

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, leaving a large white central area. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Normal Isn't Enough

And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.^[b] ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. - Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

What is Normal Really?

- ▶ Time
- ▶ Money
- ▶ Values
- ▶ Relationships - Marriage
- ▶ Worry - Anxiety

Jesus says, “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” - Matthew 7:13-14

Key #1 - When Normal Isn't Enough

Key to Living Transformed: Let Your _____ Lead You To God

“‘Agreed!’ Laban replied. ‘I’d rather give her to you than to anyone else. Stay and work with me.’ So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days.” - Genesis 19:19-20

- ▶ Spiritual growth requires that our life with God move from the “should” category to the “want-to” category. “Should” is a kind of auxiliary engine. It is necessary to have this, and sometimes I must do things simply because I should. But if I am running in a marathon, it doesn’t matter at mile marker twenty-three whether I think I should finish. I will finish because I want to finish. “Want” will eventually wear down “should.”

Key #1 - When Normal isn't Enough

- ▶ _____ happens when our lives move from the _____ category to the _____ category.
- ▶ There is a distinction between the “ought of _____” versus the “ought of _____”
- ▶ _____ is Part of Divine Design - Deepening _____ Leads to Tremendous Transformation

Key #2 - When Normal Isn't Enough

Key to Living Transformed: _____ Great _____

“2 So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: “May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them.”3 Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. 4 Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die...” 1 Kings 19:2-4

- ▶ Our feelings never descend on us at random. As a general rule, our emotions flow out of our thoughts. Discouraged people tend to think discouraging thoughts. Worried people tend to think anxious thoughts. These thoughts become so automatic that, after a while we don't even notice we are thinking them. We never think about what we are thinking about and worse we never question where these thoughts come from. We get used to stinking thinking.

Key #2 - When Normal Isn't Enough

You cannot expect to live a transformed life

- ▶ Until you make _____ Your Mind a Priority.
- ▶ Until you make _____ your Mind a Priority
- ▶ Until you make _____ your Mind a Priority

Key #3 - When Normal Isn't Enough

Key to Living Transformed: Never _____ Alone

“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.” - Mark 4:39

- ▶ The philosophical question we ask is, "Do fish know they're wet?" It invites us to consider whether or not we can be so consumed and impacted by something that we may no longer realize we are under the influence of the force. Water is all around but fish are so accustomed to water that they don't consider it. Fear, anxiety and worry work the same way. Many of us don't realize their effects or just how much they influence our lives because they've been around so long.

Key #3 - When Normal Isn't Enough

- ▶ Fear divides the _____; you _____ one thing and you are pushed to _____ something else, therefore the emotions lack stability.
- ▶ Fear divides the _____; what you UNDERSTAND, you question, and therefore your convictions are shallow and changeable.
- ▶ Fear of failure makes you avoid _____; instead of moving forward you stay stuck because you don't know what will be the outcome.
- ▶ Fear inhibits the _____ determinative faculty; therefore plans and purposes, if not "scrapped" altogether, are not filled with caution and hesitation
 - ▶ Seek _____ not comfortable circumstances to bring you to your best self
 - ▶ Embrace _____ and watch God make a way!

Discussion:

To be Normal is to conform to common standards and customs. It usually means that something is ordinary, average, typical, or routine. Among people you know (family and friends) how would you describe Normal attitudes and behaviors in these areas:

- Pace of life
- Personal finances
- Worry & Anxiety
- Relationships
- The Church & Spiritual life