

David Flannel Board Series | July 25, 2021

Pastor Jordan Biel

Before I begin - one last Announcement. There's a basket in the foyer to collect items needed for BELLA. They are the org that helps teen pregnant moms find resources, hope, answers... even medical care - all to avoid abortion. We've partnered w them for years. This week and next, you can drop off needed items for at-risk moms.

Recap from last week - one slide

Three things come to mind when I think of David's life and I've studied it extensively as I've been writing a book called the process of a leader. when you read the first and second Samuel, first and second kings and see the life of David three things stand out.

All one slide:

1. David is a friend of God. David had a simple & meaningful friendship w/ God (You can too)
2. David is a courageous leader (Which came from His friendship with God)
3. David is a type of Christ
4. David is the temple - the house of God on earth. *David learns what we need to learn - God is mobile & present within. We are God's temple. Acts 2 completes this picture.*

David is one of my favorite people in the Bible

He's honest. He's humble. He's courageous and God blesses him over and over as he puts his trust in God.

As you might know, God had anointed him as King. We read about that in 1 Samuel 16. God directs the prophet Samuel to choose David and he's actually out in a field and has to be called in because David's dad, Jesse, left him out of the line up.

God chooses David because of his pure heart. God promises to establish his throne forever" a unique promise that can't literally be fulfilled but is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus who is born from Joseph's line - Joseph, the carpenter, being a decedent of David.

So let's start with this

1. David is a friend of God.

When we read the Psalms, we find many of David's early writings - his poetry and his journal entries. He clearly found a love for God at a young age. Apparently God revealed himself to young David while he was out in the field, tending his father's sheep.

Psalm 8:1-6

O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

- 2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

- 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

- 4 what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
- 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
- 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Ps 8:1–6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

See how David's view of God humbles him and gives him proper perspective?

David was a poet, a songwriter and really a philosopher as he loved to think about life, it's brevity, it's importance and the Creator who started it all.

In Psalms like this we find that David was truly aware of who he was - one small human - created by one BIG God - yet known by God, loved by God, even given dominion and authority by God.

He marveled at the heavens and the earth and we should too!

I was standing on the top of a small mountain yesterday morning in WV with some guys from church on our Dads and Sons trip.

Here's a picture.

I had this verse already in my sermon so I thought - why not show a picture of what we saw.

Why not do what David did? Collectively as God's people, marvel at God's creation "the work of His hands" It truly is amazing!

So David was impressed by God, humbled by God and even loved by God.

I thought as I was writing this sermon - instead of just talking about David and telling his story, we should use some of his writings in a way, let David speak to us today. Let's read from Ps 18

Psalm 18:16-27

¹⁶ He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters. ¹⁷ He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my
support. ¹⁹ He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me. ²⁰ The Lord dealt with me
according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he
rewarded me. ²¹ For I have kept the ways of the Lord,

and have not wickedly departed from my God. ²² For all his rules were before me, and his statutes I did not put away from me.

²³ I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from my guilt.

²⁴ So the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight. ²⁵ With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; ²⁶ with the purified you show yourself pure; and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. ²⁷ For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.”

Here, we find Dave’s dependency on God. We find that David was humbled by God and had the proper “fear of the Lord” that gave him wisdom - that same fear and respect of God that we all should have.

David knew that GOD was his source of strength, of joy, of life itself.

David’s simple and meaningful friendship with God teaches us that we too can have that.

In one of the greatest Christian writings of all time experiencing the depths of Jesus Christ by Jeanne Guyon writes...

There is a prayer that goes beyond your mind because your mind is very limited. You mine can only focus on one thing at a time. There is a prayer that is a key to friendship with God that is given to God on interrupted by thinking, it is the prayer of simplicity. Yes there is one thing. Selfish desires can cause this prayer to cease.

But even hear there is encouragement for once you have enjoyed your Lord and taste the sweetness of his love, you will find that you’re even your selfish desires no longer have any hold any power. You’ll find it impossible to have pleasure in anything except Jesus!

I realize that some of you feel you are too slow or that you are un-spiritual and unable to attain this relationship with God. Dear reader there is nothing in this universe that is easier to obtain than the enjoyment of Jesus Christ!

Your Lord is more present to you than you are to yourself! Furthermore His desire to give Himself to you is greater than your desire to lay hold of him.

Well then, how do you begin this friendship? Do you need only one thing. Do you need only to know how to see Him. When you have found a way to see Him you will discover that this way to God is more natural and easier than taking a breath. By this pair of simplicity, this experiencing of Christ deep within you, you may live by God himself with less difficulty and with less interruption then you know we’re by the air what you take into you. If this is true then I ask, would it be a sin not to pray the prayer of simplicity? Once you have learned to know Jesus Christ and lay hold of Him, you will find the way of life so easy that you no longer neglect this relationship to your Lord!

She was right in saying that. **“Your Lord is more present to you than you are to yourself!”**

Rock of Grace family, guests with us today, you need to know this.

God is closer to you than you think.

When you wake up in the morning, He is there.

When you pour a cup of coffee, He is there.

When you travel to West Virginia with a group of friends to create some amazing memories, He is RIGHT THERE with you!

When you have a bad day at work, God is there.

When you fight with your spouse and when you're feeling regret and lost in your marriage, GOD is there.

David knew this. David taught us this.

David let his weakness be made known to God.

He didn't try to hide from God. That's one of my favorite things about him.

Read the Psalms and you'll see that David doesn't hide from God but rather approaches Him with humility, not arrogance, but genuine humility? Why? He understands that God is wanting to stay in close relationship with him. He understands what we need to understand that God wants us to know Him - to be near Him - to love Him.

God is not far from you!

So in the field, we see that David is a friend of God. And that remains throughout his life.

But next we find that God takes him on this journey of becoming a courageous leader.

2. David is a courageous leader.

In 1 Sam 23-24 we find that David is running for his life from his father-in-law king Saul who is pursuing him to kill him. One of the reasons I believe got instructed a lot of men to come and support David 400 in particular at the cave of Adullam is because of his sense of honor.

because he honored the Lord he honored the authority that was placed in his life.

twice he was given the chance to kill Saul they chose not to knowing that if God anointed him to be king that God would appointment the right time.

When we read of the second chance David had to kill Saul, we see in 1 Sam 26 that David and Abishai had the chance to kill Saul because the Lord caused Saul and all his men to fall into such a deep sleep."

David honored authority every time he was given the chance because he understood that authority is given by God. His respect for God gave him a respect for authority.

The Lord makes you successful when you put him first.

If you're successful know that it's God who blesses you...

David was able to be courageous because he allowed himself to find his sonship, his identity in being God's son.

I truly believe that We are more apt to take bold risks and take on new adventures, to be courageous, when we realize that we are a king's kid, that we are a child of God!

Little boys are courageous. Their fort is their castle and they are it's king. Sometimes we lose that childlike faith as we get older. David didn't lose that and God doesn't want us to either. David didn't lose that heart for adventure and that childlike faith. We can be encouraged today that God is with us in every battle!

Are you lacking courage??

Then may be like David, you need to find your identity in being fathered by God

In Psalm 65 David writes "You are a Father to the fatherless" "You place the orphans in homes"

He also writes "Even though my mother and father have forsaken me You oh Lord will never leave me."

Because David knew who he was as a child of God that GOD was his father and that GOD was his best friend, this gave him the courage no matter what he faced.

Maybe today this point in the sermon is for you.

You're facing something difficult - a situation you didn't expect ...

Be reminded today that your identity is in being a friend of God so you can have COURAGE today. You can know that you WILL get through this trial.

3. David is a type of Christ

David is a picture of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

He is our prophetic king. He is the one who fights our battles and defeats the Goliath of sin and WE stand there and simply receive His victory!

As I read through first and second Samuel, I saw vividly how in many ways, David's actions reflect what we see in Jesus. It's not surprising that the prophet Samuel prophesied to David that he would be the "Head of Nations." David himself prophesied unknowingly about Jesus as he spoke about himself in many of the Psalms we've grown to love. One of those being Psalm 18:43-48 "You delivered me from strife with the people; you made me the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me. 44 As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me; foreigners came cringing to me. 45 Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses. 46 The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation— 47 the God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me, 48 who rescued me from my

enemies; yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from the man of violence.” ESV

God, likewise, subdued Jesus’ enemies under Him and exalted Him above all. God delivered Jesus from the grave! God made him the “Head of Nations” and Lord of all and gave Him all authority and all power. God made Jesus the firstborn among many Hebrews tells us! You are the brother or sister of Jesus when you accept Him as Savior! You, like Jesus, are raised from the grave and “seated in Heavenly places” with Him!

This is also why Jesus was born to a carpenter named Joseph - Joseph was in the lineage of King David. It was said numerous times that Jesus would be the “son of David” and this even became a sort-of nickname for Jesus as he traveled to certain towns such as Bethlehem, David’s home town. People would call out to Jesus “Son of David!”

David defeated every enemy of Israel. Every single time he went to war against nations who would come against Israel, they won.

Many felt the joy of victory.

Can you see it? Imagine it with me!

David would come home with his mighty men, tired and wounded from battle, but once again, another victory.

You’d be so thankful that your spouse and children weren’t taken as slaves or tortured in any way - some of the things that happened when you lost a war.

The people of Israel were so thankful for David’s courage and victory.

Jesus, like David, defeated every enemy in your life so you can experience peace!

That depression and unexplained anxiety - Jesus defeated that when He died on the cross for you!

That greed that rises up in your heart - that need to hold on to every dollar for fear that one day you won’t have any money left - Jesus defeated that enemy. Many of you are now free from that fear and that greed and JESUS did that for you!

That anger - some of you used to have a temper -

Some of you haven’t surrendered to Jesus yet. Some of you are still battling these things in life ON YOUR OWN and you don’t have to!

Some of you haven’t looked to Jesus like the people of Israel looked to David.

Some of you haven’t begun to trust Jesus yet to be your victor. You’re trying to do it all on your own. Don’t try to do this thing called life on your own. It’s not designed to work that way.

You don’t have to try to impress God! You just have to surrender to Him.

You are not far from God!

You don't have to get your act together. You just have to worship Jesus and let HIM give you a better way. **You are not far from God!**

You don't have to do more good things than you do bad things for God to say that you're allowed to enter His perfect Heaven. Jesus has made that entrance available to you! Jesus was good enough FOR you. Jesus purchased YOUR ticket. So I've got news for you. **You are not far from God!**

The fourth thing I love about David's life is that David learns something over the course of his life, in particular his time as King.

4. David is the temple - the house of God on earth.

I want to shift my focus now to those of you that are already following Jesus. I want to talk about our MISSION on the earth.

Our mission is tell others what we've learned about Jesus - that He has become OUR savior, OUR best friend.

David learns what we need to learn - but it takes him time.

We have the benefit of reading Scripture and learning from his encounters with God - his conversations with God. In reading them, we learn the thoughts of God. **The thoughts and heart of God concerning mankind is not that** God is mobile & present within. We are God's temple. Acts 2 completes this picture but we'll come to that in a few minutes.

David wanted to build a house - a temple - for God. He felt that it wasn't right that he would be a human king, living in a palace and God wouldn't have a permanent temple - a home.

God finds this amusing of course because God occupies all of Heaven and says "I

Then God blesses David with this promise.

Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ' ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a

place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ”¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (2 Sa 7:5–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

David’s life created a gateway from this world to the next. David’s life created a way for others to know God.

You are not far from God! Neither is your neighbor. Neither is your co-worker.

God has always loved the idea of His presence and power moving about in a mobile way on the earth - creating a place for ALL to come to Him. Again, **You are not far from God!**

but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel

You are the temple of God - the place where lost people find their Creator God and learn to worship Him.

You heard me say that two months ago and I can’t preach a sermon on David and not say that again. YOU are the temple of God.

You know you’re walking in the presence of God - carrying the presence of God - when people either love you or hate you. People either love or hate God. There’s no indifference. They either mock God, blame God, question His very existence OR they totally love Jesus and have had a revelation of His goodness.

When you’re the temple of God on earth, carrying the presence of God on earth, you might start having the same effect on people.

When Micah saw David dancing in worship, bringing the ark back to camp, she “despised him” scripture says. David’s worship and friendship with God enabled this

union between two worlds - the Heavens and the Earth. David became a meeting point for many to know God.

Just like a temple is a meeting point for humans to know God, YOU become that temple, that meeting point, *living stones* the Apostle Paul calls us, *being built together to form the house of God!*

So if you're here today or listening online and you have a friend that knows Jesus, a Christian? Then I have good news for you. **You are not far from God!**

John 14

Why would Jesus say "You will do even greater things than Me" if He didn't mean it?

I love what Pastor Bill Johnson said regarding this topic last week.

It's just as important for you to walk in the power of God as it is for you to walk in the character of God. It's not an "either, or" scenario. Sadly, we've made it an either - or choice -we walk in the character of God and we value that so much that we said "Well, we don't need the miracles. We don't need to perform or have the power; we need to just have character" OK but that's not what God intended. And that's not what Jesus said. Why would Jesus say 'Go and do what I have done. Heal the sick. Preach the Gospel. Raise the lame man' if He didn't mean it? He wants you and I to walk in both the power and the character of Jesus Christ! That's why Scripture says that Jesus was fully God and fully man. He was giving a pattern for us to follow.

I gotta say ... I couldn't agree more. Jesus was the 'new human' showing us the better way." **Jesus said "I can do NOTHING on my own." What a powerful statement. He was saying "everything supernatural that I'm doing, I'm doing under the power given to me by Father God." And by the SAME SPIRIT that's given to YOU, you can go and do likewise!**

Mt 10

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 10:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

It's interesting how Jesus gives us this idea of "receiving" Jesus / receiving the message of the Gospel / receiving the messenger/prophet

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his

cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Rewards

⁴⁰ “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 10:37–42). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Mt 28

Mk 10

Acts 2

You are not far from God!

David is a TEMPLE - a meeting place for lost people

Celebrate Bob Pashley

I’m willing to do anything short of sinning to reach lost people.

Jesus would go in the house of Zacheus and befriend him. While people are drinking - getting drunk, partying, Jesus is there being real with them, befriending them, breaking the barrier between sacred and secular. Jesus IS the temple of God on the earth.

Jesus was teaching them “you are not far from God”

Jesus empowers us to do the same - to be the temple of God on the earth - to be filled with the SAME Holy Spirit to reach lost people.

You WERE far from God but JESUS made it possible for you to be CLOSE to God.

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Col 1:19–22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

#BreakRoomBreakThrough

I want you to be brave this week!

I want you to notice who is in the break-room with you at work. Notice if they have something frustrating them or stressing them out or causing them to worry. Offer to pray for them and let them know that God cares about that situation. Let them know that no situation is too small for God. He cares about them and loves them and you can show them that by praying for them. If you do so, post to our Digital Foyer with the hashtag #BreakRoomBreakThrough

David Is Compassionate

One of the hallmarks of David's life is his compassion. He is compassionate to the under-privileged and the marginalized.

He adopts Mephibosheth, the disabled grandson of the guy who tried to kill him!

He aims to express the compassions and love of God in practical ways in his life!

Let's go back to what Jesus said about the what it means to be a disciple of His.

⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ***because he is a disciple***, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Notice how Jesus said "Because he is a disciple"

The word "disciple" in that day carried a weight that may get lost in translation today.

He was speaking to predominantly Jewish followers and even those that were gentiles like the tax collector Mathew, they still all had a cultural understanding of that word "disciple"

A "disciple" was one who followed a Rabi very closely for the express purpose of becoming just like them in every way. To be a disciple of a Rabbi meant that you'd want to do what they did and even know what *they* know, about the Torah, the law, the way of Jewish life.

A disciple was committed to following His teacher's example. Jesus calls us to be disciples, not fans.

Fans show up to watch the show, maybe buy some popcorn and cheer their team on. Not disciples. Disciples are committed to becoming just like leader they follow.

These guys saw how Jesus treated kids. With patience. With love.

These guys saw how Jesus treated Samaritans - with patience, with love, with friendship.

These guys saw how Jesus treated every single person the same - as complete worthy of receiving the Father's blessing. This was a hallmark in David's life and in this sense, Jesus is a type of David, even named Son of David. He's the King who offers His protection and provision to everyone in need.

In sending them out to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons, He added this idea of serving little kids as an obvious sign of being His disciple.

For the love of Jesus to be felt by unbelievers, it must be shown in practical ways.

David had so many great characteristics so honestly, it was hard to select which ones to focus on for this message. He was a man who understood honor and Biblical authority. Twice he was given a chance to kill Saul, the very man hunting him, yet he chose to show mercy and show honor.

Honor, courage, humility, so many things we esteem in the life of David but I'd like to focus on his compassion and his character.

Jesus exemplified integrity and character at all times. It was His authenticity and integrity that inspired those fishermen and tax collectors and doctors to keep following Him. I'm sure the miracles may have hooked them (pun intended) but it was Jesus' authentic character that kept them.

In the same way, David's compassionate, genuine character is what drew 400 men to come to his side and defend him with their lives. It's what caused them to stay, even after a long, bloody fight. **David's character and genuine compassion, his genuine love for people, inspired those who were following him. Why? They saw something in him that they wanted to see in themselves.** They learned compassion from watching him. The disciples likewise learned compassion in watching Jesus, walking with Jesus and following His example.

In the same way, you can impress people for a while with your gifts or abilities, but it's your character and compassion that will cause them to truly open up to you and let you in - *let you in* to their life - their fears, their worries, those areas in their life where they need your prayer and support.

David certainly wasn't perfect. History has painted him accurately as a passionate person. He's the type to be all-in or all-out-crazy. If he did something he did it "big" whether that was wining battles each and every one - wanting to build a tabernacle for God and getting all the provisions for his son to do so - or even in the case of his weak moments, his sin, he did it big. Most of you might be familiar with the time David had an affair with Bathsheba. Turn to 2 Sam 11.

David's Sin With Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1-5

Before David was appointed King, his character tests included the opportunity to kill Saul, his King and father in law, the man who was trying to kill him! He passed the test and chose not to harm him, letting God sort out the details of revenge.

Once David was appointed King, the character tests didn't end. It's possible they were only beginning. You and I need to know that. Just because we've served God for a long time, it doesn't mean we're less prone to have a wandering, sinful heart or a carnal natural that needs crucified every now and then. Like we read last week, Jesus instructed us to take up our cross and follow Him - denying ourselves at times the very things we're tempted to have.

For now, we will face temptation and be "prone to wander" And it's possible now that if we're promoted at work or given some amazing blessings that we will face it even more, it's just a different type of temptation then. Satan, like a good business owner, knows how to re-package the same thing.

The Bible tells us that "In the time when Kings went out to war David stayed home." Three verses later we read that he noticed Bathsheba naked on the rooftop. So just think, he's lounging on his rooftop deck, ignoring his duty as King to lead the charge and lift the moral of his soldiers in battle.

David saw her and asked about her. He was warned "Don't do it. She's married." David insisted on meeting her, ignoring the voice of the Holy Spirit warning him to stay away. He let his guard down for a moment. He chose selfishness over integrity, lust over restraint.

You may know the story but I'll summarize it by saying **This one act of sin caused a domino affect inflicting harm on everyone in it's path.** Ultimately his sin not only lead to the murder of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, but also death in David's own family. His family became a nightmare following this affair and murder.

There are three things that happened before the murder, before the affair.

Isolation

Boredom Pride

When we ignore what God's calling us to do, when we begin to be lazy, we tend to be more attracted to what Satan offers. A simpler way to point out the obvious here is something I've said before ... "Bored people do dumb things." At least that's what I've noticed over the years.

Blaise Pascal, the renown mathematician and theologian, wrote **"All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone."** - Blaise Pascal

We are living in a time when stillness or rest is virtually obsolete ...

What does this have to do with the first half of the sermon - David's friendship with God?

David was a friend of God, that's for sure.

David was close to God and loved God dearly, as his very own Father! We can see that based on what he writes in the book of Psalms.

But I wonder if David's alone time with God had started to suffer.

I wonder if David's friendship with God had started to suffer.

He had lost some of the WONDER of knowing God.

When you lose your wonder, you begin to wander.

Don't lose the wonder of knowing Jesus, His friendship, His nearness, His power to heal and to save.

When you do and you begin to feel "bored" in life, be careful, that's a warning sign.

That boredom is a warning that you may not be doing what God has asked you to do.

That void of not doing God's will and being bored puts you in a place where you then feel the need to fill the need and to do so by sinning.

David was supposed to be on the battle field with his men. He wasn't supposed to be on that roof! When you avoid what God tells you to do, Satan will give you

I love how Jesus said "My satisfaction comes from doing the will of My Father."

Let the Lord's voice fill that role.

Again, bored people, including bored leaders, do dumb things. Let the Lord fill you with wonder again! Do what you have to do to find that wonder. Spend a few days in prayer. Go sight-seeing and take in some of God's creation. List on paper what's amazing about God. But when you feel yourself getting bored, that's the yellow light before the red light of a collision. Be filled with wonder at the goodness of God in the life of Jesus! Find what God's called you to do and stay faithful in it.

Holiness is about letting God separate you from the world. This doesn't happen just once at our salvation. Yes, we are born again and receive a new nature! But just like one who is born, there is growing up to do, there are things to learn. We are saved.

We are being saved. And one day we'll be completely saved. That is how the Apostle Paul put it. God has "given us every thing we need for right living" and we've been "given a new nature" through Christ. But we must allow the transformation to take place.

If we could invite Charles Spurgeon to the table and ask him to talk to us about this idea of character tests and allowing God to make us "holy" he'd say something like the following taken from a devotional he wrote in 1896

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling." — 2 Timothy 1:9

The apostle uses the perfect tense and says, "Who hath saved us." Believers in Christ Jesus are saved. They are not looked upon as persons who are in a hopeful state, and may ultimately be saved, but they are already saved. Salvation is not a blessing to be enjoyed upon the dying bed, and to be sung of in a future state above, but a matter to be obtained, received, promised, and enjoyed now. The Christian is perfectly saved in God's purpose; God has ordained him unto salvation, and that purpose is complete. He is saved also as to the price which has been paid for him: "It is finished" was the cry of the Saviour when He died. The believer is also perfectly saved in his covenant head, for as he fell in Adam, so he lives in Christ. This complete salvation is accompanied by a holy calling. Those whom the Saviour saved upon the cross are in due time effectually called by the power of God the Holy Spirit unto holiness: they leave their sins; they endeavour to be like Christ; they choose holiness, not out of any compulsion, but from the stress of a new nature, which leads them to rejoice in holiness just as naturally as aforesaid they delighted in sin. God neither chose them nor called them because they were holy, but he called them that they might be holy, and holiness is the beauty produced by *His* workmanship in them. The excellencies which we see in a believer are as much the work of God as the atonement itself. Thus is brought out very sweetly the fulness of the grace of God. Salvation must be of grace, because the Lord is the author of it: and what motive but grace could move him to save the guilty? Salvation must be of grace, because the Lord works in such a manner that our righteousness is for ever excluded. Such is the believer's privilege—a present salvation; such is the evidence that he is called to it—a holy life.

Spurgeon, C. H. (1896). *Morning and evening: Daily readings*. London: Passmore & Alabaster.

We're all called to a holy life and Spurgeon invites us into that life of holiness, the life that glorifies God. If we are to be *holy* and if our lives are to glorify God then we've got to be willing to heed the voice of the *Holy* Spirit when He warns us to stay away from sin be it pornography, greed, anger, jealousy, pride, you name it.

PICTURE OF A SKYSCRAPER BUILDING

So that new buildings can be constructed in cities, large buildings often need to be removed. And there is more than one way to take down a large structure. Instead of attaching large wrecking balls to cranes and destroying a building from the outside, demolition experts often take down the building from the

inside. They place explosive devices at critical structural points in the building and set them off in sequence so that the building topples from the inside. It implodes, and people come from all over to watch it fall. People love to see a good implosion.

Before the implosion happens, everything seems normal to the casual onlooker.

There is not a crane, a wrecking ball, or construction workers in hardhats announcing the looming destruction. Except for the caution tape, everything looks normal. But beneath the surface, the implosion is being meticulously planned, and the building does not stand a chance.

Leaders implode too. While attacks from the outside can harm leaders, implosion from the inside is what takes many leaders down.

When David, the king of Israel, imploded and traded his integrity for a night with a woman who was married to one of his soldiers, there were several explosives at work on the foundation of his life (see 2 Samuel 11:1-5). He was isolated, as he sent men away who would have held him accountable. He was bored, as he walked on the roof of the palace looking for something else instead of thinking on the Lord, as he would later do, through the watches of the night. He was filled with pride, as he insisted people bring Bathsheba to him even though they pointed out that she was married.

Isolation. Boredom. Pride. When these three reside in your life, you're headed toward implosion - a drastic sinful mistake - a moral failure.

Think of these as the flashing warning lights.