

Momentum Shift by Timothy Barton, Jr., Pastoral Intern

There have been many great momentum shifts in the history of sports. These may have been for a team in one season, such as the Boston Red Sox winning game 4 of the 2004 ALCS to prevent elimination against the New York Yankees while carrying that momentum on to their first World Series victory in 86 years. Or maybe we should mention how a program can have a Momentum shift like what Sidney Lowe brought to NC State last year or Roy Williams has brought to North Carolina since he has been there. There are also plenty of Momentum shifts in many of the games that are played on a daily basis throughout the world. Most of you can think of many situations during a ball game, a series, or the history of a program where it seemed that all the life was sucked out of one team or all the hope and promise was given to another. This may have been caused by a great play, a blunder, a referee's call, or you name it.

Either way, this word is one that permeates the world of sports. In fact, I grew up in a family that called Momentum 'old Mo.' My father would say things like, "'old Mo' has shifted now," or "I wonder which side 'old Mo' will be on tonight." I grew up pretty convinced that the side 'old Mo' chose to be on at the right time would most likely determine who won the game that night.

Now, we all know in reality that momentum is not something that changes what happens. It is rather a result of something that has happened, giving one team or individual more confidence in themselves and their chances than they previously possessed.

It is possible, separate from the world of sports, for us to have momentum shifts in our own lives. Think about it... Sometimes, it may seem that circumstances in your life are really bad. In your mind there seems to be relatively little promise to anything that you are doing. You may be discouraged because you do not see anyway to stop the current circumstances that are weighing you down. However, maybe a family member or a neighbor comes along side you and listens. They encourage you or help you with certain needs and then you think things can get better. This has been a shift in momentum in your life.

There are times where each of us need these momentum shifts in our lives. Everyone, even those people who seem to have everything in order, needs to have encouragement and people to listen. However, as fellow human beings, there is only so much momentum shifting that another person is able to encourage. The real shift comes in recognizing what the Bible tells us about the change in momentum for the whole world. Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all sinned (not been perfect) and fall short of the glory (perfection required) of God. The Bible continues in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and says that Jesus (God's son) paid the penalty for all of our sin by dying on the cross and rising again. By believing in Him and what He did for us, we are a part of the biggest momentum shift in History. The Bible says when we believe in Jesus and what he has done to forgive our sins then we become new creations and our old selves have gone. We can now live for ever and ever in Heaven instead of being weighed down and miserable in our bad circumstances for the rest of this life and forever. This goes for adults and children alike if we believe. This is great news for us as adults because we need true encouragement or momentum shifts along the way in our lives and this is the greatest possible momentum shift we can experience. However, this is also great news because it can help us with our children. There will be times, and plenty of them, when our children are down and discouraged and it seems that we are unable to comfort or encourage them. However, there is great news in that we can point them to God and his son Jesus who have all the momentum on their side and will share it with all who are ready for it.

Upcoming Youth Events

Imagebearers

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm
1st - 5th grade

Youth Group

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm
Middle & High School



Meet the Bartons!
(L-R) Caryann, Garrison & Timothy

Prosperity

Character Calisthenics, Dr. Elliot Johnson, 1994, Winning Run Foundation

Like most superstars, Julius Erving (Dr. J) is often asked about the greatest highlight or most outstanding performance of his illustrious career. Though Dr. J. enjoyed one of the greatest careers in NBA history, he likes to share what went on in his heart.

"At age 29 I realized I was looking good on the outside, but was hitting a lot of peaks and valleys on the inside." He says, "After searching for the meaning of life for over ten years, I found meaning in Jesus Christ."

"When I gave my life to Jesus Christ, I began to understand my true purpose for being here. It's not to go through life and experience as many things as you possibly can and then turn to dust and be no more. The purpose of life is to be found through having Christ in your life, and understanding what His plan is, and following that plan."

Surely, God prospered Dr. J. in basketball and in the game of life!

God wants things to go well for us. Scripture tells us repeatedly that He desires good and not evil, prosperity and not poverty, peace and not war for His people (Proverbs 13:21)



Jerry Watcher/NBAE/Getty Images

Hebrews 13:5

...because God said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."



Games on Sat., Oct. 13th have been rescheduled as follows:

	<u>Team #</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tues., Oct 30	9 vs 12	7:30pm



Photos are compliments of James Guffey

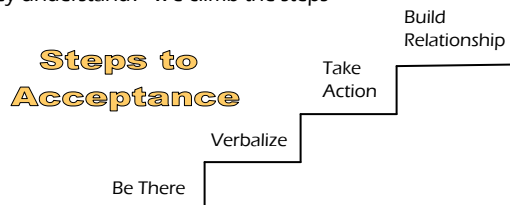
Accept UnConditionally

C. Aycock & D. Veerman
Tyndale House Publishers, 1994

In the book, *From Dad with Love* parents are encouraged to accept their children unconditionally in order to nourish a positive identity

"The single most influential factor of adolescent behavior is the young person's perception of being loved. Research reveals that those youth who see their parents as loving and providing freedom within guidelines are not prone to severe problems." (John A. Wood)

If our children need to perceive that they are loved, how do we give them that perception? How do we speak in language that they understand? We climb the steps



Be There. The gift of your presence means more than expensive toy or creature comfort.

Verbalize. Let's assume that you love your children and that you spend time at home with them. The next step is to tell them - to verbalize your feelings. "I Love You".

Take Action. Actions affirm acceptance. Take the initiative in determining our children's interests and abilities.

Build Relationship. Building a relationship with a child, therefore, is the ultimate step in the process of accepting him or her unconditionally.



First Presbyterian Church
Stanley, North Carolina
Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

- 6:00 Care Groups
- Image Bearers
- Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at
www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner