



When Things Happen! **Darryl Strawberry**

Focus In life, it doesn't matter how much you achieve, how you look, or how much you have—you can't save yourself. Jesus is the only one who can save you. We won't receive the revelation of God's grace and salvation unless we read the Bible. Many people have all the earthly things, but they don't have any of God's kingdom things. After we receive Jesus as our Savior, we begin the process of sanctification, which takes time.

Fun What movie could you watch over and over and never tire of it?

Review Key Scriptures: Proverbs 3:5–6; John 3:30; 1 John 4:4; Romans 6:23

1. Surrender to Jesus.

When we die to our flesh and say yes to Jesus, we get to be resurrected in the spirit just like Jesus. God changed Darryl Strawberry's life when he got saved, but the changes that needed to happen in his life didn't happen overnight. God's process of sanctification takes time. When we accept Jesus, we invite Him to reign in our lives. God is calling us to seek Him first in everything we do. If we don't read the Bible, we will never know all God has for us. When things happen in your life, God wants you to trust Him to get you through. Jesus can deliverer you from every storm in life.

2. Let God sanctify and qualify you.

The enemy comes to steal and kill, but Jesus comes to give abundant life. Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave. Abundant life is not material possessions, fame, or success. Abundant life is peace, joy, wisdom, love, and freedom in Jesus Christ. Many of us are afraid to walk in what God has called us to do because we don't feel qualified, but no one is qualified. However, God qualifies

the called. Christians walk in faith, not fear, because they know God is always working even if they don't see it. It is important for us to know God's Word and who we are in Christ. God wants to spend time with us, but we need to do the work of making time for Him and studying the Bible.

3. Discipleship matters.

God will do great things in and through our lives when we are surrendered to Him, and discipleship empowers us to step into the purpose He created us for. We need to persistently pursue God and spend time in His Word. When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit will teach us all we need to know and empower us to do what God has called us to do. God's Word will never pass away, but we must read and study it. The Bible is the blueprint of who we are, and Jesus gives us victory.

Group Dynamics Idea See yourself as one who actively disciples. Help those in your group better understand why discipleship is important for all believers and what it means to you.

Discuss

1. Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes about how meaningless life is if you have everything but don't know God. Why do people seek riches and fame rather than God?
2. What is required to have a good relationship with another person? How does this parallel the things required to have a good relationship with God?
3. How does spending time with God and reading the Bible help you hear God? Can you think of a time you focused on getting closer to God and felt you heard Him more clearly? If you're comfortable, share with the group.
4. Darryl Strawberry shared that his mother consistently prayed for him even though she didn't see the answer in her lifetime. Why is this type of faithful prayer so important? Who or what are you praying for with that kind of faith and consistency?
5. If you drink from the living water of Jesus, you will never be thirsty again. Have you made the decision to drink from the living water of Jesus?
6. What does it look like for you to surrender yourself to God daily and say *no* to your flesh?

7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Surrender to Jesus.
- Let God sanctify and qualify you.
- Discipleship matters.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give You praise and honor because only You are worthy, and only You can satisfy us. You are the God who saves us from all our sins, redeems us, and calls us into Your kingdom. Help us to daily lay down our lives and live for You completely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Many believe God loves them and know about His love, but they have a hard time receiving it. We can't give away what we don't have. Before you can give love to someone else, you have to receive God's love for yourself. When we are filled with God's love, it's so much easier to share it with the people around us.