

**The Me I Want to Be:**  
**becoming God's best version of you**

**Week Two: *In the Zone* – John 7:37-39a (Galatians 5:16-25)**

We have all seen examples in the world around us of what it looks like to “be in the zone”; a basketball player can’t miss or a businesswoman can’t seem to miss landing the big deal – it seems to be an almost effortless joy to accomplish what they set out to do. God makes it clear that when we do whatever we do out of a centered relationship with him, this is how *all of life* is supposed to be.

1. “There is the you God made you to be – and there is the you that currently exists. What do you do with the gap? Our problem is that we think we have to close the gap through our own ingenuity or by trying harder. God’s plan is not just for us to be saved by grace – it is for us to live by grace.” Ortberg suggest we not try harder, but try “softer” – “trying softer means focusing more on God’s goodness than our efforts.” What are some ways you can “try softer?”
  
2. The “me God made you to be” does not come from an assembly line approach– God does not do “one size fits all.” We are God’s masterpiece – we are unique. What helps one live in the flow of the Spirit is not the same for everyone else. We learn differently, struggle with different sins, and relate to God is different ways. Reflect on the following questions to begin to learn how it is that God wants to help you grow.
  - What do you do that makes you feel fully alive?
  - What most helps you experience the presence of God? (creation, time in the Word, prayer, community, solitude ...)
  - How do I prefer to learn? (by seeing, hearing, doing – alone or in groups)
  
3. Your path to growth will not be quite like anyone else’s. It will be unique. It won’t always be easy. But there is one thing everyone’s path has in common – surrender. Who is in control of your life – is Jesus just along for the ride or have you given him the keys to the car? If you have given Jesus the keys, do you try to take them back when the ride gets uncomfortable?