

Worship
Like
David

Written by

yavonna yahla

ONEWORD

ONWORD

Email: ask.oneword@gmail.com

Website: www.askoneword.com

All rights reserved. No part of this book in whole or in part may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, is permitted and is unlawful without the express written consent of the author.

Cover Design, typesetting, layout, and design by:

ONWORD Publishing Services

ISBN: 979-8-9858060-1-4

Lafayette, IN 47909

Email: ask.oneword@gmail.com

www.askoneword.com

Separation
From
The Family

The Foundation

About 3 years ago The Holy Spirit led me back to the book of Genesis chapters 1-3. Although I've read these chapters before I had an unction in my spirit that He wanted to show me something new. So, I began to walk with Him through the pages. He began to reveal to me this continual pattern: a *form or model proposed for imitation* that was perfectly set in order. It was shared between the earth and God's greatest creation, us. It can be recognized right from the beginning in the book of Genesis. It shows us how the first time God ever established order; *an authoritative command, direction, or instruction* was within the very foundations of the Earth.

Genesis 1:1-2 NLT In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

It was only by ***His presence*** that what he found to be good in His sight was able to be ***Separated; the action of moving or being moved apart forming or viewed as a unit apart or by itself from*** the chaos and darkness that was all around it.

Genesis 1:3-5 NLT Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the

light from the darkness. God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

After this, what He declared to be good was given an ***Identity; the FACT of being, who or what a person or thing is The qualities, beliefs, personality, looks and or expressions that makes up a person or group.*** Although it was still known for its own likeness, now it would be considered part of a group.

Genesis 1:14-19 NLT Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

And that group would have the same initial ***Purpose; the reason for which something is done, created, or exists. one's intention or objective.*** God then sets limits or ***Boundaries; a dividing line that marks the limits of an area, subject, or sphere of activity*** in place to ensure that what He created, saw and declared to be good would be protected.

God then used the same pattern, in the same order, to establish how He would build a relationship with us. If we were to take a long look into our own lives or the lives of others around us, we could see this very same pattern unfolding every day.

Take the time to imagine the darkness that used to overshadow the light inside of you. **His presence** still saw what was good on the inside because His perspective allowed Him to look past the darkness. Then with the strength of His voice made way for the light of Jesus to exist inside of you. He saw that what had been created by Him was just too good, so He caused a **Separation** between you and what was not like Him. Then your new **Identity** as being the light would no longer be hidden behind the darkness. God then blessed you with a new name, Day. Also known as chosen, child of God, Royalty etc.... you stand as confirmation of the necessary changes that had to be made by Him. Along with this came your **Purpose** for existing, something you never knew you had before. Now there was work to do, show forth the coming of the Light of Day, Jesus Christ. The Way, the Truth, and the Light! God placed you into position and protected you by the **Boundaries** He set around you. Expected to never again be part of the darkness, He separated you from.

My assignment is to teach God's people these principles in their divine order so that you can build a solid relationship with Him. They will give you knowledge of who He is, understanding of His word concerning you, and the wisdom to apply it to your daily lives. So, the Holy Spirit, being true to form, led me on another journey through the word. This time into the life of someone who

is a witness to the working of these principles. King David!! A man that was said by God Himself to be after His own heart. David is also a part of the lineage of Jesus Christ. (**Matthew 1**). Through David's life I will show you how and why God must first separate us; *set us apart*, in many ways from our own families. If just for a moment. we will need to be willing to leave them behind, For the sake of saving ourselves and God's family. We are first separated from our families through the spiritual position of our hearts. Our character, paths, and mindsets. Secondly, through our willingness to change and obey the voice of the Lord. Thirdly, through our actions.

The Beginning

***Romans 10:17 NLT So faith comes from hearing,
that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.***

During the time David was growing up in Israel, it was custom that the elders of each family would tell stories about what God had done for their people. How He led them out of Egypt to a better place to live while consistently provided shelter, water, and food for them through their most difficult times. The reason for these stories was so each generation would never forget where He brought them from, so they would continue to be thankful and worship the living God. Trusting and believing that the same God would take care of them.

Knowing this about David's upbringing I began to realize that he didn't really have faith in God when he was first chosen to be King. ***Faith; complete trust or confidence in someone or something.*** What I mean is that David didn't have his own faith in God. He was still living off the faith of his father and ancestors' stories. Which was good because that was the point of them all. To build a foundation for the coming generations to have the desire to believe. So, David was definitely on the right path because ***it is impossible to please God without faith Hebrew 11:6*** even if you have to borrow someone else for a little while. Although he never had an encounter with God Himself, yet. David still believed in who He was because of the stories his family shared with him and ***Anyone who wants to come***

to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him Hebrews 11:6

But David couldn't continue living like this. If he was to grow up and become all that God intended for him to become he was going to have to get his own faith. This would require David to get to know God for himself.

From the beginning of all of our walks of faith it is the same. We try to continue living off the faith and prayers of those closest to us, that are close to God. This walk doesn't take much from us or out of us, it's easy to ride someone else's coattail. When we do this we run a great risk of becoming stuck. Rather than ***growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 2 Peter 3:18.*** Simply put, we won't allow Him to help us grow past just believing that He is real, into a place of knowing that He is real. And yes!! There is a difference between believing and knowing!! Just like David, it is time for us to get and keep our own faith in God. One thing Jesus constantly did was ask His disciples questions. Not because He didn't know the answer but to give them the opportunity to be honest with themselves and examine their motives and intentions before speaking. So I encourage you to take the time and be honest with yourself.

Examine yourself:

Read and meditate on the scriptures above.

1. Have you grown by the standards of God's word since you acknowledged that Jesus is savior?

2. Do you have faith in God for what He can change in your life? Or are you stuck at only believing that He exists?

3.

Maybe you're somewhere in the middle. Either way God wants you to be open to new possibilities.

1. Name some areas that you want your faith to grow in.
2. Now name some areas that you don't wanna change.

Now that you've been honest with yourself, you can be honest with God.

God Room Made

His Presence

1 Samuel 16:1 NLT Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

God kept a close watch over David as he grew up. At a young age He saw that David's heart was open to the possibility of knowing who He was. So, God was ready to make His presence known in David's life. He sent one of His prophets to speak over him. One who was willing to follow His instructions to set out and find David. To let him know who he really was. Who God said he was. A King!!

God knew all about us before there was a single breath in our bodies. (**Psalm 139**). He knows exactly where we are right now and where we were yesterday. It doesn't matter what we are doing, even if we have never looked for Him, He has seen us. He has always seen you! There is nowhere we can go to hide from His Presence. Even if we don't know who we are, God does. Our time will come to bear the name that He calls us by. When He is ready to speak, no matter how old or young, He will send for you. There will be a servant whom God has found to be trustworthy and faithful to follow His instructions. Full of compassion for His people and good intentions.

Examine yourself:

Read Psalm 139 NLT

1. What do you believe God sees when He looks at you?
2. Has God sent someone to speak to you?

Separation For The Family

1 Samuel 16:4-5 NLT So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?" "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

Beginning a relationship with God is never just about you. When God is looking to touch you, anyone that is close by will also experience His presence. They will be presented with the opportunity to be saved and to seek a relationship with God for themselves.

Although they may not understand what is happening to them, the fear of the Lord will overtake them. Your family, on the other hand, will feel a greater impact because of the anointing God is about to place on you. They will be touched by His power and be saved by His grace through the gift inside of you. You will not be able to see the initial impact that your life has on their walk with Jesus. Still, your obedience now and in the future will be connected to their growth.

Examine yourself:

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 NLT

Write a list of all the people that surround you daily that are not your family.

1. Have they been presented with the opportunity to know Jesus?
2. If so, who has accepted or rejected the invitation?
3. Now make a list of your family. Take note that their future is attached to your obedience.
- 4.

Separation Of The Hearts

1 Samuel 16:6-7 NLT *When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

No one really knows who you are unless they know what's in your heart. And there's only two ways for someone to see that part of you. God must show them, or you must tell them. God will only show those who He can trust, not take advantage of it. The biggest difference between you and the rest of your family is your heart. Your family can't see what God sees, because they don't look for what God looks for. God wants to have a closeness with us that will give us access to who He is. But first this access will require us to be examined. ***Heart Check!!***

Proverbs 21:1-4 NLT

The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord;he guides it wherever he pleases.People may be right in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their heart. The Lord is more pleased when we do what is right and just than when we offer him sacrifices. Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin.

Everything we do with our bodies is for the purpose of worshiping and worship starts in the heart. Whatever we decide to let into our hearts will eventually come out through our actions. So it is extremely important that we protect them by staying thankful, humble, and loving toward God and people.

Philippians 4:4-9 NLT

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

If we do not protect our hearts, there will be clear indicators that we've allowed the wrong things into them. Like complaining, arguing, being selfish, envious, jealous, fornicating, or lusting after people or things (***Galatians 5:19***). All of these are the symptoms of fear. Fear of what? Other people's opinions, what's going to happen next in our lives, rejection, and not knowing how to worship God. Fear can be paralyzing, making it impossible to do anything God calls us to do.

Jeremiah 17:9 NLT

“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked.

Who really knows how bad it is?

Examine yourself:

Read Galatians 5:19-26

1. What is in your heart?
2. What have you given access to your heart? Why?
3. Who have you given access to your heart? Why?

This is a question that you will have to let the Holy Spirit help you to answer. So take your time and really meditate on these things. Ask the questions, God knows!!

Separation Of Character

1 Samuel 16:8-10 NLT Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “This is not the one the Lord has chosen.” Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, “Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen.” In the same way all seven of Jesse’s sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

At some point we recognize that we just stand out a lot more than the rest of our family members do. You can't hide or even try to replace what was made to stand out! David's heart was much different than his brothers', so that meant his character and personality had to be also. We peacefully accept this by being who God has made us without altering ourselves to fit in. We don't have to hide because of the opinions of our family members. We'll spend a lot of unnecessary time hurt and confused about what was so obvious to us at one point. We can go through the process of learning what that means for our own lives in peace or through pain.

Examine yourself:

1. Have you changed your character or personality in any way to fit into your family?
2. Have you hidden anything about yourself away to avoid judgment?
3. Who are you committed to God's will for your life or someone else's?

PEACE UNDER PRESSURE

Salvation will give us peace WITH GOD

Philippians 1:2 *Salvation and Grace*

Romans 5:1 *Peace with God*

Abiding will give us the peace OF GOD

Isaiah 26:3 *Kept by peace*

John 14:17 & 27 *In our heart*

Phillipians 4:6-7 *In our mind*

Pursuing will produce peace LIKE GOD

Psalm 34:4 *Search for peace*

Romans 12:18 *Do all that you can*

Matthew 5:9 *Bless others with peace*

Separation Of Paths

1 Samuel 16:11 NLT *Then Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse replied. “But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats.” “Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”*

David's family left him working in the field to fend for himself and the sheep. All while they went to get blessed by Samuel and eat. They had no idea that God was looking for David to be right where they so spitefully left him at. Working in the field!!

God will always protect His investment. He puts us in positions over what seem to be the least important things that need to be done. This is because it will require us to be consistently gentle, helpful, and loving. Right in a place where the least important people, or so we think, would see us succeeding and growing under

pressure. God's plan is about shaping our character so that we can become great leaders someday.

.....AND YOU WILL TAKE THE LEAD!!

Habakkuk 2:2-3 NLT

Then the Lord said to me,

“Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. 3 This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled.

If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

1. WRITE THE PLAN DOWN
2. SUBMIT TO HIS PLAN
3. PRAY FOR CLARITY CONCERNING THE PLAN
4. WORK TOWARD THE PLAN
- 5.

Separation Of Mindsets

1 Samuel 16:12 NLT So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, “This is the one; anoint him.”

There was an obvious difference between David and his brother's physical appearances. His family believed because he was smaller in size that he would also be weaker in the mind. This was not true

in David's case. He had to make a conscious decision every day not to believe the negative comments his family said to him. Which requires a strong mind.

If we trust and have faith to follow Jesus, then we will remain at peace in the middle of any situation. This doesn't mean we won't feel pain, but it does mean that we've decided to let the Holy Spirit do His job. Comfort us through the pain of letting go of who we must separate ourselves from. Otherwise, the thought of being so different, that we have to be separate from our family will have the potential of being unbearable. We might risk giving on and believing the lies spoken to and about us.

Perspectives Makes the Difference

His Presence

1 Samuel 16:13 NLT So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

David's brothers had the privilege of watching a king be anointed by a known prophet. Still this incredible event did not change how they saw him. Especially when he was still right there in Bethlehem kicking up dirt with them.

Good thing the oil wasn't meant for their sight to change. But the total opposite had just happened. David's acknowledgement of **God's Presence** in his life caused him to view himself the way God did. He allowed the oil to move him into the truth of what God thought, said, and did concerning him. This type of thinking would keep him from feeling **rejected** as he no longer lived **independently** from God. He went from being content with just being a shepherd boy, to knowing there would be a much different outcome for him. So, living out his family's **passion** for working with the land was no longer his focus. He was set free from the mental **bondage** of working in the field for the rest of his life.

Your family does not expect you to be anything more than what they've seen you be. So, looking for their confirmation is out of the question. All you need is faith in God's approval of who you are to Him. We will always live a life that resembles rejection, independence, passion and bondage until we acknowledge that Jesus is our Lord; *someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler*. And Savior; *the one who saved our souls, our redeemer*. When we do this, the Holy Spirit can begin working on us.

Examine yourself:

James 1:5-8 NLT

Read & Meditate

SEPARATION *the action or state of moving or being moved apart forming or viewed as a unit apart or by itself.*

OR

REJECTION *to dismiss as inadequate, inappropriate, or not to one's taste. A person or thing dismissed as failing to meet standards or satisfy.*

IDENTITY: *the FACT of being, who or what a person or thing is the qualities, beliefs, personality, looks and or expressions that makes up a person or group*

OR

IDENTITY CRISIS (Independence from God) *a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger, when a difficult or important decision must be made.*

PURPOSE: *the reason for which something is done, created, or exists one's intention or objective*

OR

PASSION: *a strong and barely controllable emotion, intense desire or enthusiasm for something arousing, intense sexual love*

BOUNDARIES: *a dividing line that marks the limits of an area, subject, or sphere of activity.*

OR

BONDAGE; *the service of an enslaved person by compulsion, a controlling person or force...*

1. Are you living rejected by the world or separated with God?
2. Are you living independently from God or is your identity completely in God?
3. Are you living with passion in the world or on purpose with God?
4. Are you living in bondage to the world or with boundaries set by God?
5. Are you living with or without His Presence?

RUN TO THE FATHER

- ***God made room for David***
He showed up for him first.
- ***David made room for God***
responded when he was called,
left all that he ever knew behind and followed Him.

New Beginnings

As we become closer to the **PRESENCE Of GOD**

Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

He will go ahead of us to prepare **A PLACE**. This is where we will learn how to worship Him

Genesis 2:8 Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made.

When we make it to this place, we will have all the **PROVISION** that we will need to sustain us.....

Genesis 2:9 -14 The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil —

Then He will begin to reveal **A PLAN** for our lives that will maintain our worship and provision

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

Lastly God will set **BOUNDARIES** that will protect us from our enemies and the knowledge He has given us.

Genesis 2:16-17 But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

His Presence

1 Samuel 16:14-18 NLT Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear. Some of Saul’s servants said to him, “A tormenting spirit from God is troubling you. Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you. He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again.”

You are being sent to help your brothers and sisters in Christ who have lost their way. People who are begging for help on the inside, people who have compromised the right way of living, people who have completely given up their birthright to the Kingdom. They will not carry the same spirit as you do but they will know the spirit. God will not leave you alone there will be people who you can identify with. God's presence will be with you as you continue to praise and worship Him through the way you love and treat people.

A Place

1 Samuel 16:17-18 NLT “All right,” Saul said. “Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here.” One of the servants said to Saul, “One of Jesse’s sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player.

Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him.” So, Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, “Send me your son David, the shepherd.”

When God is ready to put you in place, He will make sure your name comes up. He will use people in high and low places that are strategically put into position to take notice of who we are. They will not see you for who you really are. That might even look right past you. But Your gifts and skills will be made known and greatly used in this place. Maybe even taken advantage of by those who are over you. And some people will take your kindness and willingness to help, because of your faith in God, as a weakness. Make sure you do everything so the Lord will be pleased with your actions, not theirs. ***Colossians 3:23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.***

Provision

1 Samuel 16:20 NLT And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

Don't worry about what you don't have. As you prepare to go where the Lord has sent you, He will have already taken care of all your needs. Your father will not send you anywhere without providing for you. He will not allow anyone to take His Glory!! Stay content and thankful, whatever you need He has it!!

The Plan

1 Samuel 16:21-22 NLT So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer. Then Saul sent word to Jesse asking, "Please let David remain in my service, for I am very pleased with him."

As a leader, you will need to learn how to acknowledge and appreciate other people's hard work. Genuinely helping them strengthen their gifts and learning how to place them in the right position.

Boundaries

1 Samuel 16:23 And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.

Do not stop worshiping!!

MARKED

- ***Approved In Private***

Keep doing the last thing God you to do and spend time with Him

- ***Anointed Before You're Positioned***

Stay with what you've been doing, Serve and wait on the Lord

- ***Answer To A Problem***

Sent for an answer to a problem, Serve your leader

- ***Elevated Through Obstacles***

They are intentional when you are marked, Opportunity Is wrapped in obedience

- ***Have The Audacity To Honor***

Even if they've done some dishonorable things

An Expected End

The Testing of your Faith

As we follow Christ, we will be faced with the opportunity to go back to our old ways. Once again through our family and they will be bolder and much louder than before. The thought of being rejected will try to overtake our minds. Hard decisions will arise, and we will have to make some quick choices. Either seek God or depend on ourselves. Old feelings will come to entice our passions that we've nailed to the cross. All these circumstances can put us right back into bondage if we don't make the right choices. This will occur after we have been approved by God in our faithfulness to Him. The enemy has stood before Him accusing us and just as God desires us to put our trust in Him, He is willing to do the same for us. He does this by trusting that we will continue to stand with Him and His word as our faith is being tested through familiar trials.

What we must remember in order to truly come out on the other side of our trials victorious is ***Ephesians 6:12 NLT. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies (PEOPLE), but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.***

Remember that family is not our enemy. They do have access to us, know our patterns, and triggers. If they can influence us to step out of our character, it will give the enemy access to our mind.

We must always guard our hearts because evil spirits will come to speak doubt and death into the visions and dreams God has already shown us. They want to silence us from speaking the truth about who we are in GodCourageous, bold, victorious, fearfully and wonderfully made, protected, loved, redeemed, successful etc. They also want to keep us from giving the same encouragement to others.

God will not leave us blind, He let us know that a test is coming. He will also give us a way out of our troubles through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will be comforted and reminded to use the word of God, prayers, and worship to confront these old patterns of thinking. Nothing lasts forever so we should always expect it to end. We will always end up right back where we started. With a different mindset and new perspectives on how to handle things. We are expected and should expect ourselves to finish strong and glorifying Jesus.

The Promise

a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

1 Samuel 17:25 NLT

So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him

his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

When you trust and follow God's instructions His promises are available. Your obedience during this test will affect your life and those closest to you drastically. Your income will increase substantially, your social position will change, and your family will even benefit financially. No one will be able to help you defeat the giants that are about to show up in your life. Nobody but God and He's mighty enough to save you.

The Unseen War

Separation vs. Rejection

1 Samuel 17:28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded.....

Your presence in certain environments will be questioned, along with your motives and intentions. Don't worry, you are exactly where you should be. Your steps are ordered by the Lord.

Identity vs. Identity Crisis

(Independence from God)

..... "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of?

When what you are currently doing doesn't involve them, they will speak as if it isn't important. Without you ever asking for an opinion, they will give theirs to cause you to doubt your abilities.

Purpose vs. Passion

.....I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

They will only be able to see what they have already seen in you. So, they will blindly assume that your past mistakes are a part of your present. They will not understand what you've gone through to become who you are and your commitment to stay that way.

Boundaries vs. Bondage

1 Samuel 17:29-31 "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer. Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

It will be up to you to remain open to God's direction. Focus on the plan so that you can move forward into something new. Listen to Him as He challenges you to do something different. If you don't, you'll be drawn back into negativity and lies.

DO SOMETHING CRAZY

- ***GIVE SOMETHING***

Don't just look at money!! Jesus saw people's needs because He was moved with compassion. You can see a need when you are moved with compassion. Answer the need with the revelation of God

- ***HE ALREADY HAS IN MIND WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO***

His ways are not your ways His thoughts are not your thoughts.
God supplies all your needs
Everything you need is in everything you already have.
This is an opportunity to serve!

- ***GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE AND GIVE THANKS***

Take whatever you have and work it! You have the power to turn what you have into what you need. If you can't find what you have, remember we all have breath and everything that has breath should praise the Lord.

The Testing of Your Faith

AGAIN!??

John 10:10 NLT

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Separation vs. Rejection

1 Samuel 17:32-37 "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!" "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth." But David persisted.

"I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death.

I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the Lord be with you!"

If he did it before he would do it again!! Constantly acknowledging God's presence in your life will have you responding differently. When comparison and doubt begin to speak, you have the right words to speak against it. Declare who He is to you with confidence in the abilities that He has given you. You know God as nothing less than a defender and protector from past experiences. So be assured that He will show up in your now and our future.

Identity vs. Identity Crisis (Independence from God)

1 Samuel 17:38-39 Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

You can only be who God says that you are!!

When you try to step into someone else's shoes and stand in their place, it will never work out for you. Even when opportunity presents itself and believe me it will, you must stand firm on your character, personality, gifts and talents. Stay in your lane!!

Purpose vs. Passion

1 Samuel 17:41-47 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled. David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

Be humble!!Worship, honor, and reverence the Lord!!

This battle is only impossible to win if we become prideful. Don't get caught up in what you think you are capable of. All you are and have come from the Lord.

Boundaries vs. Bondage

1 Samuel 17:48-49 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

Keep your guard up, no compromise!!

We must confront what is trying to kill us without fear and protect ourselves with the weapons God has given us.

The Promise

1 Samuel 17:50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. 51 Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used

We have the victory in the end if we don't give up!!

REMEMBER NOT TO FORGET

- ***God causes test & trials***

To prove; *demonstrate the truth or existence of **faithfulness to worship Him** by evidence or argument.*

To perfect and strengthen what He has put in you

- ***The enemy tempts***

To weaken your worship and destroy God's plan He has for your life

- ***God will.....***

Give you provision wherever He sends you. His Grace will cover
and surround you on all sides

Send you a warning BEFORE anything can cause destruction on
your path. Help, a way of escape will come through the Holy Spirit
and God's chosen people

Since God is over all, He permits temptation.

It's not to take you out of your PURPOSE but to bring you into HIS
WILL for your life.

PURSUE PEACE, JESUS. NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE

God will pursue you relentlessly.
and the enemy will have to flee.

Identifying
Godly
Relationships

Before The Person

Genesis 1&2

God did not introduce the thought of marriage to Adam until after He taught him everything that he needed to know about living life in the Garden. This means we are capable of having any sustainable relationship without first letting God teach us how to build one. Since we are rebuilding our relationship with God, we must start over from the beginning. Building and teaching us how to maintain relationships is important to God's order. We have been taught how to pursue relationships the wrong way. The world's way, for far too long!! There are some things God must do in us and with us before we are prepared to share life with another person. If we are to live out the life God has for us, there is no compromising or debating this. We will need to use the same principles in order to accomplish this.

You are probably wondering why there would be a new plan for us when God doesn't change. He doesn't change, we on the other hand need to be changed back into the image God created constantly. His thoughts are far past what we could ever think or even handle. So, we can only experience the plans He has for our lives one step at a time. Good thing for us He is so loving and kind that He is willing to humble Himself. He is patient enough for us to have the time to grow up. To us it may be happening slowly, but it is a sure thing if we continue to follow Him.

The Purpose of Relationship

Genesis 2:18 NLT And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have been together in relationship, as one, since the beginning. We were made to be a copy of their image ***Genesis 1:26 NLT God said, “Let us make human beings in our image...”***. We will always have a desire to have a relationship with each other because they are our example. This is a part of the gift of life they shared with us.

We are only ready for marriage when we are living by God's standards, not our own. He is looking for a greater response from us to remain committed to ***His Order of Submission***.

IN SINGLENESS:

- ***GOD***
- ***JESUS***
- ***MAN/WOMEN***

IN MARRIAGE:

- ***GOD***
- ***JESUS***
- ***MAN***
- ***WOMAN***

Marriage is a ministry and the greatest form of worship we can ever give God. This is because He created it as the way for us, His greatest creation, to reproduce His image of man on the Earth. And the family unit is always under attack according to ***Revelations 12:17 NLT***

We are also given the right to create our own environments, just the way God did. We do this by first imagining a thing, then using our faith to begin speaking words that will one day become what we see. The only difference is, we need God's help, His agreement with our words. God said, "it is good", we have to say "God, is this good?". He is the only one who knows ***WHAT*** is good for us, ***WHO*** is good for us, and ***WHEN*** it is good for us to have it. So many times, we have decided on our own terms when it was no longer a good idea for us to be alone.

In our singleness we should be learning how to establish Godly relationships as we stay submitted to Jesus. No one is exempt from submitting themselves to Him. He will forever lead, protect, and provide for us no matter who comes or goes.

There will come a point in everyone's life when God declares that it is time for us to engage in new relationships. Godly Relationships!! He wants to spend enough time alone with us so that we are fully equipped to enter the *right* relationships. Those that will honor his word and bring glory to His name.

2 Peter 1:3 NLT *By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.*

Examine yourself:

You may not know all the answers to these questions just yet. That is perfectly OK and normal at this stage. Just make sure to come back, write them down and evaluate them as God reveals them to you.

1. Are all your relationships approved by God?
2. How many times have you decided who, what, and when in your life?
3. How did those relationships work out for you?

TRUST IN THE LORD

Proverbs 3:1- My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

Identifying Godly Relationships

1 John 4:1 NLT Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

"Opposites attract" is a saying that is used in the world to justify starting, or staying in a dysfunctional, *improperly operating* relationship. A relationship that clearly shows signs of a strong difference in morals and principles. I will admit this saying is partially true, but half-truths don't work when you are serious about living a life for God.

Opposites are attracted to each other, yes, but they are not meant to be together. All kinds of people will be drawn to the light of Jesus in us. Some will genuinely want to connect with that light for change. While others will hide who they really are so they can disconnect us from our light.

2 Timothy 3:5 NLT Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Relationships like these can only do two things in our lives. Destroy our identity and purpose or teach us that apart from God we will continue to connect ourselves to the wrong people. People who exhibit the worst parts of who we were and who God is calling us not be. ***1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NLT Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do***

not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

It is always wise to seek God for direction and approval of any relationship. No matter if it is a business, a platonic, or a potential intimate relationship. We should also be examining their character just like we have been examining our own. Testing another person's character against the character of the Holy Spirit is key in identifying Godly Relationships. God says that those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. This means living life by the character of the Holy Spirit (***the fruit***) which is love, joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, patience, and self-control. It also means following His instructions through his word because it is the truth.

We will focus on learning how to identify three types of people we can find ourselves in relationships with. Comrades, Constituents and Confidants.

When David gained a new perspective of who God was, he learned that there was no one who knew him better. Their relationship changed the way he saw himself. God taught him to no longer allow his family to tell him who he was or what he could do.

We will continue to follow David as he moves into his next. God is ready to reveal new plans to him that will require him to build new relationships. So, God will now teach him how to identify these different kinds of relationships and how to manage them. He must use his wisdom, taking what he has already learned and applying it to his current situation. There will be new feelings and desires in

his heart that he will need to navigate through. All while he's continuing to learn how to determine what is right and pleasing to God.

Comrades

*The enemy of my enemy is my "friend."
Until they are not!!*

Comrades are associates or friends whose relationship is based on the existence of a common enemy. They approach their enemies completely differently. Because of this they are assigned to each other's lives to gain insight into their individual positions and views. Only after the lesson is finished being taught and their faith has been tested will their assignment be complete. Then they are removed from each other's lives.

Saul

1 Samuel 17:55-58 NLT

When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is." Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?"

One thing Saul was known for was taking young men for his army. Every time he recognized their strength, courage, and determination he made sure to keep them close to him (***1 Samuel 14:47-52 NLT***). David hadn't even killed Goliath yet, but the way he spoke about the Lord was enough for him.

Rejection

to dismiss as inadequate, inappropriate, or not to one's taste. A person or thing dismissed as failing to meet standards or satisfy

1 Samuel 18:7-9 NLT This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousand!" This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousand and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David

When Saul was chosen to be King he stood above every man, in every tribe. He was a humble, considerate, and obedient man who honored God's authority. (***1 Samuel 9-12 NLT***) He wasn't so angry back then either, God had given him a peace of mind. There was no one like him. Saul never had a reason to be jealous of any man, not even in his youth. When he heard the people praising David's achievements, he felt rejected.

Anger and jealousy are red flags that will eventually cause a person to reject you as you continue to follow Jesus. No matter how much you've helped them. When you encounter people who are constantly angry you will find that they are critical and cynical of others. Their personal and professional relationships are toxic. And they almost always see themselves as a victim. Although we should continue to pray for and encourage them. We cannot allow their thoughts to become our thoughts. Or else we will begin to reject the Holy Spirit, trying to impress them.

We are born into this world broken and will encounter even more brokenness as we live and learn how to love. If we never take the time to process through our pain it will always end up processing us. When we deal with our problems, we can better understand ourselves and other people.

Identity Crisis

(Independence from God) a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger, when a difficult or important decision must be made.

1 Samuel 18:10-12 NLT The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he (prophesied) began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice. Saul was then afraid of David, for the Lord was with David and had turned away from Saul.

Saul spent all night long thinking about the words of that song. He thought about the things David did, where he was from, and how he spoke about the Lord. He contemplated in those moments that David was the one Samuel spoke about. The man God was raising up to replace him. Saul thought about who he would be without his crown. Where would he go if he lost his home, back to his father's?

God will strategically place us in someone's path to show us how not to act. As believers we are to follow the teachings of Jesus so that we can be led back into the right relationship with our Father. The evidence of our relationship with God is seen through the fruit we bear. (**Galatians 5:22** *Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*) These are all characteristics of the Holy Spirit. If we cannot see this evidence in ourselves or someone else's life, then it is a clear sign that God's commands are not being followed. **James 4:17 NLT Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.**

Continued rejection of God's authority in a believer's life will cause them to lose touch with the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. Without His spirit leading us, our gifts and talents, which he never takes back, along with our character are no longer being used to glorify Him. At this point we are worshipping other gods with our gifts.

Passion

a strong and barely controllable emotion, intense desire or enthusiasm for something arousing, or an intense sexual love

1 Samuel 18:13-14 NLT

Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle. David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him.

After going through so many emotions with David, Saul just wanted to get rid of him by any means necessary. He never intended David's promotion to lead him to success.

It is true that everyone in our lives comes for a reason. We should be asking ourselves whose purpose are they serving? Are they assigned to help us or are they assassins? Do they increase or decrease our productivity? Do they serve the Lord our God or His enemies? Not everyone in our life is there for God's purpose but God can turn around what was meant to destroy us and catapult us into the right position.

Bondage

the service of an enslaved person by compulsion, a controlling person or force, sexual practices involving the physical restraint of one partner

1 Samuel 18:15-16 NLT When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was so successful at leading his troops into battle.

Saul really thought that by sending David away he would be free from the worry of who he was. Now he was realizing there was just no getting rid of him that easily.

Our enemies are already afraid of us because they know who we are and that the Lord is on our side. So, they will use whatever tactics they can to get us not to look at God. If we don't remember that it doesn't matter what we've done, we can *repent: rearrange our entire way of thinking, feeling and being in order to forsake that which is wrong* and worship God, then they can take control of our thoughts and hold our mistakes over our heads.

CONSTITUENTS

They are for whatever you are for.

Constituents will happily work, and problem solve together. They are agreeable in most instances just to become an essential part of each other's lives. Not only can they mold and shape each other into what they want, they will also allow others to lead them and speak on their behalf. Once one of them has a drastic change of mind and opinion in principle, they will split. They will not stay together forever. Constituents can easily be confused with or mistaken for a Confidant if you are not watchful.

Michal

1 Samuel 18:20 NLT In the meantime, Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it.

All Michal knew was that her father loved David and she just wanted to please him by being with someone he would approve of.

Rejection

to dismiss as inadequate, inappropriate, or not to one's taste. A person or thing dismissed as failing to meet standards or satisfy

1 Samuel 18:21 NLT So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today."

Michal knew her father didn't think much of her. He never thought she would be respectable enough to get married. So, if it meant having to be with her sisters' leftovers then so be it.

God knows exactly what we need, individually and as the whole body of Christ. His perfect will for our relationships is to match us with people who not only have that same greatness inside of them but will help enhance and bring out what's inside of us. It is so important for us to know the true promises of God. So, we can

recognize when counterfeits are being made. When God makes us a promise there will always be something trying to stop us from getting it. This opposing force could hit from the inside, using how we feel about ourselves. Or from the outside, through the subtle lies and manipulation of other people. The guarantee is that it will always start as an attack against our thoughts. When this happens and if it works, there will be counterfeits, fakes, and imposters coming to take the place of the truth of what God promises you.

Identity Crisis

(Independence from God) a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger; when a difficult or important decision must be made.

1 Samuel 18:22-24 NLT And Saul commanded his servants, “Communicate with David secretly, and say, ‘Look, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become the king’s son-in-law.’ ”So Saul’s servants spoke those words in the hearing of David. And David said, “Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king’s son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?” 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, “In this manner David spoke.”

Michal had no idea who David really was, and David had no idea who Michal really was. There were some untrustworthy people planning for them to be together. And they were both getting their information from the wrong sources.

An identity crisis is where God's plans & your desire meet up at. They are literally asking you to make a choice between the two. When you are still learning about who you are, making these decisions for your life will not be easy. So, attempting to involve someone else's life in yours is a disaster waiting to happen. There will be people attempting to pressure you out of choices you've already made. Just to see if they can control your actions. People justify their own actions in order to manipulate you. People even set traps for you just to see if you will fall for them. Whatever you choose will show what you are willing to settle for and shape what you will see in your future. We can be so concerned about someone else's wants and feelings, that we don't stop to even consider how their decisions are really affecting our lives. Or even how ours will affect theirs.

Passion

a strong and barely controllable emotion, intense desire or enthusiasm for something arousing, intense sexual love

1 Samuel 18:24-26 NLT he told them, "Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in the fight.

David was delighted to accept the offer. Before the time limit expired, he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. Then David fulfilled the king's requirement by presenting all their

foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife.

Michal witnessed how intense David's affection for her was when he brought Saul double the bride price.

Our enemy knows what we like just as well as he knows what we don't like. If he can't appeal to us in our weaknesses, then he'll offer us a quick way to success through our strengths. If he can't get us to turn away from God, he will get us to thinking that we can go ahead of God.

Bondage

the service of an enslaved person by compulsion, a controlling person or force, sexual practices involving the physical restraint of one partner

1 Samuel 18:28-30 NLT When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him, Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest of his life. Every time the commanders of the Philistines attacked, David was more successful against them than all the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous.

Michal had been a pawn in her father's game against David and he lost. Now she was stuck being married to a man that her father clearly hated.

Our bodies, minds, and gifts should be set apart to be used for God's glory. Not for our own pleasure. No one should have access to what belongs to God, unless they belong to God, and have been granted access to us by God!! When we are unfaithful to Him it will cause us to be separated from His will. But this doesn't have to be a permanent separation if we remember our righteousness; *right standing with God through the blood of Jesus* and to involve the Holy Spirit in our relationships.

When we set boundaries, we are continually ready to change our minds to line up with God's will. This will lead us to healthier habits and better choices. If we are unwilling to change then we will slowly become unaware of our own self value and worth. We will stay defending our toxic relationships, accepting whatever they are willing to give.

CONFIDANTS

One Mind, One Body, One Spirit

Confidants have the same heart for the things of God. So, they are found in the same places of worship, working within the same plan. Both are persistent and sincere in seeking after His presence day and night. Although they may not always agree, their love is unconditional. Because of their connection they identify with each

other's past and present struggles. Trusting each other with their deepest thoughts and concerns. Even in weakness or strength, ups and downs, right or wrong, they stay together through it all without compromising their own integrity. They help the other to become the best version of themselves in all things. These are the types of relationships that you will have very few of in a lifetime.

Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1-4 NLT After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

Like David, Johnathon was a man of war who had great confidence in God's ability to save Israel. When David went out to Goliath, Johnathon knew he had found a brother for life.

Separation *the action or state of moving or being moved apart, forming or viewed as a unit apart or by itself., set apart.*

1 Samuel 19:1-2 NLT Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, told him what his father was planning. "Tomorrow morning," he warned him, "you must find a hiding place out in the fields.

Johnathon knew that he was David's only true friend, they were family! It was his sworn duty to protect David from any kind of danger. Even if it was from his own father.

Our separation from our own families was so we could become a part of God's family by the renewing of our mind. So that we could be one with our brothers and sisters in Christ. True family will live by the standards and principles that God sets. They will not follow other people in their hatred for us. The world will only love its own. During moments like these we should realize just how much our relationships will impact God's Kingdom. God promises to defend us when we are in trouble and He will use His children, our family to do that.

Identity Crisis

(Independence from God) a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger, when a difficult or important decision must be made.

1 Samuel 19:3-4 NLT I'll ask my father to go out there with me, and I'll talk to him about you. Then I'll tell you everything I can find out."The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. "The king must not sin against his servant David," Jonathan said. "He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could.

Johnathon would never confront an enemy without asking God how to handle it. This time he made a crucial mistake in not considering his father to be his enemy, at least in this situation.

It's always best to not react out of our emotions because they are momentary. They are a great indicator of what type of situation we are in. Just not consistent enough to determine the outcome. Our response should be with the intention of maintaining peace. This is the character of the Holy Spirit, and he will give us wisdom to disagree with someone without being disagreeable; *not pleasant or enjoyable, unfriendly and bad tempered.*

Passion

a strong and barely controllable emotion, intense desire or enthusiasm for something arousing, intense sexual love

1 Samuel 19:5 NLT Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the Lord brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!"

Dealing with his father without help from the Lord left Johnathon emotional. He began thinking about when Saul tried to kill him after winning a battle against the Philistines.

The Kingdom of God is not built on the idea of "Cancel Culture". No, our culture is based on patience and love, which covers a multitude of sins. We should always be willing to correct a fellow believer in a loving manner. Whether they accept that correction or even consider it to be love is not left up to us. It is our responsibility not to let our brothers and sisters slip into sin without warning them. We cannot accept and entertain behavior that goes against God. We have been called to hate all manner of sin, but never the person. When it becomes apparent that they cannot find their own way back then we are here to intercede; *intervene on behalf of* our brothers and sisters, our family, in prayer.

It is our responsibility to take them to the throne of grace to receive help. We don't have to force God on them when we can just get God to them. We cannot go through life only worried about our own problems. Every decision we make has the potential of affecting generations. So, when he saves us from ourselves and others, ultimately it is our responsibility to help another person who suffers with the same issues we once did.

Bondage

the service of an enslaved person by compulsion, a controlling person or force, sexual practices involving the physical restraint of one partner

1 Samuel 19:6 -7 NLT So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed." Afterward Jonathan called David and told him what had happened. Then he brought David to Saul, and David served in the court as before.

Johnathon felt like Saul was finally acknowledging what he did to him was wrong. And apologizing for how he made him feel.

We cannot let our disappointment in people stop us from moving forward. We owe it to ourselves to get past our trauma and to do that doesn't require any open confession from anyone. So don't ask for one. We do not need any closer from anyone, so don't go looking for any. What we need is to look at the timeline and ask ourselves, "How long have you been dealing with this same issue?" Yes, things have happened to us, don't deny that part. When we make mistakes we must acknowledge them, turn from our own way of thinking and seek God's way. Faith in God and forgiveness is the key to recovering from those traumatizing circumstances.

Forgiveness is the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim heals from their past and moves forward. Our salvation is built on forgiveness, and it cannot be forced. It is never an accident IT IS AN INTENTIONAL ACT. Forgiveness for ourselves and others is necessary in failure. God forgives us, we forgive ourselves, then we can forgive others. We just be out here all out of order trying to forgive others when we have yet to learn the capacity in which we should forgive ourselves. Not forgiving yourself is the same as not forgiving someone else. The symptoms are different, but the

outcome is the same. The tormenting of our souls!! Be permanently released and "Love your neighbor **LIKE YOU LOVE YOURSELF**".

IDENTIFYING YOUR ADVERSARY

one's opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute.

If it isn't the people who curse us out, use us, mistreat us, or offend us, then....

Ephesians 6:12 NLT For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood(people) enemies, but **against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**

- Your Flesh is your adversary!!
- Their flesh is their adversary!!
- We have the same adversary!!
- Yet they are defeated in the same way!!

Try the spirit by the spirit.

HOW TO OVERCOME YOUR ADVERSARY?

- ***Luke 18:1-8***
Always pray and not lose heart
- ***Psalm 50:15***
Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.”

Purpose
In
A New Place

An Expected End

The Testing of Your Faith

There is a time that God has appointed for new things to happen in our lives. If we want to receive them, we must first be able to recognize what is old. God has called those things dead in our lives, so we must be willing to let them go. Just the same as Jesus did when he took off the cloth that was used to bind Him to the grave. A place that He had to go to but was never meant to stay. When he rose, instead of holding on to what didn't benefit Him any longer, He left those rags where all dead things go. The grave!!

As we follow Christ, we will find ourselves having to make these same decisions. Either to trust and obey God's word or not. This will happen repeatedly under a different set of circumstances but with familiar faces and some new ones. Each time we are faced with these troubles and temptations we must remember they are there to test our faith. God expects us to have a different view of how to handle things based on the knowledge of Him that we have. We should no longer be desiring to hang around the same unholy places. Doing the same unholy things. With the same unholy, dead (in spirit) people who refuse the power of Jesus and guidance of His Holy Spirit. Repeatedly we must make a choice to live life God's way. This is His EXPECTED END for us. To worship Him!!

Maybe we have our own expectations on how relationships should work out. So, this sounds unfair or unreasonable to have to make

these types of choices. Especially when we are talking about friends and family that have been around for so long. We feel this way if we weren't taught the importance of detaching from what is common or familiar in our lives when we no longer agree. Instead, we have been unknowingly unfaithful to God without knowledge of His order of relationships. God is justified, so He makes a way for His people to no longer have excuses not to serve Him in the manner that He requires.

When He is gracious enough to reveal His will to us and give us understanding and wisdom, it would be wise to make the choice to follow Him. Whether on a good or bad note, all things must come to an end. However, for a believer, how we handle any uncomfortable decision in an uncomfortable situation is always attached to our worship and plan that God has for our lives.

Different Perspectives

1 Samuel 20:1-2 David now fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan. "What have I done?" he exclaimed. "What is my crime? How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?" "That's not true!" Jonathan protested. "You're not going to die. He always tells me everything he's going to do, even the little things. I know my father wouldn't hide something like this from me. It just isn't so!"

David already knew the answer to every question he asked. He only asked them to give Johnathon an opportunity to recognize what was happening around him. Johnathon trusted every word his father spoke to him without question.

Whenever God is putting the broken pieces of our relationships back in order, the enemy will come to try and tear them apart. He does this by twisting God's words around to whoever will listen. Only when we stop compromising our thoughts and actions to please others or ourselves will we truly start to accept what God says as absolute truth.

If we have a friend who begins to believe the lies of the enemy, we must continue to believe what God says. When our faithfulness to God causes us to be rejected by those who once followed Jesus, it means that we have accepted our calling to follow Jesus. So, we must go and spend time with Him for strength and instructions then we can help those who are lost find their way back to Him.

1 Samuel 20:3 NLT Then David took an oath before Jonathan and said, “Your father knows perfectly well about our friendship, so he has said to himself, ‘I won’t tell Jonathan—why should I hurt him?’ But I swear to you that I am only a step away from death! I swear it by the Lord and by your own soul!”

David knew that taking another oath was the only way to get Johnathon's undivided attention. It was to remind him of the bond they already had.

If we have a disagreement with a fellow brother or sister in Christ, we must remain peaceful. It is completely up to us not to be offended by their reactions. Our patients with them during this crucial time can cause a potentially bad situation to turn around in everyone's favor. It will play a major part in them processing through their emotions. As messengers of God, we must make sure that our hearts are in the right place to receive a word from the Lord. He will limit what he tells us if our motives and intentions aren't lined up with His will. Being sensitive to the Holy spirit and having a working knowledge of His word is essential. It breaks past the false sense of security and trust they have built up in their enemy.

New Weapons

Identity

1 Samuel 20:4-5 “Tell me what I can do to help you,” Jonathan exclaimed. David replied, “Tomorrow we celebrate the new moon festival. I’ve always eaten with the king on this occasion, but tomorrow I’ll hide in the field and stay there until the evening of the third day.

Johnathon was under the impression that there was still something he could do to help David. David on the other hand understood what his assignment was. His focus was to hide himself deep in the presence of God fasting and praying on behalf of Johnathon.

Recognition

2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

It's easy for us to trust in what can be seen, especially if we see it with our own eyes. What if I told you that the very things we cannot see have the most impact over our lives. When we can recognize that all of what we do is connected to our spirits, then we can gain

access to who we really are in Christ Jesus. The person God created us to be.

God has been using our experiences to develop spiritual gifts and talents in us our entire lives (***Colossians 1:15-23***). Recalling the memories of how we learned to do the things, will show us how we really were dependent on God for everything. Knowing that we were taught by Him to succeed at what was first impossible to us, should strengthen our faith and gain us a deeper trust in Him. We can know that he will continue to protect and provide for our future, just like he has in our past. Recognizing this truth will give us access to the excess resources of heaven.

When we don't stay focused on Jesus then there's no way that our identity can remain completely in him. Compromise will settle in, and we'll begin to take on the identity of whatever we are giving our time to. If we do not come to recognize that there is a connection between the natural and spiritual, what we can see and what we cannot see, then the enemy will gain control over our minds because we cannot see him.

Whatever we are unable to recognize and define in the natural world, we will lose access to it in the spirit. The enemy will then have the right to use it against us, even if it was meant to be ours. You can't miss what you never knew you had, right?

When we receive the truth, which is Jesus (***John 1***) then God will release us from the enemy's control. After we are freed and obedient then we will receive our full sight. Then it will become our responsibility to help another believer to be free from satan's lies, in Jesus Name!!

Prayer & Fasting

James 5:16 says, Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

Prayer is how we access the power of Jesus and His power is what gives us the authority over our enemy. The same authority allows us to change what we cannot see in the heavenly realm and establishes our dominion over the earth. Distractions, deception, delusions, and depression are all killers of our dominion. We can't use our authority to will anything in or out of existence when we are caught in any of those traps. Whatever we can't access in heaven becomes accessible to the enemy to use on earth and he will deceive us by twisting God's word around. Fasting means to cover your mouth and making a decision to go without food for a certain period of time while praying. We are normally led by the Holy Spirit into a fast where we are focused on a specific goal. This is either for the sake of ourselves or someone else to be released from an evil spirit. The amount of time we spend in prayer directly affects the amount of power we will receive. To put it simply, little prayer will leave you with little power, more prayer will give you more power, and much prayer will give much power.

True Worship

Purpose

1 Samuel 20:6-8 NLT *If your father asks where I am, tell him I asked permission to go home to Bethlehem for an annual family sacrifice. If he says, 'Fine!' you will know all is well. But if he is angry and loses his temper, you will know he is determined to kill me.*

The new moon was a significant time of sacrifice and obedience to God for the Israelites (***Numbers 28:11 -15 NLT***). Their focus was on God's desire to have a relationship with them. David's plan was for Saul to believe he was away strengthening himself in God at the sacrifice. Since he was jealous of David's relationship with God, he was sure it would get Saul angry and Johnathon would see his father's true heart.

The Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

To truly worship a king, we must be willing to go before him with a gift. Not any gift would do, it must be an acceptable gift of sacrifice. The sacrifice is the first or the beginning of what is required by God from us. Or the bare minimum we can bring to Him as a gift. Before Jesus became a sacrifice for us it was an animal of God's choosing that was partially burned on an altar. Afterward the prophets would get direction from God for the people. What was left of the animal would be eaten as the people's fellowship. When Jesus willingly became a living sacrifice for us, our bodies became the new living sacrifice, a Holy and acceptable gift before God.

The Temple

Corinthians 3:16 Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

A **Temple** is a place that is solely used for the **purpose** of worship. A few examples of the temple of the Living God are the **Garden of EDEN**, **The Tabernacle**, and **The City of Zion** which was known as the high Holy place of worship. God wanted a closer relationship with His people so through the blood of Jesus he made us like Zion. **Matthew 5:14-16 NLT "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.** As we accept Him as Lord and Savior, our bodies become an acceptable permanent dwelling place for the Spirit of God. It is His temple now where we worship Him, and our heart is His throne.

True worship is more than just the songs that we sing. It begins with our hearts being in the right position for God to take control in our lives. We must magnify the name of Jesus with words of adoration (Praise) as well as expressing our love to Him through our actions (Worship). Those who worship Him must worship Him in *Spirit and in Truth!!* We should also live out the truth of His words daily. In our minds, by what we constantly are thinking about. In our wills, by the decisions we make, and in our emotions, by how we respond to situations. Everything we do with our body is for the purpose of worshiping and he doesn't want us to use them for anything else but what they were made for. This is our reasonable response to His love and grace.

Before The King

Boundaries

1 Samuel 20:8 Show me this loyalty as my sworn friend—for we made a solemn pact before the Lord—or kill me yourself if I have sinned against your father. But please don't betray me to him!"
"Never!" Jonathan exclaimed. "You know that if I had the slightest notion my father was planning to kill you, I would tell you at once."

David expected Johnathon to honor the bond they had, and Johnathon would do anything to protect David. If one of their lives were ever in danger that meant both of their lives.

The Vow

Ecclesiastes 5:5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

A person who makes a **Vow**, does so promising to dedicate themselves fully in completing the task they have committed to. Whoever takes an **Oath** is also promising to fully complete the task they have set out to do, but with a pledge. They bind themselves both by their lives and/or someone else's life, their honor and property. This is a sign of their commitment to completing what they have started, and they are required to answer for it if it is not. A **Covenant** is a spiritual legally binding agreement.

Remember that everything we do and say is for the purpose of worshiping God. And the things we cannot see in the spirit, have control over the things we can see in the natural world **Colossians 1:15-20 NLT**. So, every vow, oath, and covenant that we take are not just promises that we make before God. They are promises that we are making directly to God and He measures them all the same. He will expect a return on every one of our words, so we are required to answer for them when the time comes.

A Gift

2 Chronicles 1:6 There in front of the Tabernacle, Solomon went up to the bronze altar in the Lord's presence and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings on it.

After we have given our bodies back to God as a sacrifice, in exchange for a new life, he is ready to clean us up. In the beginning we give what is visibly broken to Jesus. There are a lot of things that have been left behind by people from our old lives. Things God did not intend for us to have. Like false beliefs, wrong behaviors, and emotional traumas, that's just to name a few.

The ***burnt offering*** is an animal that would be placed on the altar for God just like a sacrifice. However, this one would not be shared or eaten at a feast. Instead, it would be completely consumed by the fire on the altar for God. Just the same as He did when He gave all of Himself for us through Jesus. This is what we do when we are willing to bring all of ourselves to Him. Not just the pieces that are

visibly broken but the parts we find no fault in to be tried by Him. The Lord will always desire a deeper relationship with His people. That same desire He will place in our own hearts for Him. To receive the deeper parts of Him it will require more of us to be brought to the altar to be burnt up.

New Territory
Requires
New Boundaries

It's Time To Rebuild

1 Samuel 20:41-42 As soon as the boy was gone, David came out from where he had been hiding near the stone pile. Then David bowed three times to Jonathan with his face to the ground. Both of them were in tears as they embraced each other and said good-bye, especially David.

At last Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the Lord's name. The Lord is the witness of a bond between us and our children forever." Then David left, and Jonathan returned to the town

Now David had to leave his home and family behind once again. Although he was willing to follow God's direction, this time it was done in sorrow because of the connections he'd built with people. David hoped that since Johnathon had evidence of his father's lies that he would have chosen to leave with him in order to save his own life. Instead, he made the decision to continue to live in a place of pain. So, with no idea of where he was going next David began his journey alone, with God. His whole life was about to change!

The time will come when we must move on from the place, we've found comfort and connection, to somewhere new. We are met with an intense challenge to pull away from those relationships that no longer serve God's purpose. This is a major moment of growth in our lives. The fear of not knowing what will happen next has the

potential of making this a traumatic experience. Going through a transition will be hard and full of troubles, but it is necessary to experience a loss of "self". The "self" we have come to believe in would last forever. Feelings of rejection will try to overtake our thoughts as we notice the differences between others and ourselves. Confused about whether to leave, we must make a difficult but important life altering decision. The key is to remain diligent in prayer, worship, and obedience. Responding any differently than this is a clear indication that we are warring against God's plans. We will become tired, slowly drifting off into isolation, living a life independent from Him, following our own thoughts and passions. So be careful to respond in full submission to God, trusting Him and remembering all that He has taught us. Our choices will reflect who we are and our beliefs. After this we will become even more certain of who we truly are in God so that we can make sound decisions about our future.

Wrong Walls

Defensive

A wall is a continual structure that closes off or separates an area of land, especially to protect it or to give it some privacy. It could also mean a desperate position or a state of defeat, failure, or ruin. Walls are set up to protect and defend what is behind them. We use some to keep people at a distance or to completely shut them out. While others hide the shame of our failures because it's easier not to face the pain. Contrary to what

we may think, our man-made walls do not keep pain from affecting us. What they will do is make us **defensive**, depending on ourselves and others to defend us out of desperation.

For example, when someone offends, *annoys or insults* us, hurtful words are used, or we become physical instead of calm and patient. Our intention is to keep the bad things from getting in. But what we're really doing is keeping the good from getting out. Our reactions, no matter if they are verbal or physical, will cause both parties more pain than necessary. In our attempt to defend ourselves we block our light, which forces us to live in the shadows. Behind depression, low self-esteem, comparison, drugs/alcohol, and being overworked. God knows that we need protection from our own wrong ways of thinking just as well as from the world around us. This is evidence that we can walk in a false sense of security. Just as nothing good will be able to get in, nothing bad will be able to get out either. It's a cycle of pain that only Jesus can free us from. Since God is our great defender, He should be our focus during times of trouble. We must understand and trust that God is the only one who can really protect us. Then He will lead us through our pain to the other side into peace.

No Walls *Defenseless*

Since walls are set up to protect and defend what is behind them, it's best to have them. So having no walls up can be just as bad as having the wrong walls up. When we practice self-control, which is a fruit of the spirit, it becomes a wall of defense for us. It protects us from the outside influences of the world that cause mental, physical, and emotional harm. When we do not allow the Holy Spirit to direct us in our behavior, we are left **defenseless** against our enemies' tactics. **Proverbs 25:28 NLT** A **person**

without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls. Any and everything will be able to get in and defile our bodies, God's Holy temples and overtake us. Our enemies will use distractions to prevent us from giving our full attention to God. Deceptions to cause us to believe what God said is not true in order to gain an advantage over us. Delusions to create a false reality in our minds. And depression, to take our confidence and joy away.

When the term wall does not symbolize the Spirit of God being our defense, we have decided that we are our own defenders and protectors. God is willing to free us from all the wrong influences, relationships, and ways of thinking that give a false sense of security. After we have allowed God to tear down our old walls, He is ready to begin rebuilding His relationship with us. And Jesus still is our example of how to have a relationship with God.

New Territory Requires New Boundaries

Separation

1 Samuel 21:1 David went to the town of Nob to see Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he saw him. “Why are you alone?” he asked. “Why is no one with you?”

After spending time wandering around, trying to figure out what to do, David went to the one place he knew he could get everything he needed.

During the process of being rebuilt we must once again be ready to spend time alone with God. He is beginning to purify and sanctify our thoughts, our sight, our hearing, and our speech, all for greater worship. While we learn to navigate this new place, it is necessary for us to step away from all outside influences. God has already made room for them to exit, it is up to us not to invite them back in. Not only does this include who we are communicating with but what we are watching and listening to. Our spirits will be in an extremely sensitive state of receiving. So we should be sure to give God our undivided attention. DO NOT compromise your space.

Identity

1 Samuel 21:2 “The king has sent me on a private matter,” David said. “He told me not to tell anyone why I am here. I have told my men where to meet me later.

David was not willing to take any chances. After what he just went through with people he considered family, He didn't know who he could trust right now.

Everyone is not allowed to hear, see, or go where we are going next. When the time comes God will show us who to walk down this new path with by the leading of His Holy Spirit. Some will not be allowed back into our space but DO NOT try to choose who they are on your own. Without God's direction we have the tendency of choosing our associates according to their outward appearance, title, or how long we've known them. God will separate us from them by the position of their heart. We must remain surrounded by like-minded people, who worship God in spirit and truth. Those who will follow Jesus by the leading of the Holy Spirit. No matter what or who has to go, trust that God's judgment is always right.

Purpose

1 Samuel 21:3-4 Now, what is there to eat? Give me five loaves of bread or anything else you have.” “We don't have any regular bread,” the priest replied. “But there is the holy bread, which you can have if your young men have not slept with any women recently.”

David went specifically for whatever holy thing he could find. He was desperate for God.

We should take the teachings that God has placed in our hearts since the beginning of our relationship with Him and continue to live life according to it. We must hold on to all of it because it is our firm foundation. His words have sustained us; strengthened and supported us this far. But God is ready to give us something new and that will not be enough to sustain us in the place He prepared us for. It is time to go higher in Him which will require us to go deeper in His word. God will put a hunger inside of us for more of something that we have never seen or heard before. Our bodies, His Holy temple, must be free from all unholy conduct. If not, it will keep us from accessing His Holy word because it can only be revealed in a Holy place. Without it we will not be able to flourish and prosper where He wants to take us.

Boundaries

1 Samuel 21:5 “Don’t worry,” David replied. “I never allow my men to be with women when we are on a campaign. And since they stay clean even on ordinary trips, how much more on this one!”

David's reverence of God is continual, no matter the circumstances.

We please God with our worship by not defiling ourselves with any perverted conduct. Continue to be diligent in your efforts to practice self-control. Refraining from all forms of sexual immorality in conversation and behavior. Although it may seem

like it, this is not the time for marriage or even dating. Stand firm on your sexual morals. It is vital in this place marking the difference between spiritual life and death. DO NOT entertain the subtle attacks of the enemy in your mind through the lust of your eyes. They are there to distract you from receiving what God is ready to release. Time is better spent focusing on being prepared to hear God when He is ready to speak. If we stay committed to these instructions then God can release his plans, provisions, and protection over us.

Expected End

His Presence

1 Samuel 21:6 Since there was no other food available, the priest gave him the holy bread—the Bread of the Presence that was placed before the Lord in the Tabernacle. It had just been replaced that day with fresh bread.

It is through the word of God that a split is made between the different members of the body of Christ and the work God will give us to do for His Kingdom. Although we are all connected in some way you will begin to get specific plans from the Holy Spirit as you are being led. Every day He will release new instructions for us to follow. God will mold our character by instructing us to stretch past our natural limits in obedience to His word. We will learn to obey God by trusting Him, but we can only show God that we trust Him by following Him. Remember that we cannot accomplish in the flesh what has been assigned to us in the spirit.

A place with provision

1 Samuel 21:7-8 Now Doeg the Edomite, Saul's chief herdsman, was there that day, having been detained before the Lord. David asked Ahimelech, "Do you have a spear or sword? The king's business was so urgent that I didn't even have time to grab a weapon!"

If you want to get past what looks like death you will have to go through the word of God. Do not complain about what might be.

Wrong in your life. Instead, you should search for the spiritual weapons that you will need to claim victory over every situation. Your job is to keep your eyes on the prize and do what we know to do in times of trouble. Be watchful of your surroundings and when we see that old enemy remember that we are peacemakers. As we create peaceful environments wherever we are, God will get the glory. He is in control of everything, and we won't have to worry about anything. No matter what is happening around us, He knows exactly where we are and what is happening.

A Purpose and A Plan

1 Samuel 21:9 "I only have the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah," the priest replied. "It is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. Take that if you want it, for there is nothing else here."

"There is nothing like it!" David replied. "Give it to me!"

As you look to God for answers and direction, He will make sure that you have everything that you need to prosper where He has placed you at. Nothing about who you are will be hidden anymore. Everyone will know what God has placed as a mandate on your life and the gifts you carry to see it through. Even the ones He had you set to the side while He was working some things out of you. You thought He was done using you in that area, but you won't have to hide away your gifts anymore. God has made room for your gifts and now you will be able to use them all.

Boundaries

1 Samuel 21:10-12 So David escaped from Saul and went to King Achish of Gath. But the officers of Achish were unhappy about his being there. "Isn't this David, the king of the land?" they asked. "Isn't he the one the people honor with dances, singing, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'" David heard these comments and was very afraid of what King Achish of Gath might do to him. 13 So he pretended to be insane, scratching on doors and drooling down his beard.

When you step into your new position make sure not to serve God any differently than what He has taught you. If you find yourself surrounded by people who worship in any way other than that, they are not worshipping your God!! God has shown you the proper way to have a relationship with Him and His requirements for true worship. Do not go back to what He has delivered you from. DO NOT entertain the familiar in any way, shape, or form!! These spirits are only looking for a way back into your space to suck the life out of it.

God is faithful and will provide a way out of any situation. When you are faced with these decisions and choose God, your worship will make the exit easy to see. Remember how and why you are there in that place. Your purpose in life is to only worship the Great I Am, the One, the Only, True Living God.

The Promise Land

Separation

1 Samuel 21:14-15 Finally, King Achish said to his men, “Must you bring me a madman? We already have enough of them around here! Why should I let someone like this be my guest?”

David figured it would be better to look like a fool and live than to be who they thought he was and die.

You must make your boundaries known by simply living your life according to them. You don't have to make a big deal of reciting them because actions speak way louder than words. This will keep people who do not revere God with fear and trembling at a distance from you. Those who do not place the same standards and value on their life will call you crazy. Pray for their souls and know that you are in good company. The Greatest King of Israel, born into the lineage of Jesus Christ, who God Himself said was a man after His own heart, was called the very same name and even worse. By his family, associates, enemies, strangers, wife, men, women, and possibly even some children. But the name they all ended up calling him and the only name he ever had to answer to was the one God gave him, King!!

Identity

1 Samuel 22:1 NLT So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there.

David couldn't risk his life anymore so he found somewhere he could live in peace.

When you decide to keep following Jesus and all he has taught you about living a Godly life, you will be a walking, talking testimony of what the power of Jesus Christ will accomplish in someone's life. Your family will come to you for help, and you will lead them back to Jesus.

Purpose

1 Samuel 22:2 Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.

All David was doing was living his life the way God told him to.

What you do and say will cause others to follow Jesus. It is what the people have been waiting for and need to move forward. They will stand with you to advance the Kingdom. God will bless those who are not offended by the Word of the Lord that you carry. The people will be healed from their sickness, those who were blind to the lies of the enemy will begin to see, those who could not understand the word will receive understanding, those who don't have much money will hear the word and their financial situations will change. People will testify of the miracles Jesus has done in their lives and will bear witness that you are a prophet of the Lord.

Boundaries

1 Samuel 22:3 NLT Later David went to Mizpeh in Moab, where he asked the king, “Please allow my father and mother to live here with you until I know what God is going to do for me.”

David learned the importance of not just spending time with God, but spending time with Him alone, with nothing to hinder him from hearing.

Whenever you are working for the Kingdom of God you will feel pressure from all sides. The people will be pulling on you and you will continually be under attack by your enemies. No matter how strong you are, you will become tired and will need to sit down for a moment. Take the time to confide in the one who sent you there and let him refresh you. God will take you through a *Metamorphose: a change of form into a completely different one*. He will give you strength, and guidance for your next assignment along the way.

A New Beginning

*The Renewing Of Your
Again!!*

Separation

Samuel 22:4 So David's parents stayed in Moab with the king during the entire time David was living in his stronghold.

David was looking for the safest place he could find to take care of what was most important to him.

Whenever you are being transformed, you will have to leave what is important to you in the care of someone else.

Trust that God is taking care of everything that He has built, including you. One of the promises that God has made us is that He would be our *stronghold; a place where a particular cause or belief is upheld and strongly defended and protected against attacks*. If you stay fully committed to what God has given you, He will keep you!!

Identity

1 Samuel 22:5 One day the prophet Gad told David, "Leave the stronghold and return to the land of Judah." So David went to the forest of Hereth.

David stayed in worship while he waited for God to tell him the next move.

When the time is right God will call you by name, out of your hiding place. Only you will know how your days were spent in His presence and what He has changed in you. People will assume that you have given up on God all because you haven't been where they thought you should have been. You are not and never will be bound to just one place. Remember that to be rejected by the world because you don't live according to their standards means you have been accepted by God. This should always be your heart's greatest desire.

Purpose

1 Samuel 22:20-22 Only Abiathar, one of the sons of Ahimelech, escaped and fled to David. When he told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord, David exclaimed, "I knew it! When I saw Doeg the Edomite there that day, I knew he was sure to tell Saul. Now I have caused the death of all your father's family.

David had a choice that day, and he chose God's way.

Never regret any decision that you make while in the service of the Lord. They were all for His glory. It may seem like you are having to reap the consequences for your own actions. It's just a set up for you to make a comeback.

Boundaries

1 Samuel 22:23 Stay here with me, and don't be afraid. I will protect you with my own life, for the same person wants to kill us both."

David couldn't help but assert his leadership skills.

Your faith will have grown in your time away with God. It is now your responsibility to get to Him on someone else's behalf. You will have the strategies to defeat their enemies because you have dealt with them before.

Approved In Private

His Presence

1 Samuel 23:1 One day news came to David that the Philistines were at Keilah stealing grain from the threshing floors.

God will send for us to help wherever there is a need because His presence in our life has given us a heart for His people to be free from whatever is hurting them.

A place

David asked the Lord, "Should I go and attack them? "Yes, go and save on," the Lord told him.

Continually seek the Lord's counsel. Do not go into unknown places without consulting Him. He will tell us where we can and cannot go. Every place isn't safe!

Provision

1 Samuel 23:3-4 But David's men said, "We're afraid even here in Judah. We certainly don't want to go to Keilah to fight the whole Philistine army!" So David asked the Lord again, and again the Lord replied, "Go down to Keilah, for I will help you conquer the Philistines."

David only asked again for the sake of the people. God Has already proven himself to be a provider.

Be compassionate and understanding of other people's feelings and concerns. They haven't seen what the Lord is capable of like you have. God has proven to us time and time again that He will provide safety. They are just looking for some reassurance.

Purpose and A Plan

1 Samuel 23:5 So David and his men went to Keilah. They slaughtered the Philistines and took all their livestock and rescued the people of Keilah.

David already knew what had to be done.

Our experience with the enemy and knowing that God is with us, will help the people recover all that they have lost during their struggles, and they will learn to depend on God even more.

Boundaries

1 Samuel 23:6 Now when Abiathar son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, he brought the ephod with him.

Only let people with a strong faith into your close circle. Those who have something to bring instead of just taking.

Don't stop!!

At the age of 7 I began having this recurring dream of riding the Red Line train. If you have never been to Chicago, that is the train that runs down the middle of I- 95 Expressway. In my dream the tracks were made more like a roller coaster with ups, downs, loops and drops. The whole time I was being chased down by a man wearing all black with a hoodie on. Sometimes he would be close enough to grab me, but never would be able to. Other times I would turn around and he would be so far away, but I would never stop running. While I was in my twenties the Lord showed me how life was just like that roller coaster. The enemy would always be right behind you no matter what the situation, let it be good or bad. In every up and every down, when life would throw you for a loop or even walking a straight path. That our enemy would be right there waiting for his opportunity to put his hands on us. But that could only happen if I stopped running.

I used to think that dream was just for me. Then I came to realize this dream wasn't just about me, it was for all.

God told me that whatever He gives me to make sure that I give it back. To teach all people who believes to take notice that our relationship with Jesus is vital and significant to our survival. He wants us to rearrange our entire way of thinking, feeling, and seeing. This will help us to leave behind what is wrong. Once you

make that decision, don't stop doing what you know God told you to do. Don't stop moving forward, don't stop loving, don't stop telling the truth, don't stop worshiping, don't stop praising, don't stop reading, don't stop!! If you don't stop then he can't touch you, it's when you stop. God is always there, and the enemy is too!! Your job is to keep your focus on God.

Do Not Be Provoked

Throughout my life the different experiences I've had afforded me the opportunity to meet, work with, and serve people from all walks of life. I've had the privilege of meeting those who hated me, loved me, or didn't care either way. To be honest I didn't care at the time either, I was cynical. In my eyes everyone was all about themselves anyway. They weren't concerned about anything that didn't benefit them and to protect myself from being used I became the same way. I was always so critical of people's choices and mistakes, finding a way to point them out for a quick laugh. Peoples' inability to catch on to concepts that came easy to me would irritate or even make me upset. All because I couldn't understand why someone would need my help with something so simple.

As believers we cannot continue to allow ourselves to be provoked by ignorance. God is always testing our faithfulness and uses the lack of knowledge that others may have of Him to do it. For us to partake in Gods glory we must have patience. Instead of letting the deliberate or not so deliberate actions and speech of others cause

you to be angry or even annoyed, become even more generous than that. Give more of what is necessarily expected of you. Give an unusual amount of your time to help those who clearly need it. Rather spiritually, physically, or mentally, go above and beyond and show the loving kindness of your Father. Whatever they may need you have it to give according to the power of Jesus that is in you. It is always good to remember that God doesn't judge you by the way people treat you. Rather He judges by the way we treat people.

Believe that everything is completely under Gods authority, and He is in full control of the situation. There are many examples in the word that prove Gods authority to make the evil things of this world work for Him. 1 Samuel 16 Saul and the evil spirit from God, 2 Samuel 16 Shimei curses David, 1 King 22 The death of Ahab, the 1st chapter of Job and his first test, and Proverbs 16:4. If you find yourself feeling weighed down, irritable, annoyed etc. there is a way out. That way is through acknowledgement of your wrong thinking and doing what's right in God's sight. Begin to pray and praise the Lord to push back against the attack over your mind.

Do Not Sacrifice

I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 13, but nothing about my life changed for the better because I wouldn't accept Him as my Lord. I missed out on a lot of what God had for me growing up and through my mid-twenties because of that choice. I was afraid of

what people would think about how I believed God on top of still caring about what people thought of me period. So, I kept that part of my life private until it just wasn't a part of my life at all. I didn't finish school focused on the wrong things, was continually in the wrong relationships, I even missed out on and failed at business opportunities because I put Jesus last. Don't sacrifice who you are and who Jesus is just to follow someone else's or even your own desires.

We must guard our hearts because whatever has access to it has our worship. The greatest desire of satan is to be worshiped like a god. He seeks to change our hearts to keep us from truly worshiping God. Fear is a position that our hearts can be found in that will keep us from worshiping God the way He desires. Fear of people. Fear of the unknown. Fear of rejection. Fear of not knowing how to worship God. We will begin to express our fear through anger, selfishness, envy, jealousy, lust, fornication etc. ***Galatians 5:19.*** Since fear is a part of our sinful nature our flesh will respond to it. Then the enemy will have access to our bodies and will defile, pollute, desecrate, and dishonor God's temple. ***1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*** The absence of fear is the presence of Love and God is Love.

Pleasing God Through Obedience

COLOSSIANS 3:5

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

PROVERBS 27:5-6

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

We can be so diligent in serving in the church, that we forget to serve God. We've been taught to be involved in ministry from the front door to the pulpit, praying, reading, and worshiping. All these sound like the right things to do, right? They are!! On the other hand, doing something right still has the potential to be wrong based upon the positions of our hearts, our motives and intentions. ***Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.***

When we find a community of people, we must be careful to remain in submission to Christ only. Our motivation should be to please God through our obedience to Him, because of His forgiveness and love towards us. We do this by intentionally and consistently putting God's word into practice. Not by being caught up in people pleasing and acts of self-pleasure.

There are many scriptures that prove how we can easily commit idolatry and adultery when we are not following God's direction. Failing to recognize His authority and power will never cause us to lose our desire for love and relationships. But it will cause our focus to shift from dependence on God to placing all our expectations on those people. When it seems like they can meet those expectations

we will give them permission to stand in God's place on the throne of our hearts.

God has always been angry about this level of disrespect but has been patient with us. His love outweighs His anger, and it is truly because of His kindness and compassion that we have not gotten what we deserve. On top of that He's just not the forceful type. After we reject what He has told us so much, we begin to live and look like the world. Exactly the way God told us not to. Unwilling to examine ourselves any longer we forget the example we were supposed to follow. Jesus!!

God has given us all individual instructions to follow as well as those meant for the entire body. Majority of the time what He asks us goes completely against what we want. As a people we have chosen to use the fact that God knows our hearts as reason not to be obedient to the word God gave us. Treating His commands as though they are requested.

We've been taught that God's love is unconditional, this is proving through many scriptures. ***John 3:16 For God so loved, the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever, whoever!! BELIEVES in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*** Take the time to remember just a few moments right now about how God showed up in love to give you the opportunity to be saved. There was no condition on His love then and there never will be. The condition is set on His promises, and it is and always will be OBEDIENCE. Esau gave up his birthright for a morsel of food. He thought he would just die without it. God says, don't give up your birthright.