

REFORMERS *Life*

Unlocking the Destiny of a Generation

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of Your Destiny

The Proper Apostolic Manner
of Confronting A Believer

You Can Overcome Temptation

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18 Common Mistakes Pastors Make

Defining and Defeating
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REFORMERS LIFE MAGAZINE

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MANNA FROM *His* PRESENCE

Learning to Recognize Your Grace Limitations with Contentment

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

—Romans 12:3

We are not called to everything, every place, or every person. But we are called with specific assignments and with specific grace levels. We must recognize this and embrace it with contentment. The problem arises when we don't recognize and respect our limitations, and end up embarking on what we have not been assigned to, which later becomes destructive to our lives, families, and ministry. Have you ever been so anxious to do something big, attractive, and powerful that you rashly offered to do a job that you later discovered was way above and beyond your abilities? That is exactly what most believers and leaders do. We fail to recognize our God-given grace limitations. Every assignment that the believer embarks on should always be in direct proportion to his or her grace limitation. It is only then that it can be done with contentment.

There is nothing worse than embarking on a project that you aren't qualified to take. It can sometimes be so difficult for the flesh to admit that it can't do a job. Yet, there is such great wisdom and peace in learning to recognize and respect your limitations. It doesn't matter how great we are, we are still assigned to a sphere of functioning with a grace limitation. We have to recognize this and honor it. Don't ever violate your grace limitation. You will pay for it dearly. Oftentimes, there are be-

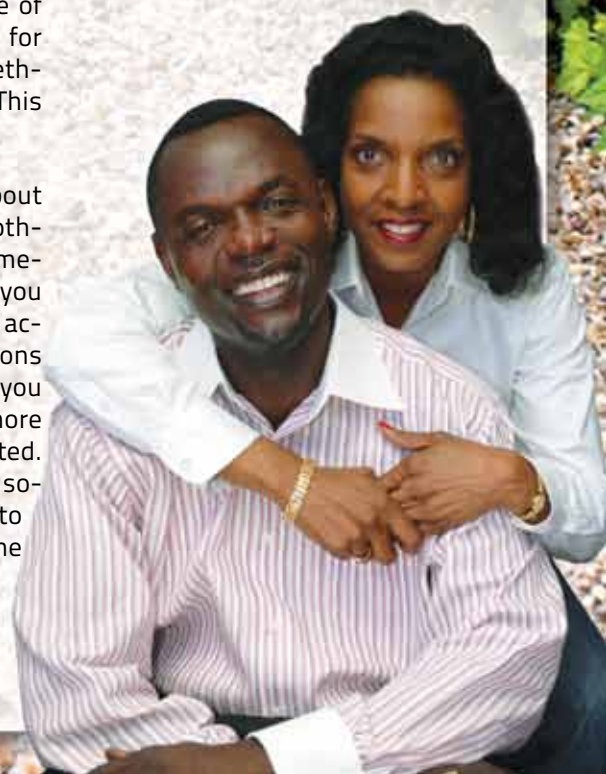
lievers and leaders who are experiencing satanic harassment as a result of their violations. This is why the apostle Paul shared in verse 3 of Romans 12. If anyone could have violated his grace limitations and thought too highly of himself it would have been Paul, yet he admonishes believers that a person should not think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." This phrase Paul used comes from a Greek word which means 'to think over-confidently about our abilities.' Paul instead urges and commands the believer to think 'soberly.' To think soberly simply means 'not to think beyond your set boundaries, to think reasonably, to think practically, and to think realistically.' In other words, don't pretend to be more than you are. Recognize your God-given abilities and use them wisely. But when you come to the edge of your limitations, be willing to cry for help. Don't act like you've got it together. Don't be afraid to tell the Lord, 'This is too much for me right now.'

You need to be very realistic about your grace limitations. There is nothing wrong with admitting that someone else has greater ability than you and can help you. If you refuse to accept and admit your grace limitations and end up going over your head, you will probably end up a whole lot more embarrassed than you ever expected. When Paul said we were 'to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith,' he



was reminding us that there are other gifted members of the body of Christ, and we must make room for their gifts as much as ours. God has gifted His entire body with spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities. Rather than try to do it all, we need to recognize our grace limitations and allow others to be used by God too. **R**

Mrs. John & Vickie Tetsola



REFORMERS

Life

Unlocking the Destiny of a Generation

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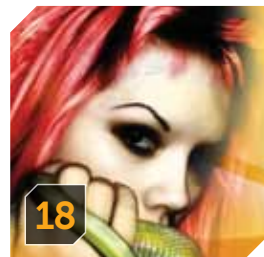
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Pastoring and leading God's people is not an easy job, but still God wants us to be successful in what He has called us to, as long as we depend and rely on Him. There are some common mistakes pastors make that we can learn from that can help us avoid future pitfalls.

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Everyone has to deal with temptation at one time or another, so you don't need to feel embarrassed if you are facing a particular temptation right now. But at the same time, you don't have to succumb to temptation because it is something you can overcome.



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Reformers Life magazine provides the highest balanced quality spiritual food for the Kings household, to solidify and strengthen the local church, to strengthen present and future leaders and thereby create a forum for leaders to serve the Lord together in order to see authentic apostolic ministry restored upon the earth.

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Activating the *Blessings* of Your Destiny

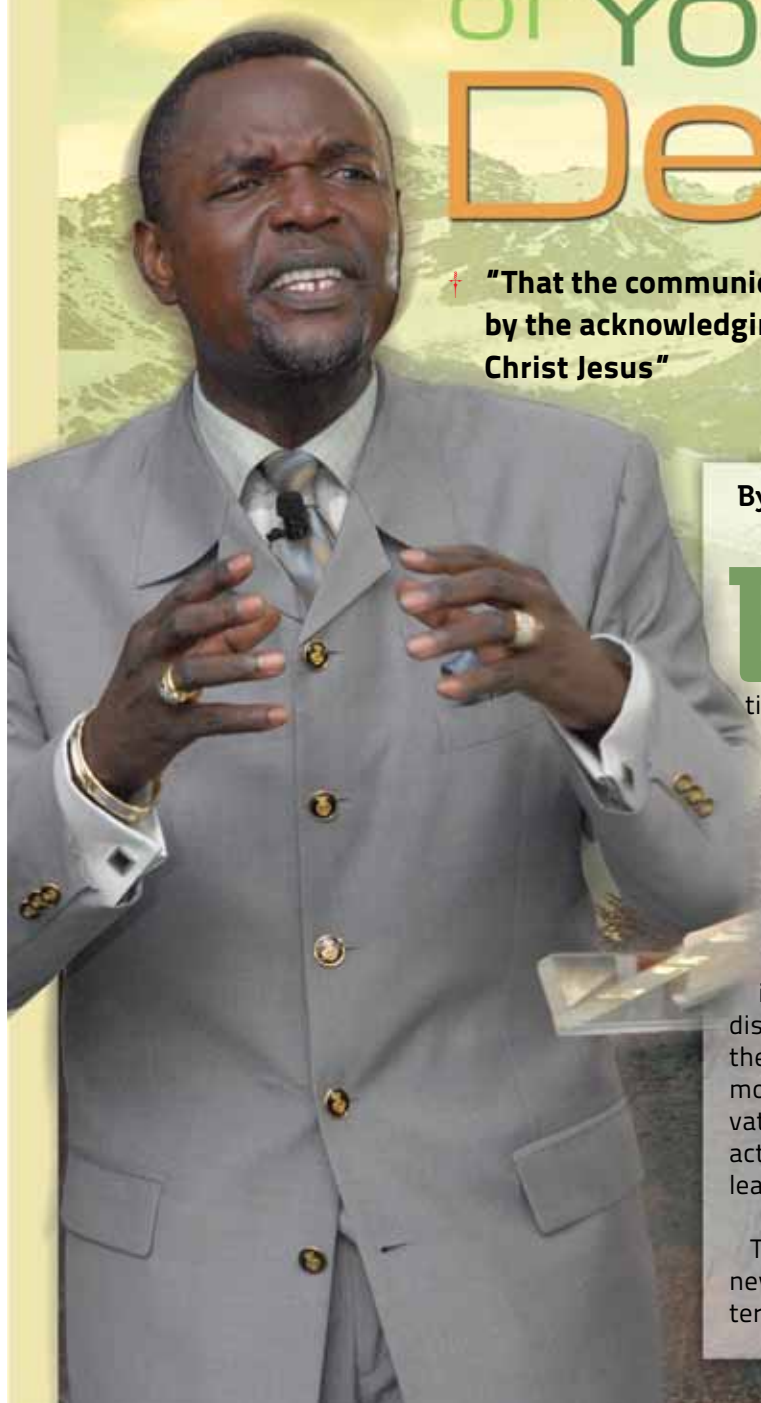
† **"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus"**

- Philemon 1:6

By Dr. John A. Tetsola

Even though God has done great things in you and has planned a powerful future for you, it is up to you to activate His blessings in your life. That is why Paul says, 'That the communication of thy faith may become effectual...' The word 'effectual' is the Greek word 'energeo,' which is where we get the word energy. However in this verse, the word 'energeo' carries the idea of something that has suddenly become energized or activated. Paul's words could actually be said this way, 'That the communication of your faith may become energized and activated...' A good example of this is the picture of a nice car that is filled with enough gas in its tank to drive a long distance, but it won't go anywhere until someone puts the key into the ignition and then turns the key. The moment the key is turned, the spark plugs are activated to start up the engine. Once the engine has been activated, the potential in that car is ready to be unleashed.

The car always had the capability of moving, but if it is never activated, it sits silent in the driveway. No matter how much fuel is in the tank or how much horse-





power the car possesses, its power and potential will never be realized until someone turns the key in the ignition. In Philemon 1:6, Paul says that "every good thing" has been placed in us by Jesus Christ. Think about it for a moment. Christ saved us, healed us, redeemed us, and protected us. He has given us a sound mind – the mind of Christ. He has imparted gifts and talents to us, and has planned a future for our lives that is glorious. We are loaded with phenomenal potential that is waiting to be activated. We are like a car that is loaded with enough fuel and horsepower to get anywhere we need to go. But in order for the potential in us to be released, we have to hold the right key in our hands, put it into the ignition, and turn it so that the potential inside of us can be ignited and activated. What is this key? And how do you activate it?

Paul says "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." The word "acknowledging" in this verse of Scripture holds the answer to the question above. This word describes a "well instructed, intensive, deep knowledge of the facts." This word is the picture of a person who knows his facts like a professional. This is a person so sure of his information that when he speaks, he does so with confidence and boldness. He has no reason to be ashamed or to fear that others may accuse him of being incorrect because he is well instructed and has an extensive, deep knowledge of the facts. To become astute requires study, meditation, digging deep into the truth and applying oneself to know the facts inside and out. The result of this hard work is such a thorough knowledge of the facts that a per-

"We are like a car that is loaded with enough fuel and horsepower to get anywhere we need to go."

son has great confidence regarding what he says or writes.

Paul uses this same idea when he says we are to "acknowledge" every good thing that has been placed in us by Christ Jesus. Of course, this means we are to confess the truth about ourselves. But before we can confess the truth, we must first know the truth. The truth about who you are in Jesus Christ is the key to your victory. Make use of every available resource to discover what God's Word says you have been given in Jesus Christ. This knowledge is the key that will set you free. However, merely possessing the key won't activate these realities in your life. You must put the key into the ignition and turn it, sparking these truths into manifestation in your life.

A key in the ignition switch does no good unless it is turned. Likewise, the truth in your life does no good until it is spoken. The moment you open your mouth and start confessing the good things that are in you by Jesus Christ, a supernatural connection is made between your faith and all that Jesus has deposited inside you. At that moment, the gifts and treasures that God has placed inside of you become supernaturally activated. Your acknowledgment of the truth is what sparks and activates these spiritual blessings, causing them to become operative, activated,

and manifested realities. Learn to align your mouth with the truth of God's Word. You are the greatest prophet of your destiny. The recognition of the spiritual treasures that reside within you will lift you high and carry you right over into the realm of victory that you desire.



MAKING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD REAL TO YOU

There are three practical ways to make the blessings of God real in our lives.

- " First, thoroughly know God's blessings through diligent study. The awareness of God's blessings in your life creates a longing in your heart to possess them.
- " Second, put the truth of your knowledge into your mouth. You are the greatest prophet of your destiny, and you want to only activate that which is divine in your life. But to do that, you have to own God's truth in your mouth and be rightly positioned to release it.
- " Third, speak them out loud. Quit talking negatively about yourself and the situation, and begin to bring the words of your mouth into agreement with the truths of your destiny that God has deposited in your life. **R**

A PARTNER'S HARVEST

'Not that I seek or am eager for [your] gift, but I do seek and am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit [the harvest of blessings that is accumulating to your account].'

- Philippians 4:17

Partnership is about more than commitment. It is also about our unlimited supply of Holy Ghost power. And the combination of commitment and power in ministry knits the church together and makes it an unstoppable force. The anointing in partnership reveals God's plan for the success of the church in the last days. A partnership is defined as 'A relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal.' Healthy God-given partnership always gives the individual involved the ability to do more than they could ever dream of doing on their own. Notice he says, '...fruit which increases to your credit.' These



Philippian believers multiplied their efforts in reaching and teaching souls by sowing finances into Paul's life and ministry through partnership. They gave that which is temporal, thereby converting it to the eternal. In the process, it is multiplied as well! When you enter into this type of partnership,

Paul says you will have a 'harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account...' This includes your heavenly account.

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God loves you no matter who you are and no matter what your past is. God loves you so much that He gave His one and only begotten Son for you. The Bible tells us that "...whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." If you would like to receive Jesus into your life, pray the following prayer out loud and mean it from your heart.

A Prayer of Salvation

Heavenly Father, I come to You admitting that I am a sinner. Right now, I choose to turn away from sin, and I ask You to cleanse me of all unrighteousness. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to take away my sins. I also believe that He rose again from the dead so that I might be forgiven of my sins and made righteous through faith in Him. I call upon the name of Jesus Christ and confess Him to be the Savior and Lord of my life. Jesus, I choose to follow You and ask that You fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit. I declare that right now, I am free from sin and full of the righteousness of God. I am saved in Jesus name. Amen



THE PRICE OF LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

—Luke 5:27-28

There is a difference between interest and commitment. When you are interested in doing something, you do it only when it is convenient. When you are committed to something you accept no excuses. Leaders must never equip people who are merely interested. Equip the ones who are committed. Commitment is the one quality above all others that enables a potential leader to become a successful leader.

Without commitment there can be no true success.



First, commitment will demand a change of life-style in a leader. You cannot remain the same and be committed to something. Whatever you are committed to has the potential to change you. True commitment demands the price of a change in lifestyle. Hezekiah couldn't live the way his father lived. His commitment to the house of the Lord demanded in him a change of lifestyle.

Second, commitment creates loneliness. Very often walking with God and doing what is right is always a road traveled by few. And sometimes you may find yourself trav-

eling that road alone at certain seasons of life. But never be afraid because the Lord is with you. Hezekiah stepped out in obedience alone at first. Your commitment to your assignment may require you to step out in obedience first before anyone follows you. Be willing to do that.

Third, your faith in God. True commitment demands that you develop your faith in God. Working with God and for God demands that you believe that in spite of what the enemy does, you will be victorious. The commitment made by Hezekiah demanded the faith to believe that God would bless his efforts. That is the price of commitment.

Fourth, the price of criticism. Criticism accompanies commitment to

To determine whether the people around a leader is committed, first the leader must make sure that the people around him know exactly what it will cost them to become what they desire. That means that the leader must be sure not to undersell the assignment at hand. The leader must let the people know what it is going to take to do the job. Only then will they know what they are committing to. The price of commitment involves the presence of six key ingredients in the life of a leader.

anything. What the mind doesn't understand and cannot tolerate, the mind criticizes. When commitment is made to accomplish an endeavor, there are many who may not understand. Some may eventually come along, but others may not come along at all. As a leader, you must never relinquish your pursuit when the will of God is being executed. Understand that this is part of the price you pay for the commitment to a God assignment. Hezekiah was able to weather the harsh questions and criticism of an older generation in the accomplishment of his assignment.

Fifth, commitment demands daily discipline. Discipline is having a reason for doing something. If you have a convincing reason for doing what

you do, discipline becomes easy. The problem most times is that there is a lack of revelation regarding our pursuit. The heart that is void of the revelation of its pursuit will never be disciplined to accomplish its assignment. Hezekiah had to instill a daily regimen to bring about reform.

Finally, commitment produces pressure. The pressure of potential failure and misunderstanding often accompanies the commitment to accomplish a thing. Never buckle under the pressure. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you through. Hezekiah endured the pressure of potential failure and misunderstanding and yet did not quit. R

Take heed to yourselves; If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

—Luke 17:3

THE PROPER APOSTOLIC MANNER *of* CONFRONTING A BELIEVER



By Dr. John A. Tetsola

Confrontation is difficult for most believers, but it is often necessary in resolving an offense. Ignoring confrontation is often what causes bad feelings to turn inward and fester into something much worse. Those ugly feelings can become a part of the believer's life, churning away until he becomes so upset that he can

hardly see straight. It is much better to confront the situation and the person and get over it, than to let those raw emotions turn into an ugly monster, just waiting to crawl out at an opportune moment and attack its victim. That is frequently what happens when you allow ugly emotions to go unchecked. Confrontation may be uncomfortable, but it is a lot less painful than having to apologize later for erupting in a fit of flesh.

ing disliked and rejected. Others are afraid confrontation will make things worse by creating anger and resentment in the person they confront. But avoiding confrontation always worsens the situation. Confrontation is a chance to help and develop people if you do it with respect and with the other person's best interests at heart. There are some very key and significant guidelines that help us to confront positively.

him; and if he repent, forgive him." The word trespass in the Greek means 'to violate a rule, to cross a line, to commit a grievance, or to miss the mark.' By using this word, the Spirit of God teaches us what to do when someone has violated you, crossed a line he shouldn't have crossed, committed what you perceive to be a grievance against you, or seriously missed the mark of what you expected of that person. The Bible commands that we 'rebuke' that person for what he did. Understanding this word is very important in order to

Many people avoid confrontation. Some fear be-

That is exactly why Jesus said '...If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke



effectively do it God's way. There is a proper manner when confronting a believer and the secret of it is found in the meaning of this word 'rebuke.'

WHAT DOES REBUKE MEAN?

The word 'rebuke' in the Greek means 'to speak frankly, honestly, and politely as you tell a person how you feel he has wronged you.' This doesn't mean that you have to speak to the person like he is a devil. It just means you need to directly and honestly confront him. The issue of honesty is big in the body of Christ. Many believers are dishonest about what they really think and feel. Inside they seethe with anger toward someone about a perceived offense. Yet on the outside, they smile and pretend as if everything is all right. This dishonesty divides believers and keeps God's power from freely flowing between members of the body of Christ.

You put yourself on dangerous territory when you harbor hidden disagreements or secret, petty grievances against other people, yet go around smiling and acting as if everything is all right. You are not just being dishonest, but you are engaging in outright lying and deception. When you refuse to confront a wrong, you are just as wrong as the one

who violated your rights and stepped over the line. If you are going to be mature in your relationships, you must learn how to confront others when you feel they have wronged you. It may be difficult to do this, but it's a lot less painful and it leaves fewer scars than the soul that's filled with bitterness and resentment.

THE FIVE GODLY STEPS OF CONFRONTATION

Whenever you have to confront a believer regarding a wrong he has committed against you, consider these five godly steps:

First, don't ever confront anyone until you have first made it a matter of prayer. Prayer resolves a lot of problems by itself. There are times in our lives when we have been upset with someone, only to discover after getting into the presence of God and praying about the matter that our own attitude was much uglier than the actions of the one who wronged us. And many times, after the recognition of our own sinful condition and state, we couldn't hold a thing against the other person anymore. We just wanted to get our heart right with God.

Prayer will put you in a position where God can speak to your own heart. After praying, if you still

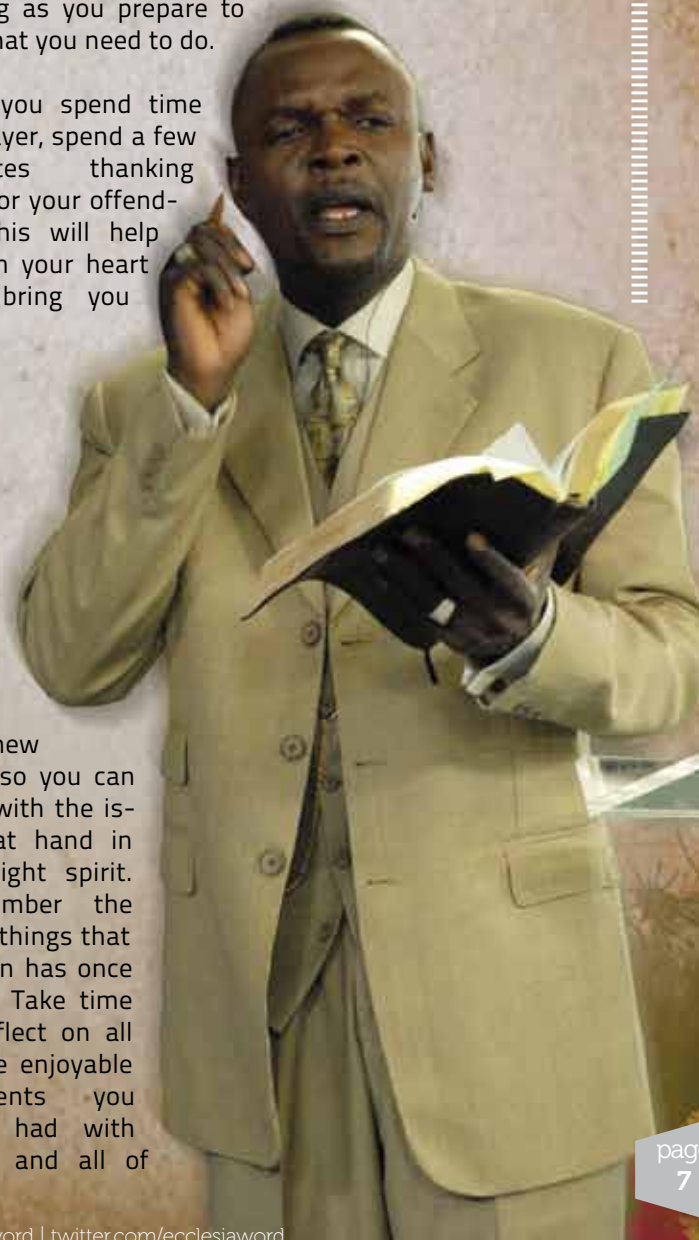
sense that you are supposed to confront the other person, make sure you pray for that person first. The Spirit of God may give you a strategy regarding what to say, as well as when and how to say it. Taking directions from the Holy Spirit about how to confront someone will only help us. Confrontation without prayer is like barging into the middle of the fray with no preparation. Give yourself to prayer before confrontation and let your prayer be a time of spiritual fine-tuning as you prepare to do what you need to do.

As you spend time in prayer, spend a few minutes thanking God for your offender. This will help soften your heart and bring you

the benefits you have gained in life as a result of that relationship. It is difficult to remain angry at someone when you are thanking God for them.

AVOIDING A JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE

to a new level so you can deal with the issue at hand in the right spirit. Remember the good things that person has once done. Take time to reflect on all of the enjoyable moments you have had with them and all of



Second, don't ever confront anyone with a judgmental attitude. We have all made mistakes. So always assume that your offender would not deliberately hurt you. Take a positive position about the other person. When you finally sit down to talk with the person who wronged

you, start the conversation by assuring them that you

know that they did not intend to do what they did. This immediately removes any sense of an accusatory spirit and puts the spotlight on the devil instead of on that person. The issues will still be dealt with, but from a different perspective.

Starting with this approach is much more beneficial than taking a defensive approach that treats the other person as if he was your adversary. Remember, that person is not your enemy. He isn't on the other side of the line, fighting a battle against you. Your relationship may be going through some rough times right now, but you still need to view the two of you as being on the same side.

REMEMBERING YOUR PERSONAL WRONG

Third, remember that you, too, have been offensive in the past. Never forget that you have probably wronged people in the past. You didn't intend to do it. You probably didn't

know that you did it until the person later told you. You were probably embarrassed or sad when you heard how the devil had used some statement you innocently made to leave a wrong impression. When you were in this type of situation, didn't you want the person you had wronged to tell you the truth, rather than to walk around harboring bad feelings about you? Weren't you glad when the lie of the devil was exposed and your relationship was made right again?

Fourth, remember to only address the wrong action done and not the person.

Addressing the person creates tension, animosity, and defeats the purpose of the confrontation. Every act of confrontation must be redemptive. Learn to confront only that which the person can change. Be willing to assist them in the areas that they can't change. Be specific on what you are confronting and avoid sarcasm.

Finally, remember to give the person you are confronting a suggested game plan to fix the problem. Positive confrontation is a sure sign that you care for a person and have their best interests at heart. Each time you build up



people and identify their problems, you give them an opportunity to grow. To do this, you have to be willing to give the one you are confronting the benefit of the doubt concerning what was done to you.

So when someone offends you, remember that you have stood in their shoes in the past. Now it's time for you to show someone else the same forgiveness and mercy that was previously shown to you. If you still feel the need to confront the person who wronged you after following these steps, you should now be able to do it with the right attitude. If your offender repents and sincerely asks for forgiveness, Jesus said you are to put away the offense and no longer hold on to it. You must release those ugly feelings you have held against that person. **R**

The Eternal Seed

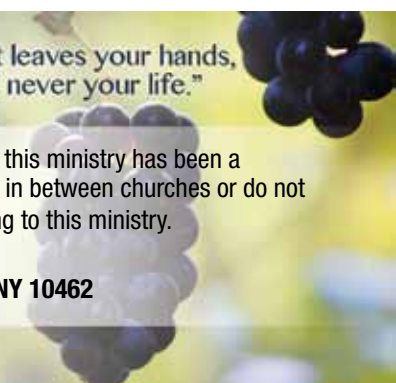


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Evening Worship Service: 5:30 p.m.
Children's church and Teen Fellowship are available during Sunday morning service only.

TUESDAYS

Believer's Bible Study Class: 7 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

THURSDAYS

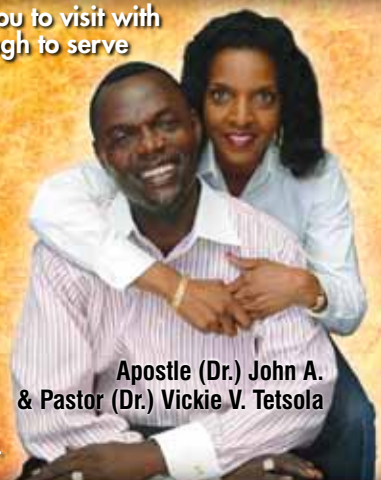
Evening Service: 7 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Youth Ablaze Young Adult Service: 7 p.m.

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School of Healing - Prayer & Deliverance Service: 10 a.m.



Apostle (Dr.) John A.
& Pastor (Dr.) Vickie V. Tetsola

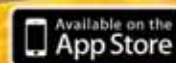
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The Nations are our Mandate

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- An understanding leader displays great confidence in God and in his followers.
- Blessed is the leader who makes room for differences in the way people respond to truth, as long as they end up performing the will of God.
- A leader with divine wisdom has much to offer in the sphere in which he labors.



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18 Common Mistakes Pastors Make

By Bishop Joseph Mattera

As a pastor for 25 years, I have learned much through the "School of Hard Knocks." My goal with this article is to identify some of the most common mistakes made by pastors and leaders so others would not replicate them. There are eighteen common mistakes pastors make that we must learn to avoid.

I. They try to disciple their congregation solely from their pulpit messages

1. I learned a long time ago that often no more than half the congregation is paying attention and attempting to retain all that you teach.

2. One of the ways I compensate for this is to make sure everyone writes notes while I teach; only 10% of what is preached is remembered the next day by those in the congregation who don't take notes.

3. Approximately one-third of the congregation is missing on any given Sunday. Thus, discipleship is greatly limited. One way to compensate is for the pastor to regularly teach a series of messages that build upon one another with a quick review of the previous lesson,

thus allowing those who missed the previous week to stay in the flow and be taught.

4. As important as congregational preaching is, the most effective way to disciple and train believers is by teaching them in small groups and in informal mentoring as Paul instructed Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2. (Every Monday night I have a small group of about 10-12 men that I pray with, teach, and share my heart with. Also, I often take a few people with me when I travel and minister so we can spend time together, which gives them time to learn my ways, not just hear me preach on Sunday.

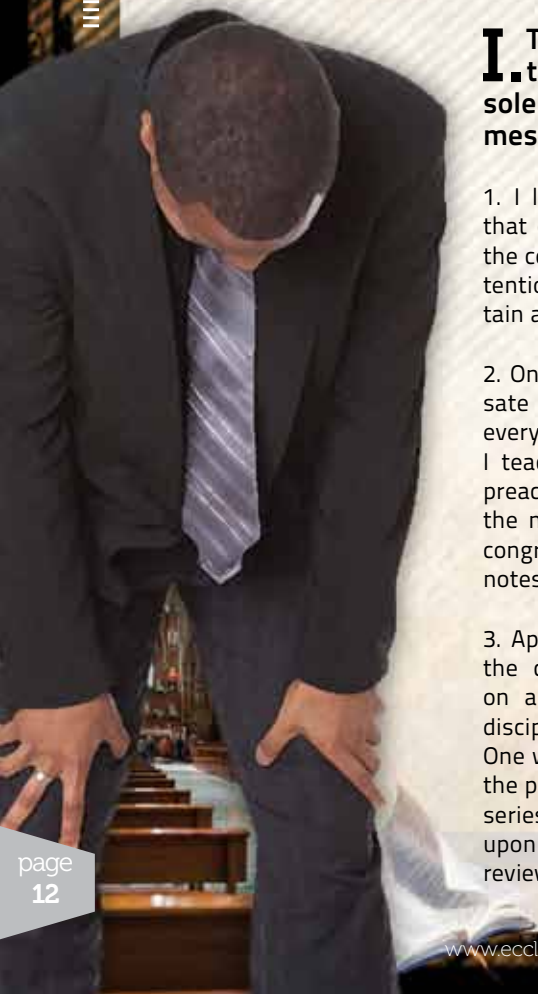
II. They think vision trumps the culture of the church

1. Leaders think that presenting a mission statement to the congregation is enough to create

momentum and move the church towards its goals.

2. Before a new vision can be implemented the culture of the church has to change. For example, if a church is going to adopt a cell church strategy, their old program based culture (mind-set, habits, ways) will first have to be changed through one-on-one meetings with key people, months of prayer, strategy, implementation, and most importantly, having all the key leaders and members of the church or organization successfully implementing cell groups as their main focus (in regards to winning souls, training leaders, and actualizing the mission) before they attempt to get the rest of the congregation to walk in it.

III. They invest most of their time nurturing





people instead of developing leaders

1. The main difference between pastors and apostolic leaders is that pastors spend all their time visiting and nurturing all the sheep while apostolic leaders focus 80% of their time with the 20% of the congregation who will produce 80% of the ministry.

IV. They place people in ministry based on gifting instead of integrity and character

1. The foundation of our life is our character, not our gifting. Thus, if we place people in a ministry function before the foundation of their character is deep enough, we are posturing our church to be a personality and gift-driven entity that doesn't have what it takes to enjoy its current rate of success beyond 3-5 years.

2. The general rule of thumb is that a person will be able to walk in their purpose when their gifting and anointing to minister is commensurate with integrity and godliness.

V. They fail to communicate adequately with their spouse and key leaders before making big decisions

1. This sets the senior leader up for marital problems and/or disconnect or division among the key leadership of the organization. I have seen this happen more than once through the years; I have made important announcements and as I was making them I viewed the astonished look on my wife's face! The point is this: Even if you have a great idea, the pastor should always give their spouse and leadership time to 'buy in' to all major decisions before they are announced.

VI. They spend more time in administration than in study and prayer

1. Most pastors I know are functioning as glorified deacons who focus more on marketing and administration than before God in the secret place.

2. God has called for pastors to be 'kings and priests,' not just serve as kings! The priestly function allows the kingly function to hit the mark in regards to decisions and impact.

3. Acts 6:2-4 clearly teaches that the senior leader's primary function is prayer and the ministry of the Word. Those who focus on this, as well as developing leaders and delegating administration to their disciples, will flourish most in regards to their primary purpose.

VII. They fail to put up boundaries to protect their family life

1. Many pastors' wives blame the ministry for 80% of their marital problems. I know of many pastors who allow congregants to call their homes, interrupt family time or dinner time, allowing visits at all hours of the night, thinking this is what God expects

of them. This is probably the single biggest reason why children of preachers hate the ministry and would never even think of imitating their parent's faith and works.

2. This is one reason why I counsel pastors to have an office OUTSIDE of their home—to keep set office hours and separate church work from their family time in regards to affection and focus.

3. Without setting proper boundaries, the pastor will inevitably sacrifice their family on the altar of ministry, alienating both spouse and children.

VIII. They feel threatened by other gifted and strong leaders instead of harnessing them

1. Insecure leaders limit the ministry capacity of strong emerging leaders instead of harnessing and releasing them to their destiny.

2. Having a large church does not necessarily mean a church is successfully developing and releasing emerging leaders to their destiny.

3. Insecure pastors and leaders will always have cycles of divisions in their churches because they frustrate those with mantles of leadership on their lives by not making room for their gifts. The results of unfairly capping potential leaders is either splitting congregations or organizations, starting a new church or entity prematurely, or having these leaders attending other churches looking for greener pastures. Churches with a history of church splits and divisions may have an insecure senior pastor who needs to become emotionally whole before the church can release mature sons and daughters into the harvest field.

IX. They try to have success without a successor

1. Some pastors I know are well into their 60's and still don't know who their successor will be!

2. I am currently 48 years old and already have a number of options in regards to potential successors.

3. Often, the spouse of the pastor takes over after the senior leader passes away, thus thrusting a person who is likely uncalled and unqualified into an executive leadership position. Other leaders just put one of their children in as the new leader even though there is clear consensus among the primary leaders that this person is not yet ready or even called.

4. The moment we step into any ministry we should begin to work ourselves out of a job by training others to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). One rule of thumb for senior leaders is to delegate everything others can do almost as good as them, while only focusing on things no one else is qualified to do.

X. They fail to understand the three components of vision: hindsight, insight, and foresight

1. A leader cannot successfully take their organization into the future if they don't learn from the past and accurately interpret the present.





XI. They fail to affirm those working for and with them

1. 90% of all the feedback human beings receive regarding themselves is negative.
2. This issue is so important even Jesus didn't go forth to minister until He received affirmation from His Father (Luke 3:22).
3. Senior leaders should regularly affirm those who faithfully serve in their organiza-

tion. Affirmation releases people to their destiny like nothing else!

4. Often times, pastors replace fatherly affirmation and affection with the laying on of hands. But the laying on of hands is only supposed to be the culminating seal of a long-term process of nurture, love, and relationship building that is the foundation of properly releasing ministers and workers to their destiny.

XII. They never adequately develop accountable peer relationships among other ministers

1. Every leader needs three levels of relationships:
 - i. Spiritual children
 - ii. Brothers and sisters (peer relationships)
 - iii. Spiritual parents (every pastor needs a pastor)
2. Not having accountable level two and three relationships

leaves a leader vulnerable to their own sinful tendencies which can shipwreck everything they have ever worked for!

3. A pastor who doesn't have an overseeing pastor or bishop is already in error!

XIII. They attempt to develop faithful members instead of sons and daughters

1. The greatest title I have by far in our church is the title 'dad.'
2. A church or ministry will only be effective to the extent it has developed the army of God out of the family of God! Having a lot of laborers without a spirit of sonship results in merely having a house of slaves or servants.
3. Sons will always be more loyal than servants because sons are assured of their father's love, their placement and role in the house, and their share of the inheritance.

XIV. They go by the latest Christian contemporary fads instead of building on proven biblical principles

1. I have some minister friends who change the vision of their church every few years based on the latest renewal movements or strategies featured on the covers of Christian magazines.
2. Although we can learn much from what God is doing with other churches in other parts of the world, we need to know our core values and purpose, and build everything else around this. When a church changes its vision too often then the senior leader loses credibility and the congregation senses instability.

XV. They fail to be transparent with their inner circle and congregation

1. Senior leaders who share with their inner circle their internal and personal struggles pave the way for more transparency and trust among their core leadership. To a certain extent, even sharing personal challenges from the pulpit can actually encourage folks in the congregation because they feel more of a sense of trust and connection with the leader; they also feel encouraged knowing that they are not the only ones struggling in their Christian life and faith.

XVI. They fail to get their congregation to have ownership of the vision and develop proprietors instead of employees

1. Employees check in at 9 a.m. and clock out at 5 p.m., even if there is an emergency and more work is needed. In contrast, a proprietor clocks in early and leaves only when the work is done; even if it is 5 p.m., if a pipe breaks in the basement of their business, they will stay until midnight to make sure it is fixed, long after employees have left for the day.
2. All effective organizations successfully transfer ownership of the vision to their adherents.

XVII. They preach individual blessing and destiny instead of the biblical model of corporate blessing



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1. The typical preaching in America is about individual destiny instead of corporate purpose. This is so in spite of the fact that 95% of the Bible was written to either the nation of Israel or the body of Christ.

2. A person can't 'write their own ticket' with God if they are not flowing with the corporate destiny of their local church. Our historical faith teaches us that it is never just us and God, or just an individual and their Bible. Second Peter 1:20 teaches that Scripture is never about one's own

private interpretation. For example, our fingers need a hand which needs an arm which is connected to a shoulder, etc. in order to function properly!

3. All biblical prophecies are corporate; there is no such thing as individual prophecies because all biblical examples were either to the nation of Israel, to the church, or were for an individual regarding their ministry to Israel or the body of Christ.

XVIII. They build one-generational in-

stead of multi-generational works

1. God revealed Himself to Moses as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and has called us to think strategically for at least three generations in everything that we do.

2. Most leaders act as though God is just the God of Abraham since they plan concentrically around only their present lifetime. I tell leaders all the time that if they reach their highest purpose and potential while they are alive, they have failed miserably because Scripture

teaches that those who follow our footsteps should do greater works than us (John 14:12; Psalm 78:1-4). **R**



Bishop Joseph Mattera is the Presiding Bishop of Christ Covenant Coalition and Overseeing Bishop of Resurrection Church in New York.

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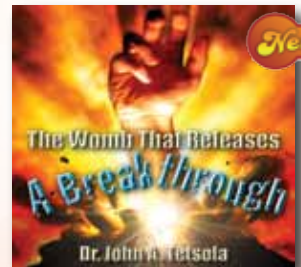


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DEFINING & DEFEATING The ANGRY KID IN US ALL!

By Caleb D.R. Windley

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

—Ephesians 6:4

My ten plus years in youth ministry has afforded me much insight when it comes to children, youth and young adults. The most common thing that I have seen across the board from church to church are children who feel rejected by parents, their close relatives and their peers. These children see our hypocrisy and failings as leaders and parents, and because of this, they are angry and even have become indifferent to the gospel. The indifference they develop makes them prey for the enemy and his devices of distraction, destruction and

final devastation.

My purpose for this teaching is to expose what anger really is and how devastating it is to your life and to rekindle your hope and passion for God through the strategies given. Also to bring healing to your life and the lives of those you share this with as well as give your parents some tools that I have used with my own children to heal their hearts and even change how I relate to them.

Let me also say this, the principles in God's Word lead us to the promises God has for us. Everything I tell you is based upon the Word and its application to your life. As with all things, this

is a process. Your parents will not change overnight, and nor will you. But I ask that you give them as they give you, the grace our God has granted us all and through time and continual application, changes will come, so let's get at it.

Defining Anger

Anger can be defined as an automatic reaction to any real or imagined insult, frustration or injustice. I say anger is a reaction because anger is not involuntary. Anger is an emotion, therefore anger can be controlled. When a person expresses anger, they usually do so to gain a response from others. Our emotions tend to move us in a certain direction whether good or bad.

So as a believer in Christ, we have to relinquish our emotions over to the leading of the Holy Spirit

or we will tend to do things seeking the attention of others at just about any cost. The Bible talks a lot about anger.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32, NIV

I don't know if you see it young believer, but the Bible is clearly telling us to get rid of anger. The Apostle Paul in this scripture puts anger in the same category with contention, slander, and even having a bad temper. These are all areas of our flesh.

Cease from anger and forsake wrath; fret not yourself—it tends only to evil doing.

—Psalm 37:8 AMP

Psalm 37:8 says to cease (put away for good) from anger and get away from wrath because it only leads to evil and negative actions. God takes anger pretty seriously. Jesus said in Matthew 5:22, when we continue to be angry with another person, or harbor malice in our hearts, we are in danger of hell's fire.

As I have said to my class, since the Bible is true everything else is a lie. If the Bible says unrighteous anger is wrong and deadly, then we really must take strong heed. But also remember anger is an emotion, which we have the power to control. By God's standards, the only anger that brings profit to the Kingdom of God is righteous anger.

Righteous anger is what caused Jesus to go into the temple and chase the merchants out of the temple. This form of anger is displayed to bring glory to the Father. So based upon this fact all anger does not cause a bad result. This is the reason why God told us to handle anger very carefully in Psalm 4:4 and Ephesians 4:26.

Be angry [or stand in awe] and sin not; commune with your own hearts upon your beds and be silent (sorry for the things you say in your hearts). Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

—Psalm 4:4 AMP

When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your

fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down.

—Ephesians 4:26 AMP

Now that we have defined anger, we have also determined that anger in itself is not good or bad, right or wrong or sinful or holy. As a matter of fact it is amoral (neither bad nor good). Fire by itself is not dangerous or safe. It's actually neutral when you think about it. But based upon how it's used determines its effects on others.

Always remember this, anytime anger moves you out of the love of God, if it causes you to become selfish, manipulative and take on a self-saving attitude. If you're here, you are in dangerous waters and need to confess and repent and get back to your right standing with God.

Four Principles of Anger

Now that you know that anger is an emotion and you don't have to give into the desire to respond in-kind, you must now exercise control over this emotion. Remember emotions come to move you out of your current position and cause you to react in a way out of your character. In order to not react out of how you are feeling consider these four principles.

1. Control your feelings and never act solely based on them

Always pause before you answer when in

heated communications with others. Instead of reacting out of your soul (where your emotions are stored), act on the Word of God. A lot of young people today rebel against authorities and if that is you maybe you should try rebelling against the voice of authority coming from your soul ... your emotions. Don't let them have authority over you. Our feelings should never be the determining factor in any of our decisions. Remember only the Word is true, so the Word of God should guide you in all of your decision making.

The only way to give the power of your soul the boot is to meditate on God's Word. Trust me, I had a horrible problem with anger and what saved me was meditating on the Word. First I meditated on all the scriptures in the Bible about anger repeatedly for months and then I meditated on the promises of God for me. The only way to beat the feeling of anger is by feeding your spirit the love of Christ. The only way to know His love is through the Word. If you meditate on the Word, the urge to become angry will change when tough situations arise.

2. Know yourself, and keep anger under strict control

Don't be quick to fly off the handle. Anger boomerangs. You can spot a fool by the lumps on his head.

—Ecclesiastes 7:9 MSG

This verse is describing

anger that is out of control. The question is, are you a hot head, a quick tempered person, that flies off the handle and is quick to act out? If this is you, if you answered yes, guess what? You know yourself.

Hot tempers start fights; a calm, cool spirit keeps the peace.

—Proverbs 15:18 MSG

Are you the antagonist? The bully? If so, it's beyond the time for you to grow up, mature and stop the nonsense. Don't be a person who is quick to start a battle out of anger. Instead, slow down. Take a breath to clear your head before you respond wrongly and say or do anything hasty. Pray. Pray. And then pray some more.

God is sheer mercy and grace; not easily angered, he's rich in love. He doesn't endlessly nag and scold, nor hold grudges forever. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs.

—Psalm 103:8 MSG

Since God does not become angry quickly as He deals with the whole world, shouldn't we, His children strive to be like Him and not like our earthly examples?

3. When you're angry, sin crouches at your door ready to kill

God spoke to Cain: "Why this tantrum? Why the sulking? If you do

Continued on p. 20

You Can Overcome

Temptation

By Dr. Vickie V. Tetsola

"For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [no matter how it comes or where it leads] has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man [that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear]. But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently."

—1 Corinthians 10:13 (AMP)

Everyone has to deal with temptation at one time or another, so you don't need to feel embarrassed if you are facing a particular temptation right now. But at the same time, you don't have to succumb to temptation because it is something you can overcome. All temptation can be beaten. You just have to make up your mind that you are going to be the conqueror and

not the conquered. You may not have thought of it before, but the devil tries to lure us into sin by using our mind and emotions. He injects thoughts into our mind and emotions which act as stimulants to get us stirred up in certain areas of our lives. At that moment, you are consciously aware that you can let the temptation pass you by, or you can allow those thoughts to fester in your

mind and take root in your emotions until they become a major stronghold in your mind to battle and conquer. By refusing to accept the thoughts in the first place, you can avoid the whole struggle.

DEFEATING THE THOUGHTS OF YOUR MIND



It is similar to a sexual temptation. You can choose to turn and look the other way, or you can dwell on that temptation until it fills your mind and imagination. If you choose to meditate on the thoughts that the devil is trying to put into your head, it won't be too long until the devil is waging a full-scale battle in your mind. If you don't put on the brakes and stop those thoughts, the devil will conquer you.

That is why it is so important that you learn how to control your thinking. If you can keep your mind under the control of the Holy Spirit, you will make it impossible for the devil to defeat you in any realm of your life. The devil is a master when it comes to mind ma-

nipulation. He knows that if he can get you to spend a little time meditating on something wrong, he can eventually entice you to do it. If the devil was persuasive enough to deceive brilliant, mighty, powerful angels, how much more easily can he deceive people who live in a far from perfect environment who wrestle daily with their own imperfections?

THE HUMAN MAKE-UP

The emotional make-up of human beings makes them even more susceptible to the devil's masterful skills of lying, deception, and manipulation. Satan watches for the right timing. He comes along at an opportune moment. He waits until you are tired, weary, or exasperated. Then suddenly he strikes you with a thought, something that takes you totally by surprise, when your guards are down. When negative thoughts begin to deluge your mind, you need to know that it is Satan setting a trap for you. He is trying to ensnare you so he can cripple and devastate both you and the people you love. He is trying to get you to bite the bait so he can set the hook. But you don't have to fall into this trap anymore. If you really want out of this type of emotional quandary, there is a way out.

SOURCES THAT APPEAL TO THE FLESH

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

—1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV)

The word temptation is the Greek word 'peirasmos.' This word simply means or refers to 'any outside source that appeals to a weakness in your flesh.' That appeal pulls you like a magnet. It lures you mentally, emotionally, and sensually. It fascinates the imagination and it entices the flesh to take a closer peek. If you don't stop this process, it will set its hooks in your soul and haul you right in the middle of some kind of sin. 'Peirasmos' describes any weaknesses of the flesh. Whatever your flesh responds to is what this word refers to.

But this verse promises that God will make a way for you to escape temptation...If you really want to escape it. You have to want to escape it in order for you to defeat temptation. Negotiating with sin usually leads to falling into the sin rather than conquering it, so it's better for a person to just get up and get away from the situation as quickly as he can, like Joseph did in Genesis 39:12 when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. This is why Paul was constantly telling the early church to 'flee' evil influences. A lot of Christians are held captive because they will not leap through God's escape hatch. As a result, they have no joy, no peace, and no victory. Instead, they

experience broken marriages, broken relationships, and the destruction of their ministry. They may be Christians, but they are miserable because they have not made the choice to take advantage of what God has provided for them.

If you will say yes to the Lord, He will show you how to walk out of your temptation. You can avoid and break away from every temptation. You are the only one who can choose to walk out of those struggles. The moment you make that decision, your journey to freedom has begun. So right now the Holy Spirit is asking you, 'Are you going to stay the way you are right now? Are you willing to take the proper steps to escape your temptation?'

STEPS TO ESCAPING TEMPTATION

If you are willing to take the proper steps to escape your temptation, then there are a couple of things that you must consider doing:

First, you have to be willing to locate the chief area of temptation that you struggle with more than other areas. For you to begin the process of your escape of deliverance, you have to be aware that you struggle with temptation in that area. You cannot walk in denial and expect to be free. Put your finger on

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well, won't you be accepted? And if you don't do well, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it's out to get you, you've got to master it." Cain had words with his brother. They were out in the field; Cain came at Abel his brother and killed him.

—Genesis 4:6-8 MSG

Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

—Ephesians 4:26-27 MSG



Anger that is maintained, fed and nursed becomes an open invitation to the enemy into our lives. Instead of rehearsing the situation over and over in our minds, we must learn to just let it go. If Cain had just let go of offense, he would not have murdered his brother. Pre mediation is the difference between an accidental death and murder. You're going to need to talk it out, share with someone who can give you wise counsel (teachers, youth leader, pastor etc...), as well as forgive those who may be involved in the situation. As a believer you and I walk by faith and we are made righteous by faith. In order to accomplish this we need to release the source of our anger by faith and trust God to assist us in this powerful process.

4. Maintain your convictions and direct your anger properly

As Believers young and old we should be people of conviction, your conviction is your firm and unshakable belief in something. We

should get angry at sin, the devil, the curse of the law, every work of the demonic and everything else designed to destroy us and the destinies of those connected to us. We should become angry when we see poverty, sin, and sickness attacking our families. When our loved ones are being blinded by the seduction of the world or when we see so many people who do not know our loving Lord and Savior.

We see the enemy is at work, distracting us when you and I have allowed ourselves to be ignorant of his devices (tools) of unrighteous anger. We must not be fooled and fall for his tricks again and again, but we must be wise and fight the good fight for a righteousness that moves us into our prosperous futures. Young believer, we can never allow complacency or deception to cause us to sit idle and let the enemy run our lives or run our family and friends away from the very gospel that is making us greater every day. Righteous anger directed at the works of the enemy will move us to

operate in God's power and change what is going on in the world around us.

I want to encourage you especially at the age you are at to upset the plan of the enemy by overcoming evil with the good that is in you. Make the decision to walk in love, even if no one else does. It sounds hard and at times it can be, but it's worth it for you and those you love. Make no mistake, there will always be those who are difficult to love but God has downloaded into you what it takes to love even them by faith. Only allow righteousness to motivate you to speak the truth in love and watch God astonish you as He has your back at all times. **R**



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it and never let it out of your sight or awareness.

Second, study and understand the patterns of your temptation. The enemy has a one-track-mind. Knowing how he tempts you, when he tempts you, and what he uses to tempt you helps you to understand his pattern of attack and how to deal with it. You will never be

successful over your temptation if you don't understand the pattern which the enemy uses to cause you to succumb to his agenda. Sometimes knowing the pattern helps you to avoid the places, the people, and the things the enemy uses to trigger the temptation.

Third, you must be willing to make some changes

in your life. Some of these may be minor or major. But you must be willing to make them in order to walk free from the struggle of that temptation. Look at your life as it relates to the temptation that you struggle with and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and help you make the necessary changes for your deliverance.

Fourth, invite the Holy Spirit into your situation and ask Him to help you. The Bible says whosoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:13). God wants you delivered and free from that temptation. So call on Him and receive His delivering power over your situation.

R

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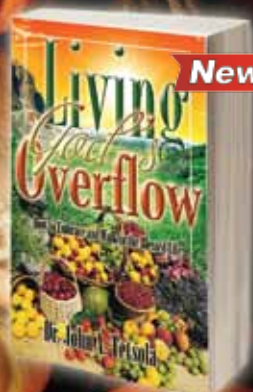
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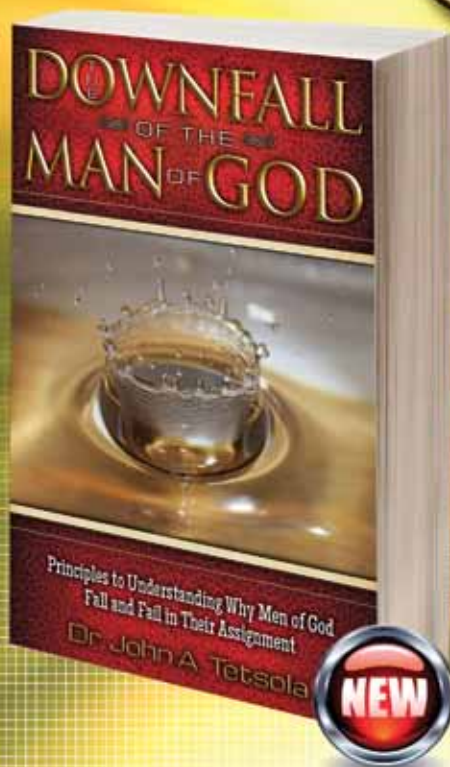
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