

Illustration- It was my 7th grade year. Lot's was happening. I was playing baseball, running track, and yes, I was in the band. I was striving to get good grades. I was wrapped up in all the chaotic things that life had to offer. As I was trying to figure out what a "past participle" was in my English class, I was asked to run an errand to the library. As I rushed across the campus and then headed up the stairs, I saw HER, the 9th grade girl of my dreams. "Jason, be calm, play it cool" I said in my mind. But, all sensibility was lost as she actually made eye contact and waved "hi" as she passed. During the moment of both taking a second glance as she continued down the stairs and being in a motionless daze, the size 11 shoe on a 4'6" 7th grader became my worst nightmare. The girl of my dreams also took a second glance back at me right as I took my next step up. And yes, that big old shoe caught the step and sent me flat on my face...

Transition: Over the past few years, God has broken me over how we view the God of the universe and how we respond to Him. We've managed to be so busy with the things of life and then just slip God in with everything else, not giving Him any importance or priority.

How many times have we come to realize who God is and were left in awe? How many times have we viewed prayer and reading God's Word not as a chore, but an opportunity to commune with the Almighty? How many times have we put a "PAUSE" on all the busyness of life to discover Him?

I. When we PAUSE and reflect on who God is, we are left in awe

A. Moses burning bush (**Exodus 3:1-6**), seeing God's face (**Exodus 33:18, 20-23; 34:29-35**)
-he was left in awe and changed

B. God's holiness and power

-God created, God is all powerful, God is all-knowing

-God is also a just God who punishes sin (turned Lot's wife to pillar of salt and put to death a man for just touching the ark of the covenant)

II. Sadly, we take this for granted and are just in it for the "perks"

-over time, the Israelites made everything about themselves and got caught up in the world even after seeing God's glory

-they were caught up in popularity, the latest fads, and even doing "Godly" things, but out of habit

*Though they were too busy to see God's holiness, He promised a day when His holiness would be displayed in **Ezekiel 36:22-28**.

*Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, we are to be living a life reflecting God's glory

*If we are honest, we have fallen way short of a holy God

III. Encountering God causes me to confess my sins of:

A. Busyness

-my time and priorities; not pressing PAUSE

B. Selfishness/Pride

-I recognize that I have made Christianity all about me

-I do "Christian things" not because God is holy and worthy, but to make myself happy