

Sermon Series

The Season of Formation

Foundational Text

Romans 8:29 Mirror Translation

“For those He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the exact image of His Son”

February 8, 2026

Sermon Title -- I Already Know That

Sermon Text -- Proverbs 14:12 NKJV

“There is a way that seems right to a man -- But its end is the way of death.”

Introduction

Before we dive in this morning – let me remind you ... The whole point of this series is to identify spiritual pitfalls that are designed to hinder and ultimately stop you from completely awakening to who you truly are in Christ ... May this concept be buried deep in your heart – formation is all about awakening to the truth of your true identity in Christ ... I understand – these pitfalls I have been sharing with you are not new – but they are critical reminders.

Let me be clear ... Religion has successfully convinced many believers that sin – or practicing sinful behavior – is the greatest hindrance of spiritual growth ... Now – because people have bought that theory – and I won’t go into all the reasons as to why – but I will say this – we are very comfortable with being “works oriented / work focused beings” ... This theory – is foundationally based upon behavioral management – which further fosters this works oriented mindset ... Thus – allowing the church to create a religious framework – focused upon rules – discipline – personal effort – and accountability ... This creates a religious ideology that focuses upon sin management rather than spiritual transformation.

Hebrews 9:26 New Life Version

For then Christ would have had to die many times since the world began. But He came once at the end of the Old Way of Worship. He gave Himself once for all time. **He gave Himself to destroy sin.**

Have you ever wondered – what happens if this sin theory is actually wrong? ... What if sin or sinful behavior is not the greatest hindrance to spiritual maturity? ... What if sin has nothing to do with anything in your life? ... Didn't Hebrews 9:26 say Jesus destroyed sin? ... If sin isn't destroyed – does that mean Jesus failed in His mission?

Have you ever considered that something else – that is far more subtle – could be the cause of hindering spiritual maturity? ... What if the real danger – is not what you do – but what you think? ... What if these pitfalls we have been examining have truly been the problem all along for creating spiritual stagnancy in people's lives? ... Let's look at two other very common pitfalls that are easily overlooked.

The Pitfall of Familiarity

Matthew 13:15 Passion Translation

The people's hearts have grown calloused ... Their ears are dull and hard of hearing ... And they have deliberately shut their eyes to the truth.

Let's be clear what I mean by familiarity ... Familiarity can be simply stated as - - "I already know that" ... Or as we like to say in NH - - "I'm all set" ... You know – I got it – no need to keep talking – time to shut down and take a nap because I got this ... So – familiarity is I know all I need to know about that issue – and there is no more I need to know.

Why does this occur? ... When our brain hears something familiar – many times we believe we already understand – so it shuts down ... What is concerning about this behavior is we are programming ourselves that what we know – is all we need to know – which causes us to no

longer become teachable ... This premise causes us to double down on behavioral modification because we have convinced ourselves our belief – or what we believe to be true – is correct.

Now catch this subtlety ... Familiarity does not reject truth – it neutralizes it ... When truth is neutralized – it no longer causes us to pause – to reflect – or to question if what we know – is really true ... And when biblical truth stops confronting our beliefs – then transformation slows or completely ends ... Because awakening always involves acknowledging the truth and responding to its reality by aligning with the truth.

When it comes to spiritual formation – there is a God part and an us part ... If we think – “I already know that” – then the “us part” shuts down – thus shutting down the formation process ... So let me ask you – when was the last time you had one of those – “Wow! I never saw that before” moments? ... When was the last time – the word of God – just blew up on the inside? ... Now let me share with you another pitfall that is very similar but subtly different.

The Pitfall of Assumption

1 Corinthians 10:12 Message

You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else ... Forget about self-confidence - it's useless ... Cultivate God-confidence.

Let's explain this term assumption ... Assumption is when you decide you already understand something- without ever really examining it ... It is the moment you say – “I know this” – and then you stop paying attention ... Assumption carries with it an associated emotion – confidence ... Unfortunately – this confidence is founded upon familiarity and personal experience – rather than spiritual awareness ... Instead of being guided by the Spirit – you are being guided by ego – thinking you already know it all.

How does assumption manifest? ... We verbalize our assumptions with statements like: “I know how this works” - - “I’ve heard this before” ... These are not statements couched in rebellion ...

They proceed from dullness – self-confidence – and ego ... They come from misplaced confidence from our limited belief system and personal experiences ... This is what makes assumption so dangerous.

Why Familiarity and Assumption Always Travel Together

Hebrews 2:1 Mirror Translation

It is crucial therefore that we pay closer attention to what we have heard - so that we do not drift away from it.

Familiarity convinces you there is nothing left to discover ... It tells you the Word has already said – all it is going to say – and there is nothing new to discover ... It says there are no more “wow” moments to be had ... No fresh insights ... No new revelations to be discovered ...

When you fall into this pitfall – it causes your expectancy to shut down ... Assumption then steps in and seals the deal ... Because once expectancy is gone – you no longer need to press in ... You no longer listen carefully ... You no longer stay attentive ... You still hear the truth – but it no longer explodes in your soul like it used to.

Now catch this ... A person doesn't drift away from truth ... They simply stop paying attention to it ... For example – you keep living life by going to work - attending church - reading the word - praying - but if you were honest – it's been a long time since anything really changed on the inside. ... Truth seems to go in one ear and out the other ... Not because it isn't true ... But because you believe you already understand it – and have trained your mind to believe – you are all set.

Like the other pitfalls I've shared ... this one also feels comfortable ... safe ... and natural ... Why? – because nothing appears to be broken or needs to be fixed ... Nothing on the inside is demanding change ... See – familiarity causes expectancy to die – while assumption causes you to lack focus and just drift along following the currents of society ... This is why familiarity and assumption are so dangerous together ... Familiarity neutralizes the truth causing it to appear

common ... Assumption stirs up confidence – convincing you that – you are all set ... And this is precisely why these two pitfalls are so dangerous ... They feel completely natural and give you a sense of confidence that you are all set.

Take Away

Let me give you something practical – that you can put into practice this week ... Something that will help you to restore wonderment and expectancy ... When you sit to read the Word – before you open your bible – pause – and say this from your heart ... “Lord – show me something new – show me something I never saw before” ... That’s it ... Not some long prayer ... Not some spiritual exercise ... Just an open and honest request from a posture of oneness ... Then when you start reading – expect to see something you never saw before.

Also – as you go through your week – pay attention to moments when your mind says ... “I already know this” ... “I’ve heard this before” ... Don’t fight that thought ... Just notice it ... And when you notice it ... Ask yourself this question ... “Am I still expecting God to speak – or have I already decided He has nothing new to say?”

These two practices are not about chasing new information ... It’s about restoring wonderment and expectancy ... It is about positioning yourself to be Wow-ed again by the Holy Spirit – while keeping yourself from falling into these subtle pitfalls.