



SUMNER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

WALKING WITH GOD

# Abandon the Ordinary

Live the Extraordinary

## Abstract

Nothing is ordinary about the Church of Jesus Christ. What people call miracles and signs we call it a way of life. God has revealed his glory through his Son Jesus and in the Last day "Now" He is about to reveal himself to the world through his Church who is in Christ operating under the control and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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# Abandon the Ordinary By living the Extraordinary

## Part 1)

Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 1:15-23

Many Christian homes apparently embrace and reflect society ultimate purpose, moral value, language use, media choices, activities, social habits, attitudes, and civic interests. They are identical, unmanaged, and often ultimately fails. **In short, the brand name of Jesus gets a bad rap, holding no real value because these generic homes are made up of individuals holding no real power for change that really matters.**

Many churches today are dying because they are generic, lacking any distinction from other social organization. They reflect that which is easy and popular, restricting fundamental and authentic spiritual development. These churches fail to connect with people challenge people, and add little value to their personal lives. Therefore church members, representing the brand name of Christ to the world 165 out of 168 hours per week, remained unchanged and not equipped to lead in a complex and dynamic society.

The reality is this: the modern church is losing its voice in the public square. It should be speaking powerfully to the moral challenges and brokenness of life in this world, applying the palm of truth and grace to wounds that are fresh and often, but it is not.

It is a drift and generic according to some, the church has failed to pass on its faith to young people. Ironically billions of dollars have been spent

on youth ministers, Christian music, publishing and media, producing a culture of young Christians who know next to nothing about God, his Word, and their own faith *except how they feel about it*. The results: declining membership in churches.

The prophet Isaiah spoke to the purpose of God's brand of leadership when he said in Isaiah 40:4-5 “Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken” in other words the distinctive discipline of Jesus will build a brand of leadership that embraces a distinct set of promises, connect with people, and is managed so well that it will powerfully and dynamically lead a way for everyone to see God.

Jesus Christ came into the world to convict us not so much of our transgressions but of our possibilities and to deliver us from an empty way of life. When God looks at us knowing that he has created us a bit lower than himself given us authority and dominion over all his creation that includes Angels and Demons visible and invisible, when he sees us so trivial, worthless, thinking such little things, when such great and wonderful things are there in front of us.

Common, average or ordinary are never used to describe the alternate work of God in creation once finished, God declared it to be awesome!

He was the passionate craftsman, pronouncing extraordinary satisfaction in his ultimate and completely satisfying work. He did not merely use the Hebrew word good (TOV), he claims very good (TOV MEOD) to describe the work of his hands.

To Abraham he said *I will make you into a great nation and I will make your name great* to Moses he said “*of all nations, you would be my treasured possession*” to King David he said “*I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the Earth*” and “*for the sake of his great name, the Lord will not reject his people*”

When God places his mark on you, you are branded for distinctive future and realities for things that matters, set apart from the rest within name, a mission, and power to move the masses. Because you are branded you are not generic.

Moses cries out to God, “*And the LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”*”<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

**The first steps towards living the extraordinary.**

1. **Pay attention.** When you are distracted, it’s impossible to notice the extraordinary things around you and how you feel about your life. Unplug, look up and be present.
2. **Be grateful.** Expressing gratitude will help you stay focused on the magnificent happenings of your day to day life. It feels good to say

thank you and it's always a good reminder of how extraordinary your life is.

3. **Stop comparing.** Someone will always have more or less than you. There will always be someone who is better or worse at what you do. You can't assess who you are or what you have based on others and if your focus is on what they have or do, you can never fully appreciate all of the extraordinary blessings in your own life. Even your past and future cannot be measuring sticks for your life today. Keep your eyes on your own paper.
4. **The end of one chapter in your life, is the beginning of a new chapter.** You cannot move into chapter 2 in your life unless you completely have exited chapter 1. Sometimes Chapter 2 is a buildup or a continuation of chapter 1. Sometimes it is a complete cut and a new beginning.
5. **Let go.** Every time I think something has a hold on me, I realize I'm the one with the tight grip. Don't be afraid of space and the absence of all the things you think you need to be happy and secure.

**Sometimes our past is our brother's future let go.**

6. **Make space.** Clear out the clutter and the left-over. You need space and room to pay attention to what matters most. And what is yet to come
7. **Slow down.** The extraordinary life you've been waiting for is happening right now. While you are racing to the finish, making plans, keeping up and getting by, your extraordinary life is patiently waiting for a warm welcome. Slow your pace and look around or come to a complete stop to fully appreciate what is right in front of you.
8. **Admire small miracles.** Extraordinary isn't always in the grand gestures and big impressive changes or events. Revel in the little things like the first bite of a ripe piece of fruit, a beautiful view, a stranger's kind smile or some of the other things that happen every day. Enjoy small pleasures and find love in the little stuff.
9. **Write it down.** Keep a journal to record some of the extraordinary things in your daily life. Knowing that you'll be recording your observations will be a reminder to notice and the more you notice it, the more you will notice it.
10. **Act like a tourist.** You might get used to your surroundings and daily events and forget about the extraordinary parts. Be a tourist in your own life and backyard and see things for the first time. Remember how that view used to wow you, or how the way

someone treated you used to make your heart race. Recapture awe by [changing your lens](#).

11. **Be extraordinary.** The best way to live an extraordinary life is to be extraordinary. Be extraordinary in how you treat people, including yourself. Be extraordinary in how you choose to spend your time. Be extraordinary through your thoughts, words and actions.