still passing.

Third plane. I sit down. My granny's baby says, uncle, when are we going to get home? Baby girl, be patient, the Lord has got us. This is your captain speaking -- we have a maintenance issue.

Now I am asking questions. Do you guys check the planes before you bring them from point A to point B? That is two planes with maintenance issues. You are about to get me to go Old Testament. I am trying to be New Testament. But you are wearing my patience.

But here is what I heard in it. Sometimes as humans we think something is ready, and we put somebody in something that is not prepared to take them where they want to go.

God is not going to put you on a plane that cannot get you there. God says, I am going to delay you right here, because I do not want you to get on and have to get back off. I will move you forward when you are ready to go forward.

By the time I got to North Carolina, I had lost my AirPods -- second pair in five months, and I did not know how to explain that to my wife. So for the

entire trip I had to use the old corded headphones. You remember these. Back in the day this was the cool thing.

And here is what I realized. Even though it was connected, I felt restricted. There was a cord. I did not have the same freedom. But I never had a dropped call. Nobody ever said I cannot hear you. There was never a frequency issue. I was connected directly. The whole entire time it was clear.

It was inconvenient. But I was connected.

My twin brother said, why are you wearing that -- I have some backup AirPods you can borrow. And I put them in, and they would not connect right. Static. It was not the right connection. I had a better connection with the cord.

So let me ask you carefully. Are you connected to God where you can hear God and there are no interruptions? Nehemiah rebuilt the wall because of his connection. There was no space. When you allow space, that is where the enemy gets in.

THE GREATEST THREAT TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS NOT REBELLION. IT IS CONVENIENCE.

Pastor TJ Tyus

Some of us are not rebelling because we want to rebel. We want something convenient. And so you are not connected, because you are

looking for convenient.

God is not about convenience. God is about change. And change is not convenient. Change is going to break you down and build you up.



From the deck - Connection. Correction. Construction.

THE THREE C FORMULA

Connection. Correction. Construction.

Number one: stay connected to the source, so you hear His voice. Number

two: accept His correction and let it change you. Number three: obey -- and watch God construct your life and your legacy.

Connection lets you hear Him. Correction changes you. Construction changes what you build. We are almost in the fourth quarter of this year. What have you built? What fruit have you borne?

FOUR MONTHS BEFORE FIFTY-TWO DAYS

> As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.
>
> NEHEMIAH 1:4

Pastor and I have preached Nehemiah over and over. I want you to catch something. Nehemiah's first response was not activity. It was intimacy.

When he heard about the walls being broken -- that was information. It was not evidence of what the future was going to be. Many of us have something happen and we treat it as evidence. That is how our life is always going to be. No. That is information. God will give you the evidence of your future.

Let me ask you a question. How long was it between when Nehemiah heard about the destruction and when he went to the king? A week? A month? A year?

He heard about it in the month of Kislev. He went to the king in the month of Nisan. That is a period of about four months.

GOD SPENT FOUR MONTHS CORRECTING THE BUILDER BEFORE HE SPENT FIFTY-TWO DAYS CONSTRUCTING THE WALL.

Pastor TJ Tyus

You are worried about how long it is taking. It is not going to take long for God to do what He has to do. Listen: He had to do it in you before He does it through you.

God does not need fifty-two days. God says, I need four months to get you ready. I have to construct you before I can construct that.

And catch this. Then the king said to me, what are you requesting? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

You have been praying for four months. The king finally asks what you want -- and you pray again? Brother, you have been praying for four months, you should already know what you want. But Nehemiah is so connected that no matter how long it has been, he is always going to pray before he speaks.

Some of you can only pray for four minutes, and then somebody asks you a question and you answer before you ever pray.

Prayer did not delay the plan. Prayer developed the plan.

God says, I can do an immediate work. It is not delayed -- I am developing it. But I have to develop you before I develop that. You are My vessel. If My vessel is dirty when I do it through you, that is going to be dirty. If My vessel is broken, that is going to be broken. I have to get you right before I can do that through you.

And I believe Nehemiah was not the only one who saw that wall broken down. They lived there. They saw it every single day. But for some reason they must not have been connected -- because if they were connected, they would have been corrected. If they were corrected, there would have been construction.

They walked past that wall every day and saw it as evidence of their future, not information about their present. Nehemiah said, I am going to take this information to God.

THE SONG IN THE PADDED ROOM

I remember the day we met my daughter at the group home. They had her hair done. She had a dress on. It was almost like she was trying to impress us so we would take her home. And I looked in her eyes and I saw the joy and I said, listen -- relax. Just be you. You do not have to impress us.

Then she began to talk, and she let her guard down, and I saw my thug princess come out. You heard me right. And I said, okay. Okay. I was not quite ready for that.

But here is what I realized. Her connection with God at a very young age was evident despite her trials, and I know it was evident because whenever she heard the Word of God, and whenever she heard gospel music, everything would shift.

I would go to her behavioral school and she would be in a room with padded walls, throwing things, threatening people. I would walk in and she would swing at me, and I would grab her and hold her, and she would bite me and scratch me, and I would try to use physical restraints to calm her down.

And then one day I played a song. The song was Jireh. And whatever had hold of her left her body, and she calmed down, and she began to sing it.

That is when I realized we do not fight against flesh and blood. So I said, God, I am going to stop fighting and start praising. I am going to change the atmosphere with the words that come out of my mouth.

JUST WALK

And I know some of you are dealing with pain today. I know the pain of death. I know the pain of sitting in a jail cell. I know the pain of losing a loved one, of a car repossessed, of an eviction notice. I know the pain of almost having divorce court.

When I was going through the pain of losing my daughter, of burying her -- I did not want to read the Bible. I did not want to go to church. I did not want any text messages. Do not tell me praise God. I do not want to hear

any of that. Stop talking to me. I am hurting right now.

And God told me one thing. He said: just walk.

So I went outside. My mother-in-law would be at the house and she would just see me walking around the kitchen. My wife would say, are you okay? I said, I just have to walk right now. And I just kept walking. God, I just have to keep moving. I turned on gospel music. And I just walked. And the pain was just sitting there. And I kept walking.

IF YOU STAY CONNECTED, GOD WILL CORRECT IT. IF YOU STAY CONNECTED, GOD WILL CONSTRUCT IT.

Pastor TJ Tyus

Can I tell you why I kept walking? Your physiology, your body language, impacts your mind. When you are depressed and down, you go like this. The Bible says over and over: lift up your head toward the sky. Encourage yourself in the Lord.

There is a wall that must be rebuilt, and God is calling on you to rebuild it. But you have to lift up your head. I am not saying I feel okay. I am not saying I do not hurt. Yes, I hurt. But I will lift up my head and I will praise the King of kings.

God might have taken your loved one home, but He did not take your praise. He did not take your purpose. God told me: TJ, I know you are in

pain, but turn your pain to purpose.

DO NOT MAKE ME THE BACKUP PLAN

Let me say this to you. Connection is not about religion. It is about relationship. And in relationships you do not always get what you want -- but real, authentic, healthy relationships make you better.

The Word of God says, I tell you these things because I do not want to see you as My servant, but as My friend. So if you are going to reconstruct what God has called you to reconstruct in your life or in your family, you have to become a friend of Jesus.

My prayer is that when I say I know Him, He will say He knows me. Because some of us say we know Him, and He says, I do not know you. I was the one in church. I was the one up front. I was the one in the pulpit. And God says -- I saw you sitting there, because I am omnipresent. But for some reason I do not recognize your voice.

Because prayer with Me was an emergency response, not a daily habit. You prayed when something was going wrong. You prayed when you were in pain. You prayed when you lost somebody, when you needed the mortgage paid, when your marriage was going through it. But you did not pray to Me without ceasing.

You only got connected when you lost something. And then when you found it, you did not need Me anymore.

I pray every day. But if I am honest, I do not give five thirty in the morning

anymore. And God said, son, you got so busy that five thirty does not work. I had to get up at five because my dog was sick. So the dog gets you up, but I cannot get you up.

You prayed and fasted when you lost your daughter, but you are not praying and fasting when I am blessing you. You come to church when you need something, but you do not come just to praise Me.

GOD SAID: I DO NOT WANT TO BE A BACKUP PLAN. I WANT TO BE THE SPINE.

Pastor TJ Tyus

And today is the day where, no matter how inconvenient -- I am going to stay connected.

Father, we know it is inconvenient sometimes to stay connected. Help us to choose connection over convenience. However long You need to do in us, have Your way -- because when You build a builder, then we can truly build. And we are not here just to pray. We are here to do, to take action. For faith without works is dead.

Connection. Connection. Connection. Let every believer say amen.

DO NOT JUST READ IT

THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT

MONDAY

RETREAT - Cut the competing inputs

Take 15 minutes with no phone, no music, no podcast, no one talking. Just you and God. Write down the first honest thing that surfaces. Most of us have never been quiet long enough to hear what is actually in us.

TUESDAY

ENGAGE - Pray before you speak

Pick one decision you have to make this week. Before you say a word about it to anyone, pray about it out loud. Nehemiah had prayed for four months and still prayed again before he answered the king. Practice going to God first, not second.

WEDNESDAY

MONITOR - Run a daily audit

Tonight, write down every place today where you chose the convenient thing over the connected thing. Do not judge it, just name it. You cannot fix a pattern you refuse to look at.

THURSDAY

ALIGN + INTERNALIZE - Put the Word in

Memorize John 15:5 word for word. Then take one decision on your plate and filter it: is this my will or His? You can only answer pressure with Scripture you have actually internalized.

A PLACE OF CHANGE MINISTRY

KEEP BUILDING.

Saturdays at 11:00am.

Notes, slides and the full transcript every week at apoc.kapturedpixel.com/message