

# STEP INTO GOD'S GREATER GLORY

**DATE:** 26 May 2019

**SERMON TITLE:** STRETCH

**WELCOME:** Welcome all New Visitors. Do an Icebreaker.

**WORSHIP:** SING: 1 Praise Song & 2 Worship Songs. During Prayer Time focus on God's GREATNESS AND POWER!

## WORD

### Read Isaiah 54:1-3

**Question:** What does "barren" mean in this verse and how do we get out of this "barrenness"?

**Answer:** It means little or no fruit, being average or normal for far too long. The only way out of barrenness is to enlarge/expand, stretch, lengthen and strengthen our faith. (Our faith is like a rubber band, it is made to be stretched)

### 1. Faith is useless unless it is stretched

You were made to be stretched.

If you're not stretching you are not living at the level of faith God has called you to.

The only way to build that God-kind of faith is by stretching.

Your faith has to be pulled beyond the normal/ordinary/average to fulfil its purpose.

Faith that is tested outside of your comfort zone is where God works.

Most people avoid stretching because they want to be comfortable and things to be easy.

God uses the stretch in our lives to expand our thinking and get us out of the rut, to reach our potential.

When we are restful we are in a minimum faith position.

Maximum faith is where you find God. (Refer to question about Isaiah 54)

Once you think you have stretched/reached your breaking point, that is where God is.

*"How far can you stretch before you reach **breaking point**?"*

*"Have you ever tried to extend to a **greater / the full length**?"*

*Most people defy their breaking points!*

God is good but He is not safe. He will stretch you beyond your present resources to trust Him like you've never trusted Him before.

You will be pulled and put under stress, pressure, discomfort and feeling vulnerable. (This is the place where God shows up, when you are at your most vulnerable / reaching your breaking point) To reach your potential. (The promised land is on the other side of the stretch.)

You have to ENLARGE to break out of barrenness!

### 2. If our view of God is small and manageable and normal then we will have a small view of what He wants to do in and through us.

The size of your God determines the size of your life!!

Expect enlargement – Reject smallness, small thinking, don't be robbed of the big things.

If little things take over your life it will rob you of the big God has for you. Don't resist being stretched/enlarged, don't become trivial & petty. Just allow God to stretch you.

### He told people to do things that blew their minds!

Examples: Jesus told Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water!

Jesus told Lazarus (who was dead for four days) to come forth out of the grave!

### 3. How far will you allow God's grace to stretch you?

#### Let us remind ourselves what God has said to us:

- Only Believe! (What is your response to God's grace? – Believe)

- Remind Me of My Promises!

- Come Boldly before My throne of Grace and Mercy!

- You are Righteous and Justified

Don't live below your privileges as a child of God! Jesus freely made everything available!

- Allow your understanding of Grace to stretch you!

OWN NOTES:

**Dream BIG Dreams and make BIG plans because we serve a BIG God!**

God won't lead me where His Grace can't keep me. His grace is sufficient  
I am what I am by the Grace of God  
The Grace of God may take you places you don't want to go  
Jesus went to the cross, because of the grace of God that took Him there  
But, when God takes you to a place you've never been it's to make you into something you never knew you could be!

Trust God in the moments of stress, tension, discomfort and pressure. Stretch the Promise of God in your life Bigger and your Problem will become smaller!

**Read 2 Kings 4:34-35**

The stretch of the man of God raised the dead boy. The man of God covered the problem with His faith

**Read Matthew 12:13**

When he stretched for Jesus he was helped and healed.

Opportunity never announces when it comes. It's only after it's gone, you realize that you missed it!

Allow God-given/ sovereign/ divine opportunities to stretch you!

Step out, from a safe place into an unsafe place, be **BOLD!**

If you learn faith and grace, you put yourself in the stretch.

**Read Ephesians 3:20**

**4. CRC George it's time for us to stretch to the maximum that God has called us to do!**

**There are 2 things that will stretch us: - Vision**

**- Relationships / Leadership**

Be planted in the church.

When God wants to do bigger things in your life He will bring people that you feel out of your league with. People who don't think like you, who push you and challenges you!

Jabez: enlarge my tent-so I can include more people in my tent - you can't stay in your comfort zone and with comfortable people. You feel uncomfortable around those who God gives to stretch you.

**IT'S ALL ABOUT SOULS!!!!**

**BUILD THE CHURCH!!**

The blessing of God is to be a blessing for others.

OWN NOTES:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prayer:**

Monday Evenings 17:30 – 18:30 pm

Friday Mornings 5:45 to 6:45 am

Pre-Prayer Sunday's – AM 07:45 / PM 17:10

Thursday Prayer Nights 17:30 – 18:30 (Intersession)

**#SHE Prayer - This Week Mon-Fri @ 05:45 - 06:30 am Together we do MORE!!!**

**Business Home-Cell:**

Friday 7 June 2019

**#SHE\_George : 31 May 2019 - Do you have your ticket??!**

**WORKS**

Share feedback on each person's Harry & Sally.

Encourage one another to keep inviting people to church to be saved.

Prayer and Target Lists

Homecell Goals!

Encourage members to join a ministry of helps! Eg. Ushers / Intercessors / Altar workers