LOOKING AHEAD

TRANSCRIPT
PASTOR ADAM STRAUSER

It's Pastor Adam again. I hope you've been enjoying so far our journey together as we've listened, and just yesterday we listened to Pastor Dave Colgan share about the power of reflection.

Now some of you, reflection has been a great exercise of seeing everywhere you've been, and it has been a fun exercise. Maybe some of you today, you feel like this process of reflection has put you at the scene of a car crash, and you just see all of the brokenness and all that's wrong and you're like, "What now? Where do we move forward? How do we move forward?"

And today I want to talk about moving forward, looking ahead and the power that is in each and every one of us to partner with God in being able to put one foot in front of the other in the process of character development. As you think about that scene, maybe the car crash, and there's so many things that are happening at a scene of a car crash, especially if there's been injury. For some people, there's an ambulance that's there ready to help and wait and care for us. And so, part of the process that we're going to be moving forward through, as we look into the season of character development, is healing. You know, one of the first signs of God's care for us isn't correction and just rebuking us for why we're in the mess that we're in, but He comes and He helps us and He brings healing to us. And so, part of our journey moving ahead is going to be healing and experiencing God's gracious, powerful touch in our lives. Those words of affirmation, those words of love and care.

And so I pray that if moving forward today is painful, that the first thing you would experience today is God's healing touch. You know, there's other people there at the scene of the crash, the metaphorical scene of the crash.

Sometimes we're given information from our insurance company on how we can begin to put our lives back together, maybe get a new car, maybe begin to pay some of the bills that incurred there at the scene of the crash. And one of the things that I believe God's going to be doing in this season ahead as we move forward is he's going to come alongside in a helping partnership. Like a good neighbor, Jesus is there.That's right. He comes in incredible ways and he sends us his Holy Spirit, the helper, the one who comes alongside of us. And that Helper gives us strength to begin to process how to move forward from these scenes of the crash in our lives.

This can come in the form of an awakening of new types of opportunities that are out there in front of us.This form of moving forward, of moving ahead comes in the form of becoming a better person, learning what caused us to get into the crash in the first place? Were we sleepy? Were we behind the wheel and tired? Were we distracted and looking at our phones as we were driving?

Sometimes crashes just happen unexpectedly, but sometimes there's things that we can do that help us begin to look forward to new driving patterns as we move ahead. So one of the things that God really specializes in is not only helping us in our mess, but then out of our mess, empowering us to become people that can confidently look ahead to new seasons.

And so as we think about this next step of moving ahead, do know this, that the Lord who made you has a season that is in front of you, and He is going to be right there in the midst of it, strengthening you, and He wants you to live from a posture of hope. Because we know that the Jesus whom we serve is the resurrected Jesus, who's seated at the right hand of the Father, we can be confident today that there is hope and our best days are ahead.

So as people of great hope and people who live according to the promises of God, would you join me in this journey as we commit to our best days being ahead and with God's help we move forward from the scenes of the crash knowing that God is there to lead us along the way? So like the author of Hebrews says, Let us therefore fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). And so together we move forward with our eyes on the character of Jesus.