

Step UP Sermon Series  
**Part One: “Stepping Up in Passion”**  
*Pastor Dale Campfield - September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

**Intro:**

**Matt 28:19** “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

**ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve**

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow... which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Today we begin a new Sermon Series entitled: “Stepping Up” This will take place for the next six weeks. Today, Sunday, September 5 to Sunday, October 10, 2010

**Series Premise: It’s time to Step Up – to fulfill the CALL of GOD upon our lives.**

Most of us have known Jesus Christ for years; some less, but most of us have known Him and had a relationship with Him for years. Through the years, though our hearts have been right and motives genuine, we seem to have “fallen asleep” as a church. The fact is, the time is short and the return of Christ is quickly coming upon us. It’s time to step it up as a church and make sure we’re doing everything we can to reach souls for the Kingdom of God, walking in the fullness of the Calling that is upon each of our lives. That’s what this sermon series is all about. Stepping Up and making it happen. Stop talking about it, stop learning it, stop dreaming about it, stop thinking everyone else is going to get it done and step up and do it!

What is the call of God upon our lives? Two Things...

**The Great Commandment: To love God and others.**

**The Great Commission: To go into all the world making disciples.**

That’s it. That’s the call of God that is on each of our lives.

**KEY VERSE: 1 Cor. 11:1** “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

**Stepping Up Action Cards:** Each congregational member will receive a “Stepping Up Action Card” for each day of the series. The Action Card will challenge and encourage them to step up in a very practical way. Each card will also have a scripture on it for encouragement.

**Set Your Clock/Cell Phone:** The congregation will be asked to set the alarms on their watches, clocks, cell phones or whatever they have that tells them what time it is to 4:13 p.m. The Bible tells us in **Philippines 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” When the alarm goes off, they are reminded that they can do ALL THINGS with Christ. Their passion can happen and will be fulfilled as they Step Up.

The Bible says....

**John 12:32**

*“If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself.”*

My question for you is, are we doing that? Are we lifting Christ up from the earth? Are the people around us being drawn unto Christ? The fact is, Christ lives within us, and He is lifted up through us – we His servants – and as people see us, experience us, listen to us, get around us in any way, they should be drawn to Christ. Are they? Are you making that kind of IMPACT in the lives of the people around you? Do people want what you have? Do your friends, family and co-workers desire what you've got? Does anyone ask you about why you are different from everyone else? Or, do you go along your merry way and no one ever notices you're a Christian.

## **Why must we Step it Up?**

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

#### **Romans 3:23**

*"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

#### **Romans 6:23**

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

### **5 QUESTIONS** for you to consider...

**Question #1:** Do the people you work with, go to school with, live with, hang out with, know you're a passionate follower of Christ?

**Question #2:** In regards to the restaurants you visit the most; do the servers know that you are a passionate follower of Christ? How do you know?

**Question #3:** Do you hang out with anyone who is not a follower of Christ?

**Question #4:** When was the last time someone took you aside to find out what you are the way you are?

**Question #5:** Do you really care if people know you're a passionate follower of Christ or not?

## **Today, we're going to talk about "Stepping Up in PASSION"**

Where is your passion for Christ? Where is your passion for the presence of God compared to your passion for the things of this world?

### **Illus:** Truth or Dare

This morning as we begin, we will begin with a game. We are going to play a game of Truth or Dare. I have in my hands a basket... with two types of cards... one for "Truth" and one for "Dare." This should be a game that all of you know how to play. One player starts the game by asking another player, "Truth or Dare?" If the queried player answers "truth," then the questioning player asks a question, usually embarrassing. If the queried player answers "dare," then the questioning player asks the queried to do something, also usually embarrassing. I also like the repetition rule. This means players cannot chose "truth" three times in a row. That way it will not allow players to choose "truth" all the time or dare all the time, making the game more interesting. Isn't interesting that in general we will take dares for stupid things and not for things that matter? We will eat pickles mixed with honey, kiss the guy or girl with marshmallows in our mouths, or run around the car naked, but when it comes to something serious, we balk at the dare. The word "dare" is a verb that means "to have the necessary courage or boldness for something." Over the next month you will be challenged... tested... urged... dared... in Stepping Up for Christ Jesus. Do you have the necessary courage to live as God directs? Do you have the boldness to believe in God and

allow Him to fulfill the call that He has upon your life? Do you accept the dare from God that He knows best of what you need in your life in order to step it up?

**Intro:** The Golden Corral

Have you ever eaten at the Golden Corral, or another Buffet of your choice? They've got everything on the food bar with fish, steak, chicken and shrimp. All kinds of salads and desserts, etc. For some, it's hard to decide what to get. I heard one person say, "I couldn't decide what I wanted, so I got a little bit of it all, twice." I guess that is why so many people like that place, you can get a second helping, and you can get a double portion. God has a plan for your life, and it includes a double portion. Most people settle for second best, but there will always be double portion Christians. Today, looking at Elisha, I want to encourage you to be a double portion Christian. To step it up in your passion for God in your life.

**TEXT: 2 Kings 2:1-15**

background: this is a special story in the Bible for those who want more of God. If you look at Elisha and the members of the school of the prophets you can see two distinct types, those who want a single scoop, and those who want a double blessing. Today there are three keys to becoming a double portion Christian.

- a. you have to stay a little bit closer
- b. you have to go a little bit farther
- c. you have to want a little bit more

**I. You Have To Stay A Little Bit Closer**—v.7- to view afar off—the names of the members of the school of the prophets aren't given, but this statement shows the difference in Elisha, and the rest of the prophets.

- a. they were content with following from afar—that is the story of many people, content with a relationship from a distance. Just close enough, but not near.
- b. Peter—following from afar may get you into big trouble—he denied the Lord through following from a distance.
- c. Elisha—stayed close to the fire—over the years I have noticed something, those who walk in great power with God are the press in Christians.

**II. You Have To Go A Little Bit Farther**—v.6 and the two went on—if you can visualize this story, here is the old prophet Elijah, here is the young man of God Elisha, and no matter where Elijah went, Elisha was one step behind him.

- a. you can't stop at Bethel, you can't stop at Jericho, you can't stop at Jordan, none of those places are where the double portion Christian lives. You have to cross over Jordan, you have got to go where the glory is about to fall.
- b. I notice an important fact: the other prophets tried to discourage Elisha, Elijah tried to persuade Elisha to lag behind, but Elisha wouldn't have any part of it. He said, I am going all the way to the glory, and nothing else matters in my life.

c. Nevertheless—if you see me when I go it shall be granted to you. The anointing isn't cheap, the power of God has a price, Elisha just because you say you want to have anointing won't be enough, you will have to go the extra miles to receive.

**III. You Have Got To Want A Little Bit More**—v.9-10 As you read the scriptures you find those who want a little bit more. Elisha went after a double portion of the Spirit of God.

a. you won't become a double portion Christian on accident. You must purpose in your heart to have all that God has for you. Some people want to catch the anointing like getting a cold. But God says, move toward me and I will move toward you. We must take the first step to activate the power of God in our lives.

b. years ago a phrase was coined that has been used over the years, God doesn't need our ability as much as our availability. If you have the want to, God can supply the rest.

**Conclusion:**

At the end of the story we find Elisha operating in the double portion of the Spirit of God. Today we know why, he stayed a little bit closer, he walked a little bit farther, and he wanted a little bit more. I pray that this church will be full of people that go after God.

If you go after God, you will receive. It's time to step up our passion.

**Illus:** David Wilkerson Video

NEXT WEEK: DREAM from God about the Path to Discipleship