

Amos Part 7 Is your heart complacent? 6:1-14

Community Group Questions

1. Do you ever feel like nothing bad can happen to you?
2. Do you ever feel better than others?
3. Do you feel that you lack a concern for other people?

Complacency-a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.

Complacency is the point when we are satisfied with where we are in life but we past the point of healthy satisfaction and thankfulness to the Lord and we stop trying. This could be in your parenting, marriage, schoolwork, spiritual life, work, health or emotional life. As Christians we are on a journey to become more like Christ in every area of our life and because He is perfect we will always need work in every area of our life. **Complacency** is a huge barrier standing in the way of who God wants us to be and the plans He has for us.

Jimmy Carter said "I hate to see complacency prevail in our lives when it's so directly contrary to the teaching of Christ".

Israel had a problem of having complacent hearts and today going along with our big idea for the series *"Where is Your Heart?"* We are going to ask ourselves *"Do I have a Complacent Heart?"*

In order to find out if our hearts are complacent we have to see what a complacent heart looks like and the first 7 verses of chapter 6 show us.

A complacent heart...feels like it is invulnerable...Vrs 1-2a(impossible to harm or damage) "I have it all together and nothing can go wrong."

Israel, because of its great economic standing, its strong military and religious practices they thought that they could not be brought down,

they thought they were safe and secure...they became complacent because things were going well they thought they were invulnerable. "We are fine nothing can happen to us."

Here is what Israel started to do...they trusted in what God had given them rather than trusting in the God that gave it to them.

How about you...are things going well and you feel pretty good? I am glad but I want to warn you not to fall to complacency. Don't start to trust in what you have been given...trust the God that gave it to you. Don't take credit for what God blessed you with, give Him glory with what He provided you with.

Don't think "nothing can ever happen to me, I will always have my job, I will always be financially secure, I will always be respected, I will always have a solid family, I will always have my health."

What should we do to avoid thinking we are invulnerable? Figure out your...*"Achilles heel" in Greek mythology when Achilles was born, his mother, in an effort to make him immortal, took Achilles to the Styx river and dipped him. She held him by one heel. The area where her fingers held him remained dry. As the heel was not touched by the waters of the Styx, it was the one vulnerable place on Achilles. Achilles became the hero of many battles during the Trojan War. Paris, Prince of the Trojans, shot an arrow in the heel of Achilles. Because the heel was the one spot untouched by immortality, Achilles died.*

Even though you may think you have it all together there are always weak spots. So periodically evaluate your Spiritual life, career, relationships, health, school and whatever responsibilities or activities are in your life and ask yourself "what are my weak spots?"

When we identify a weakness what should we do? **Look to Jesus in your weakness.** *2 Cor. 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

We don't have to hide our weaknesses as if they are something to be embarrassed about, but we admit them and let Jesus help us.

The second thing we learn from this passage is.

A complacent heart...thinks it is better than others...Vrs 2b "I am better than the people around me." Israel thought they were better than others and Amos challenged that.

Maybe when I said figure out your "Achilles heel" you thought "I don't have one". Then you are complacent and don't try because you think you are better than those around you?

If you think you have no "Achillies heel" and think you are better than others...you surround yourself with people that you are better than and compare yourself to them.

Here is how it works...you want to be a good parent...you find a bad parent and compare yourself to them, you want to feel like a good worker, friend, spouse, student, Christian...find bad ones and you look good....enter complacency.

When you think your better than others you can never learn from them. You become type of person never asks questions to people that have more experience than you do or more education than you do

because you feel if you do that person may look down on you...you feel this way because you look down on other people and you don't realize that not everyone does that.

What should you do to avoid thinking you are better than others?

Think clearly about who you are. *Romans 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

Find people that you can learn from about every area of your life and ask questions. Remember if you are on the journey of becoming more like Christ you will need help and there are people God has placed in your life to give you that help. If you continue to think you are better than them you will never learn from them and if you continue in complacency you will never desire to learn from others.

The third thing we learn about

A complacent heart...is self consumed with no concern for others.

Vrs 3-7 Israel had feasts and celebrations and no concern for anyone else or that there were problems and problems coming their way

How about you? Do you have a general concern for others or is it all about you?

-Do you care that people around you are destined for hell because they don't trust the GOSPEL?

-Do you care that people are hurting emotionally and may need a listening ear?

-Do you care that you may have some resources to bless and help others but your not?

-Do you care that the Lord wants to use your gifts, talents and abilities to serve Him within the church, but you are not?

If you say you care but are not doing anything you probably are complacent.

So what do we do if we are self-consumed and lack concern for others? **Help others**

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4 ESV)

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18 ESV)

When you break from the complacency of living for yourself you start to realize that you have been missing out on truly living.

John Bunyan Author of Pilgrims Progress said "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

There are many ways you can help others, NIB, Thanksgiving, OCC, Toys for TOTS

If we don't listen to the Lord and fight complacency the result of a complacent heart is **pride**. *Someone once said "Self-complacency leads to self righteousness"*

We learned about pride in week 2 of our series but the next 7 verses spell out the consequences of falling to pride.

Pride's consequences vrs 8-14

-Death-it may be physical death...or it may be death of relationships, status, career

-Delusional thinking-you do not have a firm grasp on reality

-Destruction-eventually you will fall

Take heed and change your ways...

John Stott said "We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior".

Having a complacent heart will result in pride and not fulfill the plans and desires the Lord has for you.