

**Series: HOPE BEYOND**

**Guest Speaker: Darryl Strawberry**

**Date: April 27-28, 2019**



1. If you are a baseball fan, do you have a favorite team and have favorite player? Did you play baseball when you were a kid? In terms of your batting average, are you more like Bob or Darryl?
2. Is it okay to pray for your team to win?
3. Why are 'buzz' events like this so good? What stood out to you? Take some time to pray for friends we've invited and others who were here this week or at Easter and for many to take part in Starting Point.

Think through some of Darryl's remarks and discuss them. As always, add your own.

"Take a young man, fresh out of high school, still living at home, still a wide-eyed innocent, and toss him into the big leagues. Hand him a few hundred thousand dollars—or these days, a few million. Tell him he's a superstar. Surround him with cameras and reporters. Push him in front of thousands and thousands of fans. Offer him more free booze, drugs and sex than he has ever dreamed..." And then tell him to grow up, be a man, be focused and disciplined and in control of his emotions and team player and a role model for millions of kids. And then, if he struggles, if he fails, if he screws up, condemn him, scream at him, laugh at him, spit on him."

With that in mind, how do we surround ourselves, and our kids with people who are "good" for us? Do you have a mentor or have you had one? Pray for Pastor Scott and the College and 20-something group that meets on Thursdays, called The Table.

"All the fame, all the success, all the money in the world don't add up to a thing if you're hurting in your soul." What comes to mind from that comment?

How about his confidence as a player that pitchers are stupid. "I know I'll get two good pitches."

"Picture a man falling down a long, long flight of steps. Bang. Crash. Boom. Bang. He falls and falls, head over heels...He keeps crashing down those steps, down and down and down. Until finally he lands at the very bottom. Cut, bruised, broken, his head swimming, he lies there flat on his back...That's me, from 1994 into the 2000's. Falling, falling, falling and finally bottoming out."

"It's important for us to show our scars and wounds to God and to others." Why is that? See James 5:16.

What struck you about Darryl's relationship with his dad, and how he responded to God's prompting to visit him?

"EGO stands for easing God out."

"My pain led me to my greatness and my greatness led me to my destruction."

"God had a purpose for me, and he gave me lots of second chances. Third chances, fourth chances, fifth chances...But God didn't give up on me. I truly believe he doesn't give up on any of us. We just give up on ourselves." What did Darryl mean when he said, "It's not for us to see, it's for us to pray"?

Take a moment and pray for our Divorce and Grief Share ministries.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3