

## ***Introduction - The Sweet Spot.....***

First of all I want to encourage you and thank you. You have gone a long way in this process and have done a lot of hard work. I also want to make sure that you understand that, that is exactly what this is however; A PROCESS. We're not finished yet! You are about to begin working on what I see as the most critical element in the entire golf swing. Making solid contact is by far the most important thing anyone can do in any golf shot. Think about it; if you gain the ability to consistently strike the ball solidly then you can play golf at the highest level. The other side of that equation isn't so bright and sunny however because if you can't hit solid shots very often the mediocre to poor golf is your only future.

In this section we will walk through three phases together. As you recall, we walked through four phases in the path to success section. I really hope that your path and face angle are greatly improved at this point. Further I hope that you gained some new insights on what the true root cause is for a swing not moving on a correct path. Those four sections are very powerful and led you from high school all the way to your PHD in "pathology". The three phases in this section will take you through:

1. **Childhood** – When you were a baby you needed massive attention and care. You couldn't be left on your own or you would have died. Without someone there 24/7 you would have never made it out of diapers! In that same vein you will be walked through the first phase of sweet spot in a way that will resemble a very loving (and yet firm) parent. This drill will make sure that you do the right things over and over again with absolute guidance and protection. Just remember, you didn't get through your infancy without dealing with some poop! It may get a little messy here for a short time. Stick with it anyway – there are 3 sections; not one!
2. **Adolescence** – Pimples, hormones, voice cracking and hairs growing in places that you never had hair before! As you grow towards adulthood you experience a little more independence. But whether you liked it or not you still needed the protection and guidance from the authority figures in your life so that you didn't really get hurt. In this section your sweet spot work will resemble this phase of life in that while we'll lighten up a little bit on the restrictions you will still be held accountable for your actions.
3. **Adulthood** – You made it through the pimples and hormones and now you are fully grown! Or are you? Once the parental restrictions are gone and you are totally independent what will you do with that freedom? That's a true adult decision. In this section it will be left to you to decide what you're committed to. Is it going to be you hitting a good shot that drives your swing, or will it be something else? I'll give you a hint, if it LITERALLY is the something else then you can't help but hit solid shot after solid shot after solid shot. The key is to commit to the right thing and mean it!

## *Life Out of Control.....*

Allow me to share with you some more insight into this “maturing process” idea through my story again. *What could it hurt at this point? You already know every gritty detail of my entire life! (Almost every gritty detail that is).* On the day of my miracle; the day that God sent my wife Cherrye and I to hear Pastor Ed Young, I fully believe it as the fact that it is; He spoke directly to me and Cherry through Ed Young on that very day. With this being so clear to me, when Pastor Young invited me to, I accepted Christ instantly. I mean how could I not?! Only days before I was contemplating ending my life because I simply was not strong enough to take it anymore. This pastor, in this church, with this series was EXACTLY what I had been praying about for months on end (even though I had never contemplated church being an answer for anything). This 8 week series that we were about to experience was going to completely fix everything; and most importantly for me, it was going to fix it INSTANTLY (or so I thought).

The real truth is that this day (the day of my rebirth) was the beginning of a process; a process that will not end here on earth; but a process that has revolutionized my entire life. In comparison to the process that we will walk through together in this sweet spot section I can now see clearly these three phases of my development as a Christian.

*Childhood* – I definitely came to Christ very much like a child. To be perfectly honest I had absolutely no idea what I was committing to. All that I knew was that I had been in pain for a long time, I had honestly given my life to God, I had prayed constantly for months and here was the answer. It had to be! I remember leaving church that day and going home feeling like the weight of the entire world had been lifted off my shoulders. I thought our marriage was already fixed. I went swimming with the kids, laughed, played and even ate an entire cheeseburger for lunch! That was huge for me. I hadn’t eaten an entire meal for months. As I reflect back the truth was that I knew almost nothing about Jesus Christ, the Bible or the Christian faith at all. I just took the gift that had been given to me however: which at the time I saw as an instantly perfect marriage.

I loved this time. I felt so free and most importantly it was all about me! I went to church each week and each week I would sit and listen to Pastor Young I would always hear something that hit me so hard that I would uncontrollably weep. I’m not talking about a few tears here! I mean I would CRY! If you’ve ever had a baby in your house then you know they cry a lot. Well that was me in my Fathers’ house. But never the less, I still felt great overall. After all of this time, here I was FINALLY hearing the answers to all of the pain that *she had caused me*. As I soon discovered, this wasn’t the point at all. The pain I was “suffering” was actually almost all self inflicted. But at the time I couldn’t see that.

*"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

*Matthew 18:3-4*

**Adolescence** – Remember this phase of life? It's kind of a confusing time; to say the least. As an example of spiritual adolescence and as I have already shared through this process, in my past I had many poor outlooks, attitudes and actions towards sex. In fact a very big issue throughout the entirety of my marriage to Cherry has in fact revolved around our sex life. As we have already shared with you, we both committed (and suffered over) many sins that revolved around this intense subject. As I have now come to understand, for me (though I didn't know it at the time) the most devastating aspect of that time in my life was that my wife was having sex with another man. My mind could not get over this horrible thought. *"How could she have sex with someone else? She always said (or I just thought) that I was the best!"* Long story short, so much of my self esteem, ego and self worth revolved around my sexuality that this event in my life hit me at the number one most painful place possible for me at that time.

In *"The Love Affair"* series with Ed Young, he talked so much about how God wants us to have great, incredible marriages and in that Pastor Young pointed out several times that as Christians we should have active, creative, frequent and wonderful sex lives with our spouses (at least at that time that was the part I heard the most!) This was awesome! My brain was like; *"YES! I LOVE THIS CHRISTIAN STUFF! FINALLY AFTER ALL OF THESE YEARS AND AFTER ALL OF THE SUFFEREING THAT I'VE GONE THROUGH I'LL FINALLY GET WHAT I DESERVE. A GREAT WIFE AND ALL THE SEX I WANT! GO JESUS GO!"*

I hope you understand that I didn't literally say that; I didn't consciously understand that, that was what I was doing. However as I look back now that was my true thinking. That is exactly what I was doing; trying to use Jesus like a magic Jeannie in a bottle to get what I wanted. Let me tell you now that I am living proof that you can't use God for your purposes. On the contrary, God uses you for His purpose and His plan. And allow me to let you in on a secret that you might not know yet – His purposes and plans for your life are far greater than yours will ever be. At least that has been my overwhelming experience.

The truth was (and is) that Cherrye and I had both done much damage to our marriage over the years. This kind of damage was not going to instantly turn into "the perfect marriage" (if there even is such a thing). As I now see much more clearly than I did, God used this painful time in our lives to move us and to shape us very quickly (though it didn't seem quick at the time) from who we were, towards who He wants us to be.

I can see now that my biggest downfall during this “adolescent phase” was that I really felt like it was almost all her fault. I mean though I said it with my mouth – “*yes, I hurt you with my affairs and my drinking, etc....*”. In my heart (the part only God can truly see) I truly felt like the victim. I knew that at some level I had made some mistakes but I felt like hers were worse. Not until I completely let go of that lie and began to actually internalize the whole truth did I get to experience the kind of growth that only God can deliver.

God definitely saved our marriage, but even bigger than that he used this exact (punishing) experience in our lives to change us as human beings. Through this experience is how we came to Jesus. When we stayed in that teenage place of blaming each other for our actions and circumstances we got nowhere. I will tell you the truth, as a teen in Christ I spent a lot of time being grounded! Until I learned to stop blaming and began to learn to completely accept and admit MY PART I stayed grounded all of the time in fact! God would not let me get away with this lie that I was telling myself. The truth was that I had been a terrible husband and I had spent a lifetime of sinning and living by my own rules. My sins were not little, they were sins! I didn’t *deserve* good things just because I had been hurt, I deserved what I got and more! When this aspect became LITERAL in my life, God (through His grace) gave me the gift that today is my marriage and my life. He gave it to me, I did not and could not earn it.

*In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:*

*“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”*

*Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

*Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet.” So that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.*

*Hebrews 12:4-13*

**Maturity** – As I mature as a Christian (yes, this may be shocking but I don’t think I’m finished growing up yet - sarcasm intended!) life keeps getting better and better. In all

honesty however it seems like there are so many times in life where I notice that I fluctuate between being a child, then sometimes being a teen and other times experiencing what I call mature moments. The most obvious example of my growth process for me to see is through my marriage. I definitely went through an extended childhood phase with lots of crying and overall neediness. I can now look back and distinctly see an adolescent period as well. I was so confused by what seemed to be the unfairness of me not getting everything that I wanted and especially not getting it immediately. Today I do believe that I have matured in some ways however. Through the last five years God has used our marriage to help both of us learn and grow in ways that would have been completely impossible in any other way. If you are married then I'm not telling you something that you don't already know – MARRIAGE IS HARD!

One of the many things that I have learned through our marriage however is that God is incredible. If I will simply commit to doing my best to do marriage His way, commit to doing my best at being the kind of husband that God has defined in His word, then my marriage takes on a characteristic that can only be caused by God. As I reflect back on my life the truth is that nothing has ever been harder than marriage. On the other hand nothing has ever come close to being as awesome either. To learn to love (really love) another human being with almost no regard to what you yourself will get out of it is not an easy task. I have learned that it is a task that can only be handled by God through a relationship with His son Jesus Christ.

*For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

Obviously there are many attributes to maturity; however I have now finally reached a point where I at least do not constantly live in a place where I feel like I “**deserve**” certain things because I have somehow “**earned**” them. I can see much more clearly today than I ever have that anything I get, anything good that happens to me, any responsibility I get truly is due to one thing and one thing only – and that one thing is **Gods' amazing, incredible and incomprehensible grace.**

Today I actually sometimes find myself thinking more about others (especially in marriage, I notice myself at times more concerned with her and her feelings) even more than I am my own wants and desires. It is at these times when I begin to more fully recognize that I played (and am playing) the absolute smallest part in the transformation of my life and that God did (and is) doing it all for me. Because I know Tim; I've lived with me my whole life! And Tim is nothing like that by his nature. Today I can clearly see that He is growing me and building me so that I will be able to “do good works” according to His plan.

As you walk through the coming lessons I hope you will further begin to realize the same thing. The less of “you” there is in the equation and the more of God that there is in the equation your life results will begin to bloom in ways that you've never even dreamed of before.