



LIVING IN GOD'S SAFETY IN AN UNSAFE WORLD
COURSE WORKBOOK

Also used as
Small Group Leader Guide

LIVING IN GOD'S SAFETY IN AN UNSAFE WORLD COURSE WORKBOOK

Leader Guide

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



Dedication

To my wife, Linda, who like all of us who has a strong desire to live in safety in a very “unsafe” world—not through being exempted from trouble, adversity, difficult circumstances—especially since the world by definition is most unsafe—but rather through living in the joy and promise of Safety that only God can provide. She understands that though we will experience times of not being safe, she assists me and the family to walk with God into His protection and safety in the middle of the “unsafe”. Through this belief and conviction, we can overcome the natural feeling of the fear & consequences of being unsafe, as we seek the Father together to know the steps to take to resolve the trouble and give us an immediate sense of safety while we are walking into the resolution. Her courage and faith have been a strong source of comfort in our lives and in the lives of others around us—and as is characteristic of her, she brings a joy to it all—“this ought to be interesting” as she lives in fun, laughter and the joy of the Lord even though the circumstances are difficult. It is an honor to have such a partner who continues to remind us that we can live in God’s safety in an unsafe place.

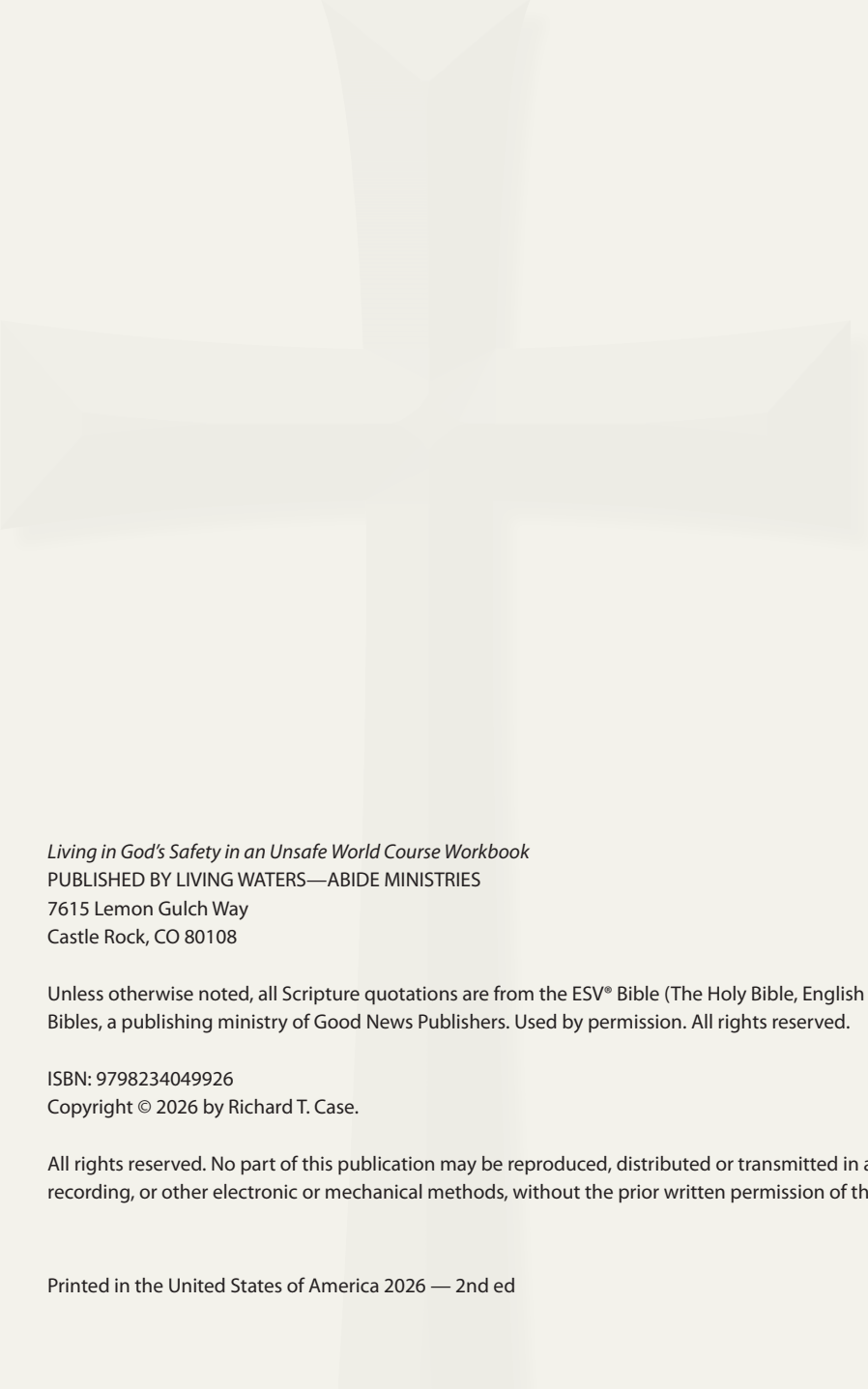
We together also wish to honor our family who have learned this and join us in walking forward feeling safe and knowing that God will provide real safety.

Acknowledgments

We wish to honor all of the leaders of our **Abide Ministries**. As each person and each couple have learned to live in God's safety. Since we all experience life that is unsafe and full of trouble, their experience of God's safety reminds us that this is not once on a while, partial, or luck—rather they assist us to stay in the safety of God as they teach others of the of the privilege and importance of living in God's safety—They bear witness not to the intellectual knowledge of this, but the true experience of it—and thus encourages us and all to whom they give it away.

These leaders are:

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THE NATURE OF FEAR AND THE NATURE OF GOD



"Safety is a place of security where we're not in a place that has side effects that put us in danger, harm, threat, or difficulty."

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our course on Living in God's Safety in an Unsafe World. We live in a world that, as we can all appreciate, is getting less safe and more dangerous every day. This course will explore what it looks like to live in God's safety by examining:

1. The impact of fear and what it does to us
2. The nature of God who is safe
3. What He promises to deliver to us
4. How we receive and stay in that beautiful place of safety

DEFINING SAFETY

Safety can be defined as:

- Security
- Absence of threat
- A peaceful place
- Where we're not at risk
- Where it's likely we won't lose something
- Where we feel comfortable and protected

Safety is a place of security where we're not in a place that has side effects that put us in danger, harm, threat, or difficulty. We all aspire to live there, but we have a problem: the world isn't very safe.

If you'd like to know more about
Abide Ministries,
please see our pages
at the back of the workbook

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THE UNSAFE WORLD WE LIVE IN

What makes our world unsafe?

- **Terrorism**—Even coming to our local communities
- **Wars**—Conflicts that could affect us
- **Economic instability**—Uncertainty about financial security
- **School safety concerns**—Parents worried about sending children to school
- **Personal adversity**—Issues in relationships, church, business, and with people we engage with

The world is unsafe both globally and personally. It's getting less safe partly because of:

- Lack of care
- Deceit and manipulation
- Self-centeredness

PERSONAL EXERCISE

Before continuing, write down the specific things in your world that are impacting your sense of danger and causing you to feel a lack of safety.

These could include concerns about:

- Relationships
- Work/finances
- Health
- Family situations
- Church issues
- Current events

You will use these throughout the course as we process what God wants to speak about them and how to move from concern, risk, and danger to a place of actual safety.

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PART 1: THE IMPACT AND CONSEQUENCES OF FEAR

Fear is a natural response to unsafe circumstances, but staying in fear drives us away from God's path and into self-reliance, deception, and despair. Let's examine how fear affected biblical characters:

Let's look at what happens when fear takes over. What did Adam and Eve do immediately after they sinned, and how did fear drive their response?

1. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6-13)

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

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What happened?

- They lost their connection with God immediately
- Fear drove them to hide and cover up
- Fear drove them to blame others
- They tried to manipulate the situation to avoid consequences

Key insight: Fear causes us to flee, blame, cover up, and try to control outcomes instead of trusting God.

God told Jacob to go home. So why did Jacob decide to sneak away using deceit instead of trusting God's protection?

2. Jacob (Genesis 31:17-32, 42-44)

¹⁷ So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. ¹⁸ He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. ¹⁹ Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. ²⁰ And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. ²¹ He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

²² When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, ²³ he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. ²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

²⁵ And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead.

²⁶ And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? ²⁷ Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? ²⁸ And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. ²⁹ It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke

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to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'³⁰ And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"³¹ Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force."³² Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

⁴³ Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne?" ⁴⁴ Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me."

What happened?

- God told Jacob to go home
- Jacob heard God but decided to sneak away instead
- Fear drove him to use deceit because he didn't trust God's protection
- He thought he had to manipulate circumstances for his own protection
- God had already protected him by speaking to Laban in a dream

Key insight: Fear causes us to make our own decisions and use methods like deceit, even when God has given clear instruction. It reveals we don't trust God.

Even after God demonstrated His power, Moses still refused the assignment. What was Moses afraid of that caused him to say 'send someone else'?

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3. Moses (Exodus 4:1-17)

⁴ Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'" ² The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." ³ And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. ⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— ⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." ⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. ⁷ Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign." ⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." ¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." ¹³ But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. ¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. ¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

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What happened?

- God gave Moses an assignment with demonstrations of His power
- Moses responded: "Send someone else"
- Fear of failure caused Moses to refuse God's assignment
- He focused on his inadequacies rather than God's ability

Key insight: Fear drives us away from where God wants us to go and what He wants us to fulfill, because we focus on our limitations instead of His power.

God promised the Promised Land, but ten spies said 'we are not able.' What did their fear cause them to focus on instead of God's promise?

4. The Spies (Numbers 13:30-14:10)

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."³¹ Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are."³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height."³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

¹⁴ Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night.

² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!"³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?"⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

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⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. ⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." ¹⁰ Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

What happened?

- God promised the Promised Land
- Ten spies said "We are not able" because of fear
- They focused on circumstances, not God's promise
- They rationalized that slavery in Egypt would have been better
- They essentially called God a liar
- Fear caused them to want to go backward instead of forward
- Result: They wandered 40 years and died outside God's will (Hebrews says it was because they refused to be persuaded)

Key insight: Fear can happen to believers who are even attempting to follow God. When circumstances overwhelm us, we can stop moving forward with God and choose to stay stuck.

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When Goliath challenged Israel, what did fear do to Saul and his entire army?

5. King Saul (1 Samuel 17:1-11)

¹⁷ Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

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What happened?

- Goliath challenged Israel to one-on-one combat
- Saul (the king who should fight) was afraid
- The entire army was “dismayed and greatly afraid”
- They were in terror—stymied, stuck in a double bind
- They couldn’t move forward or backward

Key insight: Fear can cause complete paralysis. You become frozen, unable to see any way out, hoping something will change before you’re forced to act.

David should have been at battle but stayed home. After his sin with Bathsheba, what did fear of being exposed drive him to do?

6. King David (2 Samuel 11:1-5, then the consequences)

¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

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What happened?

- David should have been at battle but stayed home
- He committed adultery with Bathsheba
- When she became pregnant, fear of being exposed drove him deeper
- He tried to cover it up by bringing Uriah home (failed)
- He then arranged Uriah's murder
- David committed adultery AND murder, driven by fear of exposure

Key insight: Fear of consequences can drive us into increasingly deeper deception and sin. What seems contradictory to a person's typical character can happen when fear takes over.

Elijah just had a great victory, but Jezebel's threat sent him running. What did fear drive Elijah to ask God to do?

7. Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-10)

¹⁹ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." ⁸ And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

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⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁰ He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

What happened?

- After a great victory, Jezebel threatened Elijah
- Fear caused him to flee
- He became so discouraged he wanted to die
- He told God: “I’ve had it. There’s no more value to life. I’m giving up.”

Key insight: Fear can lead to resignation and despair, causing us to give up pursuing God entirely, even after experiencing His victory.

SUMMARY: WHAT FEAR DOES TO US

Looking at these characters, we see that fear:

1. **Drives us away from God’s path**—We start making decisions based on circumstances instead of God’s instruction
2. **Causes us to use ungodly methods**—Deceit, manipulation, cover-ups
3. **Paralyzes us**—We get stuck, unable to move
4. **Leads to deeper sin**—One compromise leads to another
5. **Results in resignation**—We give up and stop pursuing God’s best

Critical Point: Did God prevent these people from living in an unsafe world? No. The key question is: What do you do with that reality?

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PART 2: GOD’S CHARACTERISTICS—HIS NATURE IS SAFETY

While fear drives us away from God, God’s very nature is to be our place of safety. Let’s look at what Scripture says about who He is:

We’ve seen how fear drives us away from God. Now let’s look at God’s nature. What does God promise to those living in an unsafe world with enemies?

God is Your Dwelling Place and Deliverer (Deuteronomy 33:26-29)

²⁶ “There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty. ²⁷ The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, ‘Destroy.’ ²⁸ So Israel lived in safety, Jacob lived alone, in a land of grain and wine, whose heavens drop down dew. ²⁹ Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, the shield of your help, and the sword of your triumph! Your enemies shall come fawning to you, and you shall tread upon their backs.”

What this means:

- God says: “I will give you safety and security”
- Why? Because He IS safety and security
- His nature is power and safety
- You’re in battle with an enemy, but God will deliver you

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What does it mean that God's name is like a strong tower that nobody can get to?

God is a Strong Tower (Proverbs 18:10)

¹⁰ The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

What this means:

- God's name represents all His characteristics
- He is like an impenetrable tower
- When you come to Him and stay with Him, nobody can get to you
- This is paired with Psalm 144:1-2...

God is our fortress and deliverer. But what does He say He's going to do for us —is it passive or active?

God Trains You for Battle (Psalm 144:1-2)

¹⁴⁴ Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; ² he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

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What this means:

- God is your fortress, deliverer, stronghold
- He doesn't just say "hide"—He says "I'm going to train you"
- You'll be active in the process with Him
- This is not passive—you engage in battle WITH God
- He protects you while you're fighting together

Key insight: Safety with God is not hiding while He fixes things. It's actively walking with Him into the battle while He fights for you and trains you.

When do you need help? When are you experiencing fear? What does God say about being available right now?

God is a Present Help (Psalm 46:1-7)

⁴⁶ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

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What this means:

- God is a PRESENT help—available NOW when you need Him
- When do you need help? NOW
- When are you experiencing fear? NOW
- God says: “Don’t worry, I’m here for you. I’ll take care of you. Stay with me.”

God hasn’t resolved your problem yet. So why can you praise Him before it happens?

God is Your Fortress in Distress (Psalm 59:16-17)

¹⁶ But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. ¹⁷ O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

What this means:

- God shows you His covenant love (steadfast love = blessing you to make you a blessing)
- Before resolution comes, you can praise God
- Why? Because of who He is
- If you know who He is, you can praise Him WHILE you’re in the middle of difficulty

Key question: Why can you praise God before the problem is resolved?

Answer: Because you know His nature—He WILL resolve it. That certainty allows you to praise Him now.

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On what basis can we say 'I guarantee God will resolve it'? What makes His promise absolutely certain?

God's Promise is Guaranteed (Hebrews 6:13-18)

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

What this means:

- God guarantees His promise will be fulfilled
- On what basis? His unchangeable nature
- God CANNOT lie—it's impossible
- He is immutable (cannot change)

This is why we can say with confidence: "I guarantee you that God will resolve it."

Why? Because that's what God says, and He cannot do anything else. His nature requires Him to fulfill His promise.

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PART 3: GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER US

Because God's nature is safety, He makes specific promises to us:

God promises safety, but is it generic or specific? Where does He say He's going to lead you?

Promise #1: God Will Lead You to a Specific Place of Safety (Deuteronomy 12:10-11)

¹⁰ But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety, ¹¹ then to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell there, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, and all your finest vow offerings that you vow to the LORD.

What this means:

- God has a SPECIFIC place for you
- It could be a job, a church, a geography, a house, a small group
- He says: "Go to the place I tell you to go"
- That's where safety will happen
- It's not generic—it's unique to you

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Key insight: God doesn't say "don't worry, I'll take care of it somehow." He says "I have a specific solution for your specific situation. Follow Me there."

Notice the word that keeps repeating here. How many of your troubles will God deliver you from?

Promise #2: God Will Deliver You from ALL Your Troubles (Psalm 34:4-7, 17-20)

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
⁵ Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

What this means:

- Notice the repetition: "delivers from ALL troubles"—"out of ALL troubles"—"out of them ALL"
- How many troubles? EVERY SINGLE ONE
- He doesn't say SOME troubles—He says ALL

Critical distinction:

- He doesn't say "you'll never have trouble"
- He says "you'll have MANY troubles"
- BUT—He will deliver you out of EVERY SINGLE ONE

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God says ‘no evil shall befall you.’ Does that mean you won’t encounter trouble, or does it mean something else?

Promise #3: God Will Protect and Deliver in Every Way (Psalm 91:1-12)

⁹¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge— ¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Important note on verse 10: “No evil shall be allowed to befall you”

The Hebrew word for “evil” here doesn’t mean dark, black evil. It means things that annoy, frustrate, and irritate you—things that cause fear.

What this means:

- You WILL encounter these things
- But they won’t STAY and remain as a characteristic of your life
- God will take care of them and resolve them

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After God resolves your issues and brings you to safety, what does He say you're going to do next?

Promise #4: God Will Build You Up in Safety (Ezekiel 28:25-26)

²⁵ "Thus says the Lord GOD: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they shall dwell in their own land that I gave to my servant Jacob. ²⁶ And they shall dwell securely in it, and they shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall dwell securely, when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God."

What this means:

- God will lead you to a place of joy
- He will resolve the issue
- Then He will have you build strength
- You'll develop character and strengthen the safety around you
- All along, you'll experience joy because you're not afraid

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CLOSING EXERCISE FOR SESSION 1

Now that you understand God's nature and His promises, go back to the list you made at the beginning—the things causing you fear and making you feel unsafe.

Do this:

1. Write them out in even more detail
2. For each one, acknowledge: "Father, You said if I follow You, You will resolve these issues"
3. Begin the process of asking Him for wisdom and insight

In our next session, we'll go into detail about the specific steps we take to experience this safety. But for now:

Start processing this with God:

- Get firmly in your mind that God IS safety
- He WILL deliver safety
- How many issues will He resolve? EVERY SINGLE ONE. ALL OF THEM.

Begin moving in that direction and see where it leads you.

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SESSION 1 QUESTIONS

For Scriptural Understanding:

1. In Genesis 3:10, Adam says “I was afraid” after eating the forbidden fruit. What does this verse reveal about the immediate consequence of sin and how it affected Adam’s relationship with God?

2. According to Hebrews 6:17-18, God made His promise to Abraham by swearing by Himself. What does this passage teach about the certainty of God’s promises, and why is it described as “impossible for God to lie”?

3. Psalm 34:19 states, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.” What is significant about both parts of this verse—both the reality of affliction and the scope of God’s deliverance?

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For Deeper Understanding:

1. The author presents seven biblical examples of fear's consequences (Adam, Jacob, Moses, the spies, Saul, David, and Elijah). What common patterns do you see in how fear drove these individuals away from God's path?

2. How does the concept of God being a "strong tower" (Proverbs 18:10) relate to the idea that "you have to be where He is" to experience safety?

3. The transcript distinguishes between God saying "I'll take you away from trouble" versus "I'll deliver you OUT of trouble." Why is this distinction important for understanding how God provides safety?

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For Personal Application:

1. Looking at the list of fears you wrote at the beginning of this session, which biblical character's response to fear most resonates with your own tendencies? (hiding/blaming like Adam, manipulating like Jacob, refusing God's call like Moses, etc.)

2. The teaching emphasizes that God's nature is immutable (unchangeable) and that He guarantees His promises. How does understanding God's unchanging nature specifically address the fears you've identified in your own life?

3. Psalm 59:16-17 describes praising God BEFORE the situation is resolved, based on knowing His character. Choose one specific fear from your list. What would it look like to begin praising God now for the deliverance you haven't yet seen, based on His nature and promises?



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“If God promises safety, HOW do we actually experience it?”

REVIEW FROM SESSION 1

In our first session, we established three foundational truths:

1. **We live in an unsafe world** that produces fear, both globally and personally
2. **God’s nature IS safety**—He is our fortress, refuge, deliverer, and present help
3. **God promises to deliver us from ALL our troubles**—every single one

We also learned that fear drives us away from God and into self-reliance, deception, paralysis, or despair. The biblical examples showed us that even believers who are following God can let fear drive them off His path.

Now we must answer the critical question: **If God promises safety, HOW do we actually experience it?** There are conditions for receiving His promised safety.

PART 1: SHIFTING FROM FEAR TO FAITH

The Israelites were trapped between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea—a natural place for fear. What did God tell Moses to say to the people about their fear?

The Example at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:10-14)

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than

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to die in the wilderness.”¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.”¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

The Situation:

- Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued the Israelites
- They were trapped between the army and the Red Sea
- They thought: “This is worse than slavery—at least we knew what would happen there”
- Their natural response: **Fear**

God’s Response Through Moses:

- “Fear not”—Don’t stay in your fear
- “Stand firm”—Believe I will deliver you
- “See the salvation of the LORD”—Watch what I’m about to do
- “The LORD will fight for you”—I’m fighting FOR you

Key Truth: Fear is a natural emotion when facing impossible circumstances. But God says: “**Don’t STAY in your fear. Flip fear to peace by believing I will fight for you.**”

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God says 'don't be afraid.' What's the first thing He tells you to DO to move from fear to faith?

How to Move from Fear to Faith: REMEMBER

God told the Israelites to remember what He had done in the past (Deuteronomy 7:17-24):

¹⁷ "If you say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?' ¹⁸ you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, ¹⁹ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. ²⁰ Moreover, the LORD your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. ²¹ You shall not be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. ²² The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. ²³ But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. ²⁴ And he will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

What God is saying:

- **Remember** what I did before
- What I have done before, **I will do again**
- That's My nature—I don't change

Why remember?

- It builds your faith
- If He did it before, He can do it again
- It reminds you of His character and power

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Important Note: The Process is Step-by-Step

- God says “little by little”—not all at once
- Why? Because you can’t handle or occupy the full victory immediately
- The resolution comes progressively as you walk with Him

What this does for your heart:

- You become **courageous**
- You have **confidence** to move forward
- You **trust** God to lead you through

God says ‘be strong and courageous’—but we’ve learned it’s not up to us. So what does this actually mean when He hasn’t told you HOW or WHEN?

The Requirement: Be Strong and Courageous (Deuteronomy 31:1-6)

³¹ So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. ² And he said to them, “I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.’ ³ The LORD your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the LORD has spoken. ⁴ And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. ⁵ And the LORD will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

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Key phrase: “Be strong and courageous”

But remember: We’ve already learned it’s not up to us—so what does this mean?

It means:

- **Courage** = Trust Him for everything you need, even when the outcome is unknown
- **Strength** = Character strength to not go back to fear; to keep going, stay in the game, let God guide you step by step

The unknown elements:

- God says WHAT He will deliver
- But He doesn’t say HOW
- And He doesn’t say WHEN

That’s where courage is required—to keep going without knowing all the details.

When you’re in difficulty, who is God going to send to help you? And how do you know if they’re speaking His words or their own opinions?

Example: Messengers and Discernment (Deuteronomy 18:15-22)

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ ²¹ And if you say in your

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heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him."

What God is saying:

- I will send messengers (your inner circle—spouse, friends) to speak into your situation
- They will give you encouragement
- But you must **discern**—are they speaking MY words or their own opinions?

How it works:

- God will also speak the same thing to YOU directly
- This gives you confirmation
- You're not just relying on what someone else says
- You're hearing from God yourself

The promise: "Do not be afraid of false information"

- God will help you discern what's for you and what's not
- If it's not for you, don't pay attention
- If it IS for you, pay attention and let's go

Key principle: Don't do this alone. Have your inner circle, but learn to hear God's voice for yourself and get confirmation.

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PART 2: THE PATH TO SAFETY—WALKING INTO BATTLE

Does God say ‘stay on the sidelines and I’ll fix it,’ or does He call you to move forward? What’s His role and what’s yours?

God Calls You to Move Forward (Deuteronomy 20:1-4)

²⁰ “When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ² And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people ³ and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, ⁴ for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’”

Critical Truth: God does NOT say:

- “Stay on the sidelines and I’ll fix it”
- “Do your best and I’ll bless your plan”
- “Figure it out on your own”

God DOES say:

- “We are going INTO battle together”
- “Get ready, but don’t be afraid”
- “I will fight FOR you”
- “I will give you victory”

What this means for us:

- Yes, you have a negative circumstance
- Don’t ignore it, don’t diminish it, don’t just accept it
- But let’s GO—walk WITH God into the resolution
- Stay WITH Him as He works

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Hezekiah's enemy had 'an arm of flesh' but Israel had God. How does understanding that God is superior to every threat change your perspective?

God is Superior to Every Threat (2 Chronicles 32:1-8)

³² After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself. ² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, ³ he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. ⁴ A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?" ⁵ He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance. ⁶ And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ⁷ "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. ⁸ With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Hezekiah's message:

- "They have an arm of flesh" (natural power)
- "We have the LORD our God" (supernatural power)
- "He will help us and fight our battles"

Key truth: Nothing is too difficult for God. Whatever you're facing, God is stronger.

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How does this change your perspective?

- If you really believe God is superior to your problem...
- You can say: "We can do it. I'm not concerned."
- You don't need to be afraid
- You don't need to get stuck
- You won't say "this will never work"

Why would you believe it WILL work? Because God is stronger than the problem.

PART 3: THE CORE CONDITION—ABIDING IN THE KINGDOM

THE CENTRAL REQUIREMENT: YOU HAVE TO BE WITH HIM

If God is going to deliver you to safety, where do you have to be? WITH HIM.

Simple analogy: Imagine you're visiting Iran as an American. If you wander around alone, you're in danger—you could be attacked, jailed, or killed. But if there's an American military base there and you stand WITH the soldiers, you're safe.

The principle:

- If you're WITH them, you're safe
- If you're NOT with them, you're not safe

God says: "That's how it works with Me."

- You're safe if you're WITH Me
- If you walk away from Me, I can't protect you
- You have to FOLLOW Me, not ask Me to follow you

What is the Kingdom of God? (Romans 14:17)

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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The Kingdom of God is:

- Righteousness
- Peace
- Joy in the Holy Spirit

You must learn to be THERE—in His Kingdom.

We'd all like to dwell safely in the land. But notice the 'if/then' statement here. What's the condition for receiving this promise?

Condition #1: Walk in His Ways (Leviticus 26:3-5)

³ "If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them,
⁴ then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely.

Notice the IF/THEN:

- **IF** you walk with Me and follow My instruction
- **THEN** all of this will be delivered to you

The condition: Walking with Him in the Kingdom of God.

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If God is going to deliver you to safety, where do you have to be? What does it mean to 'abide' or 'dwell' with Him?

Condition #2: Abide (Dwell) in His Shelter (Psalm 91:1-4)

⁹¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Key word: ABIDE

What does "abide" mean?

- Stay connected
- Dwell with Him
- Stay with Him
- Don't leave

What abiding includes:

- Hearing what He has to say
- Processing what He has to say
- Discussing what He has to say
- Taking the steps of what He has to say
- Beginning to believe what He has to say
- Experiencing what He has to say

All of this is part of abiding.

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Note about the “hem of His garment”: The Hebrew phrase “under his wings” literally refers to the hem of His garment. In Numbers, God instructed His people to put a blue thread in the hem of their garment to remind them to surrender their will to Him. When they touched it, they would remember to follow Him. This is what the woman with the issue of blood understood—she believed if she could touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed.

To walk securely, what does God say you need? And what does ‘integrity’ actually look like—first with God, then with others?

Condition #3: Walk with Integrity (Proverbs 10:9)

⁹ Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

Question: Why would you delight in walking securely? Because it leads you to safety.

What is integrity?

- Your yes is yes and your no is no
- You do what you say you’re going to do
- Your word is trustworthy

Integrity with God FIRST:

- “I’m going to walk with You”—and you actually do it
- Not: “I follow God” while you do your own thing
- Integrity = having a heart to follow Him and actually following through

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Integrity with others:

- Husband and wife
- Friends
- Business situations
- What you say you will do

Key: Only say YES when God confirms YES and you CAN do it. Don't say you can do something when you know you can't—that's no integrity at all.

Why does this matter for safety?

Think about what happens when you DON'T have integrity:

- You're constantly worried about being found out
- You manipulate situations
- You have no peace, day or night
- You're afraid: "Will they discover what I'm really doing?"

But when you walk with integrity:

- Even if people oppose you or disagree with you
- You can sleep at night
- You don't have to worry about being exposed
- You're speaking the truth

Result: God's will is done BY YOU following the truth with integrity.

The woman with the issue of blood wasn't afraid to pursue healing. And when they said Jairus's daughter was dead, what did Jesus do with everyone who didn't believe?

Condition #4: Choose Belief Over Fear (Luke 8:40-55)

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹ And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, ⁴² for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

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As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. ⁴³ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. ⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." ⁵⁰ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." ⁵¹ And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. ⁵² And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." ⁵³ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." ⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.

The Woman with the Issue of Blood:

- Why wasn't she afraid to approach Jesus?
- She knew He was the answer
- Her belief was greater than her fear
- She said: "It would be stupid NOT to pursue what I believe to be true"

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Jairus's Daughter:

- They said "The daughter's dead—don't bother"
- The circumstance appeared to be over
- Jesus said: "She's not dead, she's sleeping"
- He said: "Only believe"

What Jesus did at the house:

- Put everyone out who didn't believe
- He said: "If you're going to walk with Me, you need people who have a heart to believe"
- Those who don't believe—they have to leave
- "I need faith in the room"

Critical principle: Don't have people in your inner circle who throw doubt. God needs people who have a heart to believe, and He will give them the faith to believe it.

When does the world have peace? And what's different about the peace Jesus gives? How do you actively 'not let' your heart be troubled?

Condition #5: Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled (John 14:25-31)

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here."

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Jesus says: “My peace I give to you—not as the world gives”

How does the world give peace?

- When circumstances are good
- When things are going well
- But how long does that last? Not long.
- Even when something great happens, within days people are worrying again about the next thing

Jesus says: “Don’t operate that way. Let ME give you peace.”

Key command: “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”

Important word: “LET”

This means: **“STOP allowing yourself to be agitated and disturbed, and do not PERMIT yourself to be fearful, intimidated, or cowardly.”**

How do you NOT let your heart be troubled?

- You walk WITH God
- If you walk away from Him, you’ll be troubled
- If you stay WITH Him, He gives you His peace
- Why? Because He’s going to resolve it
- You can trust that

The difference:

- When you’re walking WITH Him and things are tough, you can be thankful and praise Him
- Even before you see the resolution
- Because whatever happens, you KNOW it’s going to be the best thing
- You don’t doubt that—you’ve experienced it in the past

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PART 4: TRUSTING THE PROCESS

What does God say NOT to trust in? And what should you put your trust in instead—even when the problem isn't resolved yet?

Trust God, Not Your Resources (Psalm 33:1-5, 16-22)

³³Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. ² Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! ³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

¹⁶ The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷ The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ²¹ For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

What God is saying:

- Don't trust in your horses (your resources)
- Don't trust in your own power to overcome
- Put NO trust in that
- Instead: Trust in ME
- Believe in My loving kindness and tender mercies
- Believe in the COVENANT—that I will bless you to make you a blessing

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

The situation: It hasn't been resolved yet. So why trust?

- Because of what He's done in the past
- Because He PROMISED
- Because that's WHO HE IS

You don't need to know HOW He'll do it.

- At the moment, you don't see a resolution
- But you walk with Him
- You trust
- You experience Him delivering the covenant

What happens when you do this? It builds confidence. You practice it. You learn it.

The progression:

- First time: You're not sure
- After experiencing it: "I think I'll do it again"
- Next time: "I'm trusting in GOD who gives the solution, not waiting for the solution itself"
- Eventually: Peace before the resolution

The world is full of traps that look good but are actually dangerous. What do you need to ask God for to avoid them?

Watch for Traps (Psalm 141:8-10)

⁸ But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! ⁹ Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers! ¹⁰ Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

Reality: There are traps in the world

How traps work:

- Like an animal trap—the animal sees something good
- They don't recognize the danger around it
- They go in, and it closes on them
- Now they're trapped

What God says:

- There WILL be traps
- That thing you think is good? It may not be
- I need to give you DISCERNMENT
- Ask Me: Is this really Your way?

It may LOOK good to you—but often it's a trap.

What to ask: "God, is this really Your path for me? Please give me discernment."

Additional promise: Those laying traps for you will get trapped themselves. God will give you wisdom about that.

**When you're in an unsafe place, what specific thing should you ask God to do?
And if He's leading and guiding, what are you doing?**

Cry Out for His Guidance (Psalm 31:1-5)

³¹ In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me! ² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me! ³ For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me; ⁴ you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge. ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

What to do when you're in an unsafe place:

- **Call out to God**
- Ask Him to do what? **LEAD ME AND GUIDE ME**

If He's leading and guiding, what are you doing? FOLLOWING.

This is not:

- "Here's the whole plan—good luck"
- "Figure it out yourself"

This IS:

- "Follow Me, I'll lead you and guide you"
- Step by step by step
- Take one step at a time
- We're going to the right place

What this means:

- Don't get stuck focusing on the adversity
- Call out to Him
- Let Him lead you **THROUGH** it
- Have a heart to go

And this implies:

- Don't get ahead of Him
- Don't go off the path
- Don't lag behind either
- Stay **WITH** Him—"I'm going. Let's go."

You can't say: "I'm not going to do anything until You do this." Then you're both stopped.

You have to follow Him.

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

David asks 'What can man do to me?' twice. We know people CAN do a lot against us—so what is God really saying here?

Trust in Times of Fear (Psalm 56:1-13)

To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

⁵⁶ Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; ² my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. ³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? ⁵ All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil. ⁶ They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life. ⁷ For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God! ⁸ You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? ⁹ Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. ¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, ¹¹ in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? ¹² I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. ¹³ For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Key statement: "I know that GOD IS FOR ME."

Question repeated twice: "What can man do to me?"

We know people CAN do a lot:

- They have authority
- They have power
- They can do things against us

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

So why does God ask this?

What He's really saying:

- Even though they can do something to you
- They cannot prevent Me from giving you deliverance
- They cannot overcome Me
- Don't worry—I'm FOR you
- What they do won't thwart My will if you walk with Me

The condition: "IF you walk before Me"

- If you walk WITH God, it doesn't matter what they do
- It will come to nothing
- God can overcome it
- He can change it for you
- He will resolve it for you

Often:

- They think they won
- But God says: "Actually, they didn't. You won."
- He got you to the right place
- Why? Because He's way superior to that

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

Paul had a whole list of hardships. Did God prevent him from experiencing them? Or did God do something else? And where do we go to hear God's specific instruction?

Scripture as Your Guide (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Paul's testimony:

- "I had a whole list of hardships"
- "They happened to me all the time"
- "But God delivered me from ALL of them"

Paul's warning:

- Don't think that walking with God means you won't experience these things
- You WILL experience them
- But every single time, God delivered me to victory

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

Example: Paul was stoned and left for dead. What did he do next?

- Stood up
- Walked back into town
- Started preaching again

If he was truly wounded to death, he would need recovery time. Instead:

- He was immediately healed
- Why? God delivered him

Key distinction: Did God PREVENT him from experiencing it? No. **What God did:** Delivered him FROM it.

This leads to the famous verse (often quoted out of context):

Verse 16: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable"

The context: You're living in an unsafe place

- God will lead you to safety
- **HOW?** Get to the Word
- What does the Word have to say?
- What do I have to reveal to you?

The role of your inner circle:

- Let's go see what the Word has to say
- Let's go together
- Let's see what God has to say
- Logos (written Word) and Rhema (spoken/revealed Word)

The focus: The Word, not the trouble

- I'm not going to get stuck here
- He's going to deliver me from HOW MANY? **ALL of them**
- I can trust it
- It's going to be grand

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

SUMMARY: HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S SAFETY

THE CONDITIONS:

1. **Stay in the Kingdom**—Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit
2. **Walk with Him**—Follow His instruction step by step
3. **Abide**—Stay connected, hear Him, process with Him, take steps with Him
4. **Walk with Integrity**—Your yes is yes, first to God then to others
5. **Choose Belief Over Fear**—Have a heart to believe and remove voices of doubt
6. **Don't Let Your Heart Be Troubled**—Actively give your fear to God and receive His peace
7. **Trust God, Not Your Resources**—Put your hope in His covenant, not your own strength
8. **Watch for Traps**—Ask for discernment about what looks good
9. **Let Him Lead and Guide**—Follow Him, don't get ahead or lag behind
10. **Get to the Word**—That's where you'll hear His specific instruction

THE RESULT:

When you follow these conditions:

- You will be at peace
- You will have praise
- You won't get sucked under emotionally
- You won't be afraid

Why won't you be afraid? Because God is going to resolve it.

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

CLOSING EXERCISE FOR SESSION 2

Take the issues you wrote down in Session 1—the things that are causing you to feel unsafe.

Now, with your spouse, friend, or inner circle:

1. **Start the process**—What is God saying to me about this?
2. **Go to the Word**—What does Scripture say about the steps I need to take?
3. **Examine your walk**—Am I walking with Him?
4. **Learn to listen**—How do I hear His instruction to stay on His path?
5. **Write down the steps**—What specific things is God telling me to do?
6. **Take those steps**—With great faith, courage, and strength

Have a heart to go.

In our next session, we'll look at how to experience victory and build strength once God brings us to safety.

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

SESSION 2 QUESTIONS

For Scriptural Understanding:

1. In Exodus 14:13-14, Moses tells the people three things: "Fear not," "stand firm," and "see the salvation of the LORD." According to verse 14, what specific role does the LORD say He will play in their deliverance?

2. Deuteronomy 7:22 says God will clear away the nations "little by little." What reason does God give in this verse for not removing all the enemies at once?

3. According to Leviticus 26:3-5, what is the condition ("if") that must be met before God promises that "you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely"?

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

For Deeper Understanding:

1. The teaching emphasizes “abiding” as staying connected with God. Based on the explanation given, what are the specific components that make up “abiding” (hint: the text lists several actions like “hearing,” “processing,” etc.)?

2. Explain the difference between “Be strong and courageous” as a command to rely on your own strength versus what it actually means in the context of trusting God (based on Deuteronomy 31:1-6).

3. In the Luke 8 account of Jairus’s daughter, Jesus put everyone out of the house except those who had faith. What does this teach about the role of our “inner circle” when we’re walking through difficult circumstances?

LESSON 2

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN SAFETY

For Personal Application:

1. The teaching explains that integrity means your “yes is yes” first to God, then to others. Think of a current situation where you’ve committed to following God. Are you actually doing it, or just saying you will? How might lack of integrity in this area be blocking your experience of His safety?

2. Psalm 141:8-10 warns about “traps”—things that look good but are actually dangerous. Think of a decision you’re facing or a direction that seems appealing. What specific steps could you take this week to ask God for discernment about whether this is His path or a trap?

3. The transcript emphasizes not letting your heart be troubled (John 14:27) and explains this as actively choosing to give your fear to God. For one specific fear on your list: What would it look like practically this week to STOP allowing yourself to be troubled by it and instead walk with God through it?



LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH



God says: “Let me show you the steps. Have people around you who help you understand it.”

REVIEW FROM SESSIONS 1 AND 2

Session 1 taught us:

- We live in an unsafe world that produces fear
- God’s nature IS safety—He is our fortress, refuge, and deliverer
- God promises to deliver us from ALL our troubles—every single one
- Fear drives us away from God’s path into self-reliance, deception, or despair

Session 2 taught us:

- We must shift from fear to faith by remembering what God has done
- God calls us to walk WITH Him into battle, not stay on the sidelines
- The core condition: We must ABIDE in the Kingdom (righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit)
- We must walk with integrity, choose belief over fear, and let Him lead us step by step

Now in Session 3, we’ll focus on:

- The practical ways we experience His victory
- What we’re called to do once He brings us to safety
- How to build strength and fortify our position
- Our role as messengers in His work of restoration

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

PART 1: THE POWER OF WISE COUNSEL

What's the difference between collecting opinions from everyone versus having godly counselors? What should a true counselor be helping you do?

Safety Comes Through Godly Counselors (Proverbs 11:14)

¹⁴ Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

God says: Safety comes when you have people around you who serve as counselors.

IMPORTANT: This is NOT:

- Going to a bunch of people and asking "What should I do?"
- Collecting opinions from everyone
- Getting advice based on their limited experience without God
- Hearing "You should do this, this, and this" from people who haven't even asked you questions

THIS IS:

- Having people who are **walking with God themselves**
- People who **encourage YOU to walk with God**
- People who ask: "What is GOD saying to you?"
- People who help you process: "What are you learning? What do you understand? What's the truth?"

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE: THE CEO AND HIS SON

A CEO was dealing with an estranged relationship with his adult son. The pattern:

- The CEO approached his son with judgment
- Tried to “fix” him because he wasn’t walking with God
- Constantly hammered and condemned him
- The son (being strong-willed) hammered back
- Result: Arguments every time they were together

The Situation: The son was coming home for a month. The CEO said: “My wife and I are going to set him straight.”

The Counseling Process:

1. “Hold on—let’s go back and talk about the relationship”
2. “Why don’t I help you go to GOD and see what God would say?”
3. “You have this great opportunity where everything could change”
4. “IF you have a heart to follow God instead of what you think you should do”

Led him to Scripture showing:

- It’s not his job to FIX his son
- It’s his job to develop a RELATIONSHIP so God can fix him
- He started to see it because he had a heart to follow God

What is a counselor’s role?

- Help them learn how to walk with God
- If they don’t want to walk with God, why waste time?
- Don’t tell them “you should, you should, you should”
- Help them WALK WITH GOD to get God’s answer

THE KEY TO GOOD COUNSELING

If you need a counselor:

- They must be walking with God
- They must want YOU to walk with God
- Together you’ll hear His voice
- You’ll get confirmation

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

The goal: Help each other stay with God, because if you're going to love somebody, what do you want for them?

- To experience God's best
- To receive God's love
- To live in the covenant

Can you solve their problems? No—only God can.

What CAN you do? Help them learn how to walk with God so God can resolve it.

PART 2: SEEKING WISDOM FOR THE PATH

"If you want wisdom to get to safety, where do you start? And what's the promise for those who dwell with God?"

The Beginning of Knowledge (Proverbs 1:1-7, 33)

¹ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, ³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— ⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

How can it be said any better?

- If you dwell with God, you're going to dwell safely
- You need wisdom
- How do I get to safety? Just stay with Me and I'll get you there

The key: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"

- If you want wisdom, START with seeking God
- Seek ME first
- Always pursue that

God says: "Let me show you the steps. Have people around you who help you understand it."

God says 'all her paths are peace.' How can the PATH be pleasant when you're walking through adversity that isn't resolved yet?

All His Paths Are Pleasant (Proverbs 3:13-26)

¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,
¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. ¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. ¹⁹ The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; ²⁰ by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. ²¹ My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion, ²² and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. ²³ Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. ²⁴ If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. ²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, ²⁶ for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

We all desire these things:

- To walk safely
- To not be afraid
- To sleep peacefully

God says: It's all about wisdom.

- You need to know what I know
- I know more than you
- My plan is better than yours
- I know where to get you—the right place, at the right time, with the right people

Key statement: “ALL her paths are pleasant and shalom”

Critical question: How many paths? ALL.

Think about this:

- You're in trouble and you're unsafe
- You're walking to safety
- Are you AT safety yet? NO
- But you have to walk there on a path
- Who do you walk with? HIM
- And that path is what? **PLEASANT**

There's a QUALITY to the path:

- If you're on God's path, it's pleasant
- If you're not on it, something's not right

Important distinction:

- This doesn't mean the adversity has been resolved
- It means THE PATH is pleasant
- It's favor
- It's shalom
- God is showing you things
- He's encouraging you
- He's doing little supernatural things to keep you going
- “Hey, do you see what I'm up to? Do you see what I'm up to?”

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

When you see those supernatural things, what's your attitude? "This is pleasant! I see it. I feel like I'm on the right path."

Why? Because it's going to get resolved.

Are you focused on it not being resolved? No. What are you focused on? Going to safety.

The peace: You can have peace WHILE you're going to safety, because you're walking with Him.

WHAT YOU REALLY NEED: WISDOM FOR THE NEXT STEP

What do you really need to know?

- Sometimes it's just the truth about the situation
- What's my NEXT step?
- What step do I take that You're ordaining?

You're NOT:

- Evaluating if you think it will work
- Listening to other people tell you if it's good or not
- You're just knowing: This is the next step

You need His wisdom because:

- He knows more than you
- You might naturally want to go this way
- But He says: "If I were you, I wouldn't do that yet"

Example from personal experience: Our tendency is to take a step:

- "I think I want to do this"
- "I want to say this"
- "I want to react this way"
- "I'm going to go do this"

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

What I always hear: “If I were you, I wouldn’t do that yet.”

I’ve learned: It’s better to listen.

- “Okay, what would You like me to do?”
- “Why don’t you come with Me and I’ll show you what to do?”

Which may be: Completely opposite of what you think is a good idea or what you think you should do.

Then you need: Counselor’s confirmation

- “Yep, you’re hearing right”
- “Yep, you’re hearing right”

Real-Life Example: Joel’s Process Joel is going through something right now. He got a verse from God.

- We think it means this particular thing
- Right now the wisdom would be: Take the step
- God says: “You don’t have to, but if I were you, I’d take the step”
- Why? “I just gave you the wisdom. You didn’t know what to do and you were looking. How about this?”

That’s how it works:

- We need the step
- “What do we do now?”
- God fulfills it
- And that’s nothing but fun
- Why? Because you’re hearing something
- You take it
- You see: “Wow, that’s cool! Look what happened next!”
- He puts you on the right path

Wisdom is CRITICAL:

- Seek wisdom
- Have help seeking wisdom
- It’s got to be SPECIFIC
- What step do I take?
- How do I handle this situation?
- It’s not generic—it’s SPECIFIC

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

PART 3: RUN TO HIM AND STAY WITH HIM

When you're unsafe, what's the verb God uses? Do you saunter to Him, or what should you do?

God is a Strong Tower—Run to It (Proverbs 18:10)

¹⁰ The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

When you're unsafe, what should you do? RUN TO HIM.

Do you saunter there? No. **Do you think "well, maybe I'll go"?** No.

What's the verb? RUN, RUN, RUN, RUN

Immediately: Go to Him immediately.

And you'll be: SAFE.

Just by: Going to Him, all by Himself, you'll be safe.

So we have to practice that.

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

When you're in trouble, what is God? And what's our role in helping each other—what should we be encouraging each other to do?

God is Your Stronghold (Psalm 9:1-11)

To the choirmaster: according to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.

⁹ I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. ² I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. ³ When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before your presence. ⁴ For you have maintained my just cause; you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment. ⁵ You have rebuked the nations; you have made the wicked perish; you have blotted out their name forever and ever. ⁶ The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins; their cities you rooted out; the very memory of them has perished. ⁷ But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, ⁸ and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness. ⁹ The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. ¹⁰ And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. ¹¹ Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!

When you're in trouble (which implies you WILL be), God is your: REFUGE—
your place of safety.

As we help each other:

- "Stay with Him"
- "He's your refuge"
- "He's your place of safety"
- "Don't go away from your place of safety"

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

Our role: Help each other stay there.

- “What are you walking with God?”
- “What’s God saying to you?”
- “What is He? What are you understanding?”
- “What are you experiencing as Him being your place of safety?”

My role: Help you stay there. Keep staying there.

Remember: It’s not resolved yet—that’s the rub.

- We think of safety as “everything’s resolved”
- NO—it’s still trouble, still difficult, still unsafe
- BUT it’s safe because you’re WITH the one who IS safe

The more you practice it:

- The next time, you’ll come back to it
- Then go there again
- Then go there again
- The more you practice it, the more it becomes real

It builds your confidence:

- “Yeah, I got trouble”
- “How often will I have trouble?” ALL THE TIME
- “But God will resolve it”
- “As you learn it, your viewpoint shifts”

The shift:

- FROM: “Uh oh, I’m afraid of this, this is going to be bad”
- TO: “Well, this is bad. I can hardly wait to see how God’s going to resolve THIS one! How’s it going to work?”

You get to:

- Be with Him on the path of pleasantness
- Stay with Him because He’s the place of safety

Everything we do: Encourage each other—“Stay there, stay there, stay there”

- Then you get to experience Him
- And it’s kind of fun to do that

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

PART 4: DON'T GET LAZY—FORTIFY YOUR POSITION

After God gave Rehoboam victory and peace, what did he do next? Why shouldn't you get lazy when God brings you to safety?

Build Strength When You Have Peace (2 Chronicles 11:5-12)

⁵ Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem, and he built cities for defense in Judah. ⁶ He built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, ⁷ Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam, ⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, ⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, ¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, fortified cities that are in Judah and in Benjamin. ¹¹ He made the fortresses strong, and put commanders in them, and stores of food, oil, and wine. ¹² And he put shields and spears in all the cities and made them very strong. So he held Judah and Benjamin.

The context:

- He went to battle against the enemy
- God gave him victory
- The enemy was gone, taken care of
- He moved from being unsafe to safe

God says: "Now what do you do?" GET TO WORK.

Don't get lazy.

This is where we need to encourage people:

- This is the moment where: "Oh great, I can just do nothing now"
- "I don't have to worry about all that stuff"
- "God took care of me, that feels good"
- "I'm going to go back to being in the flesh"

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

Our encouragement: Stay with Him.

- Now you're safe—good, that feels good
- Don't get lazy
- BUILD STRENGTH

What did he do?

- Fortified the walls
- Put commanders there
- Started planning for the next thing
- "Let's get stronger here—it'll be easier to be protected if we get stronger"

God is saying: Get stronger.

What does God want us to build?

- Build your marriage right now
- Learn to be a better leader in your business (so you have margin)
- Strengthen people's ability to work with you
- Improve how your job looks
- What you do at church
- Your family relationships
- Get stronger financially—save, be prepared

All kinds of ways to build, but the key:

- While you have this moment of peace
- Don't get lazy
- BUILD

**"When you're building (which God wants you to do), who's the architect?
Should you come up with your own ideas, or what should you ask God?"**

Build on the Right Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:9-17)

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become

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manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

God says: When you're building (which I want you to do), HOW do you build?

First: Build on the foundation of CHRIST.

He says: I'm the MASTER BUILDER. I'm the ARCHITECT.

Example: Building a barn Did Scott say: "I'm going to design my own walls, I'll do it this way, I'll just start putting stuff down"?

NO—What did he do?

- Hired a designer to design the barn
- Had an architect
- Had people to lay cement
- Even then there was an issue—had to get expertise
- Followed the MASTER in the process

He never thought: "I want to build that building on my own"

He followed: The master who told him what to do, and he did it.

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Christ says: When you're building, let ME guide you.

- Exactly where I want you to build
- What I want you to be involved in right now
- That's why our assignments are HIS assignments
- Not what we think is a good idea
- Not what other people think is a good idea

Real-Life Example: The Chicago Church Linda and I took over a church in Chicago that had collapsed:

- I was a business guy
- We stepped in as senior pastor because they asked and God said yes
- We helped them get connected, learn to abide
- Built the priesthood of the believer
- The church thrived
- Then they hired a full-time guy
- God said: "You're done. Thanks."

What people said:

- "Look at what you did" (it wasn't us—it was God)
- "You should do that for other churches"
- "A lot of churches are in trouble and need you"

Is that a good idea? Sure. **Could I do it?** Probably.

But what's IMPORTANT? What should I build NEXT?

Ask God: "Father, where do You want me to go build?"

I never thought of ministry as: Program or position. **Ministry is:** Life flowing out of you.

So: "Father, what would You have me do?"

He said: "You're done. Thanks. Go home to Colorado. Take your wife with you. Disciple your wife and your kids. That's what I want you to do."

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But that's not a thousand people! "I know—it's just 3 or 4. That's My assignment."

Build on the foundation of Christ based on what He tells you.

Is that significant? Absolutely. **Is that fulfilling God's kingdom work?** Yes.

Guess what came out of that? Living Waters Ministries, through a whole series of things, having done that step.

It's not about: Evaluating "I should, I should, I should"

It's about: Building on the foundation of Jesus where He instructs you.

As you go to a new assignment:

- "I'm going to build because I have this opportunity"
- Don't get lazy
- Be active in what I'm going to fortify for you
- This could be a relationship, finances, business, small group, all kinds of things

God knows what to do.

Follow that and fortify:

- Then you'll get stronger
- You're in the right place where you'll be safer
- You enjoyed it being safer

For us: We felt safer when we came back. It was pleasant.

Why? Because you went where I went.

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PART 5: TRANSFERRING FEAR OF THE WORLD TO FEAR OF GOD

What does God say about the things that irritate, frustrate, and cause you difficulty? Should you accept them as the characteristic of your life?

Turn Away from Evil and Pursue Peace (Psalm 34:4-14)

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. ⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! ⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹² What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

He says: You're irritated. Remember—turn away from evil.

The word "evil": Things that irritate, frustrate, cause difficulty, are unsafe.

Don't accept that.

Draw a line and say: "You know what? I don't need to live this way."

- Now I don't know what to do
- But I'm NOT going to live here

Am I experiencing it? Yes. **Should I be experiencing this?** You ARE experiencing it.

He just says: Don't LIVE there.

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Let's go. And pursue what? SHALOM.

What does God have to say about it? That's what you're pursuing.

The decision: I'm not going to accept this as the characteristic of my life.

- I'm experiencing it
- It's not pleasant
- But I'm not going to live here
- I'm going to pursue God's answer to get me back to safety

And go after that.

LEARN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

He says: What I have to do is teach you the FEAR OF THE LORD.

In other words: You fear the stuff you're engaged in. I've got to have you transfer that to fearing ME.

What does it mean to fear the Lord?

- He knows better and I don't
- He's going to resolve things for me
- What He says, I will believe it

Particularly: When He says something pretty dramatic or unusual (which we tend not to believe).

He says: Don't reject it because it doesn't make sense to you.

The fear of the Lord is:

- I believe what You have to say
- Even though I don't understand it
- And I'm willing to pursue it

By doing what? Staying with Him.

"I don't get this. It seems contrary to me. I don't know if this is a good idea. It seems to me..."

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REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE: SCOTT'S COLLAPSING BARN WALLS

The Situation:

- Building a barn with a large basement
- Three walls and one open end
- Getting ready to put the floor on for winter
- Friend came over and said: "Scott, you got a problem—your walls are caving in"
- Foundation was caving in
- Had spent a lot of time, money, energy

They prayed through it as a group and reached out to engineers.

The engineers said: "You're going to have to start over. Knock everything down and start over."

Huge setback.

Scott prayed and heard from God: "Bring in the building inspector."

Scott's reaction: "God, do you know who You're talking about?"

- "I know what he's going to say"
- "He's going to say to tear it down"
- "That's a really dumb thing to do"

He talked to the guys: "No, you don't want to do that."

But Scott was convicted: "No, I've got to bring this guy in. I'm not even sure why, but I feel like I have to tell him."

Worst case thinking: "He'll say 'yeah, you need to start over.' We might as well face the music."

What actually happened:

- Scott called the building inspector
- To his surprise: Inspector showed up within an hour (miracle #1)
- Inspector looked at it and said: "I've seen this before. We can fix this."
- "All you need is a few boards and I'll show you how to do it"
- Showed him engineering with spring boards and putting pressure on

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- They did what he said
- Next morning: Walls were STRAIGHT
- Perfectly straight
- Walls rocked back up on their foundations
- Built a beautiful barn on top of it
- Problem solved
- Inexpensive

God says: "I'll teach you the fear of the Lord."

Scott had already been learning it:

- He heard it
- It was a struggle: "I'm not sure that's a good idea"
- "Am I hearing right?"
- Confirmation from others: "Yeah, you're hearing right"

The fear of the Lord is:

- I believe what You said
- I don't have any idea of the outcome
- I don't even know why we're doing this
- It seems to me he's just going to tell us to tear it down
- But TRUST ME

What did it teach you?

- Do you see how that worked?
- We didn't see that outcome—supernatural
- Next time, what's your attitude toward following what God says?

Scott and Nancy: "We want to RUN there and find out what it is and do it QUICKLY."

If they had NOT followed: Would have torn it down and had to rebuild.

God teaches you:

- "God said it"
- "It doesn't make sense"
- "But I believe because He said it"
- "I'm going to follow it"
- "Let's go"

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Next time: It becomes easier and easier and easier.

“I’ve got to teach you the fear of the Lord:”

- Don’t put up with the baloney
- Let Me guide you

What does it mean to ‘fear the Lord’? And what does God promise to do for those who fear Him and walk in humility?

God Will Instruct Those Who Fear Him (Psalm 25:1-15) Of David.

²⁵ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. ⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. ¹¹ For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. ¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. ¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

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God says: I'm going to deliver the covenant (loving kindness, tender mercies).

Your role: Be HUMBLE.

What does that mean?

- Surrendering my will to willingly follow His will
- Then becoming in agreement with His will

Humility is NOT: "I'm nothing and it doesn't matter"

Humility IS: I'm not going to go to pride. I'm going to surrender and follow His will.

He says: If you learn to fear Me, trust Me, believe what I have to say is true:

- I'm going to show you the way to go
- I'm going to tell you to call that inspector
- I'm going to make your way prosperous

Think about the difference:

- What that guy gave you with a few boards
- Versus repairing the whole thing
- That would have been a MASSIVE amount of money

He said: "I'll make your way prosperous."

He says: I'll show you the fear of the Lord and tell you secrets, and then demonstrate the covenant.

Which is what He did for you.

He keeps saying:

- Let Me show you that
- Let Me show you that
- Trust Me that I'm moving that direction
- Transfer the fear of the negative consequence to fearing Me
- And you'll see the beauty of that

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If you learn to fear God and walk with Him, what areas of life does He say He'll resolve—just financial troubles, or what else?

Blessing Through Fearing the Lord (Psalm 128:1-6) A Song of Ascents.

¹²⁸ Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! ² You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. ⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! ⁶ May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

God equates: I'm going to resolve the unsafe places in a variety of ways.

He says: If you learn to fear Me and walk with Me:

Your WORK will be enjoyable:

- Every day is going to be well
- It's going to be beautiful
- I'm going to have you enjoy it

Your SPOUSE/RELATIONSHIP will be enjoyable:

- You and your spouse will enjoy each other
- Or if you're single, your friends
- It'll be fantastic

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Your FAMILY will be enjoyable:

- You'll sit with your children around the Thanksgiving table
- Those who are getting older: You get to see your grandchildren
- It is spectacular—nothing better than the joy of grandchildren being part of your family

What God is saying: All the issues of life—I'm going to resolve them.

So it's not just:

- Financial
- An individual trouble

It's: I'm going to put it ALL together for you.

The result: When you DO have things that are not safe, you actually have strength because you're enjoying it.

Example: If Linda and I are enjoying each other and we have an adversity, it's not so difficult.

Why? Because this is going to happen and we're good and we're enjoying each other. So it shouldn't stop that.

He says: I'll put it all together for you.

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PART 6: PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

Perfect love casts out fear. What is God's love? And if you really love others, what's your heart for them?

God's Love Removes Fear (1 John 4:7-21, 5:1-3)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

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Perfect love does what? Casts out fear.

By receiving love:

- God's love is: "I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing" (the covenant)
- "I have the best for you"
- "I'll resolve this unsafe place for you"
- "That's why I've come"
- "I want you to receive that love I have for you"
- "I would like you to enjoy life with Me"

Now He says: In the life you're in, because you're in the world, you're going to have what? Tribulation and trouble. You're going to be in unsafe places.

He doesn't say: I'm removing you from that. He says: I'm going to RESOLVE it.

If you understood My love:

- You would walk with Me
- You would abide with Me
- That love starts to come into your soul
- You say: "You know what, I believe that"
- "So I'm going with You into the resolution"

IF YOU LOVE OTHERS, WHAT DO YOU DO?

If you really love others, what are you going to do? A little profound question.

What does God's love look like? To them? To you? To anybody?

God is saying:

- I'm going to lead you to the very best
- I'm going to lead you to the covenant
- I'm going to deliver the covenant
- I'm going to get you to a safe place where the covenant is

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So if you love somebody else, what is your heart for them?

- For them to receive and walk in the covenant as well
- For them to receive God's love so they can live in the covenant

So my role is to do what? LOVE THEM.

To help them get there.

Now I know something: In order for them to get there, what do I have to help them do?

- ABIDE
- Walk with God

God says: If you love others, actually you follow My instructions, not you decide what you're going to do for them.

Because a lot of times:

- You actually rescue them
- You don't lead them to My best
- They're not surrendering their will at all
- You're enabling them

I may need you to say:

- "You know what? I don't agree with that"
- "I can't live with this conflict"
- "I'm not going to spend any more time with you because you're not willing to follow God"

It's not about:

- A universal answer
- Or "I'm not going to bail you out of your financial problem"

It's just: I've got to receive God's love, which is to give me the best.

If you love others: You would like them to experience the best.

Can I solve it for them? No. Who's going to solve it for them? GOD does.

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The best thing we can do:

- Help them learn how to walk with God
- When they're in trouble in this unsafe place: "Stay with it, stay with it"
- "Nope, learn this"
- "I know you don't understand it—stay with it"
- "Let me help you stay with it"
- "It's going to happen"
- "I have hope for you"
- "Stay with it"

PART 7: OUR ROLE AS PROPHETS

As God's messenger, what are you supposed to do? Should you decide what to say or judge people, or what?

You Are God's Messenger (Jeremiah 1:4-12)

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." ⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." ⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." ¹¹ And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." ¹² Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

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God says: You're going to be My messenger.

You're supposed to do what?

- Speak what I say
- Go where I send you

NOT:

- Decide what you want to say
- Judge somebody
- Tell them what you think they should do

Just: Say what I'm going to say to you and do what I'm saying is true.

What do I have to understand?

- What are You saying?
- Where am I going?

That's kind of simple.

Remember: If you love somebody, you're going to help them connect with Me.

- Because I'm going to lead them to victory
- I'm going to overcome
- They're in the same unsafe place you are (that you've been in)
- I can get them to safety and they've got to learn that

So you've got to be a prophet:

- Encourage them to stay with Me
- Only do it and say it

Then He says: By the way, it'll have power.

And then He says: Let's practice this.

He gives him a vision: "What do you see?"

God said: "Jeremiah, do you understand how this works?"

- I'm going to do things
- I just need you to observe it
- Follow it
- Let's see how it goes

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And that's what he did.

If God asks you to be His messenger, are you responsible for how people respond? What ARE you responsible for?

Don't Fear Their Response (Ezekiel 2:1-8)

² And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you."

² And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the

people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants

also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' ⁵ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they

are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶

And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their

words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. ⁷ And

you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house. ⁸ "But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not

rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

God says: If I'm asking you to do this, what's important?

Let's go do it. Don't worry about anything else.

Don't worry about:

- The outcome
- How they even respond to you

If you love somebody, what are you going to do? As God does: "I invite you to learn to fear God, walk with God, and experience that you can go from not being safe to safe."

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And: I guarantee you that will happen if you have a heart to go.

And: I'm going to encourage you with words from God to walk you down that path.

If they reject that, what does that mean to us? NOTHING.

Are we responsible for their response? NO. **Do I need to hammer them and persuade them?** NO.

God says: It works both sides.

- You say things and they reject it—don't worry about it
- Not your responsibility
- You are My messenger

But: If I tell you to say something and you DON'T say it, where's that burden? ON YOU.

Why?

- I'm counting on you to love that person
- You're actually NOT loving that person
- I've asked you to do something and you've rejected it
- Now I got a problem with YOU

Why?

- You're out of... you're off the path
- You've gone off
- You've lost what I'm up to
- I'm using you to join Me in My work
- You rejected... you have rejected Me

Being a prophet is kind of an important thing.

And everybody's going to be a prophet:

- You're going to help each other
- You're going to speak to each other
- You're not telling them what to do
- You're saying: "Here's what God's path is—stay on the path and enjoy it"

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As you give away what God's given you, should you worry about people's responses? What's your role in God's work of restoration?

Be Faithful Regardless of Response (1 Peter 3:13-17)

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

God just says: Be faithful.

Don't worry about:

- Other people's responses to this
- Recognize that part of you going to safety is you giving away what I've given to you

You stay in that safe place because:

- You're joining God in His work
- What is His work? RESTORATION
- Restoration to who? EVERYBODY

It's not arbitrary.

We have people around us:

- We go to church
- Small group members
- Family members

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God says: I would like to restore them ALL.

And by the way: Since you've learned it, I want you to give it away.

Does that mean you won't have trouble? NO.

You can demonstrate more and more:

- You'll be able to bear witness to people around you
- They'll say: "Well, how did you handle it?"
- "We did this"

Scott can share the story.

When you think of that story: "Man, how supernatural was that? The whole thing!"

That's encouraging. Really encouraging.

- To see that it actually worked
- In something really specific
- That was not a safe place to be

That's how it works:

- Be faithful
- Don't worry about people

Really, it's sorted through:

- You have a heart to go—let's go
- If you don't have a heart to go—okay, that's your choice
- I'm going to go where people have a heart to go

And you follow that:

- We get safer and safer and safer
- Particularly if we have people around us living the same way
- They feel safer
- They know God will lead them to safety
- They encourage each other

The body helps each other build that strength.

If we do that, then we wind up in a secure place.

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PART 8: FROM THE PIT TO THE ROCK

“David describes being stuck in the mud—unsafe and unhappy. What did God do? And what did David learn to delight in?”

God Draws Us Up and Sets Our Feet Secure (Psalm 40:1-8) **To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.**

⁴⁰ I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. ⁴ Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! ⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. ⁶ In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. ⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: ⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

He describes: I was in a really unsafe place.

- Stuck in the mud
- Stuck in the mud
- This is not safe
- It's not pleasant
- I'm really unhappy

God did what? Pulled you out.

- Pulled you out of it
- Put you on a rock
- Good

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

Then He said: Now you can walk forward with the steps I'm going to lead you to—the very best.

So:

- I got to pull you out of this mess
- Put you on solid ground
- NOW we can walk forward to the best

And He says: Therefore, son, you recognize that what I really like is you have a heart to do what?

You DELIGHT to do My will.

Now why would you delight to do His will? (Which is what David learned)

All His paths are pleasant and shalom.

I went from:

- Unsafe
- Stuck
- To complete safety

Why? I followed God's will.

And by the way: That's what I'd like to be known to me—that I delighted to do God's will.

Why? Because it led me to safety.

If we all—David said—if we all can get that: When you're stuck in the mud, when you're in trouble, when you're unsafe...

What would we say?

- God's going to put me on a rock
- He's going to lead me to the best
- He's got a will
- My role is to do what? FOLLOW that will

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

Follow that will. Stay with Him.

I need:

- People around me to help me stay
- Receive
- Learn
- Understand it
- Be led specifically to the place of safety

And then: Build the strength as we do.

And the next time: It becomes easier. **And the next time:** It becomes easier.

Now, by the way:

- Does your situation become easier? Interesting enough—they get more difficult
- They get more complicated

But because of the strength you're having: You recognize: I can live safely in an unsafe place.

As the world getting more unsafe:

- Is it getting more uncertain?
- Is it getting crazier and crazier?

Yeah.

So the feeling is:

- Fear
- Everything is uncertain
- It scares us

That's why we want to do this course:

- You don't need to stay there
- Is it real? Yeah
- Is there fear there? Yeah
- But God can resolve it

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

CLOSING CHALLENGE

We encourage you as you finish this course:

1. Walk through it—Take time to really process this material
2. Have people around you—Your spouse, friends, inner circle
3. Walk with God—Stay with God
4. Receive His instruction—Listen for His specific guidance
5. Delight to do His will—Make this your heart's desire
6. Build your life upon Him—He is your foundation

Understand that:

- He wants to restore you to the place of safety
- It's not a permanent place (you'll face new challenges)
- But you're SAFE IN HIM
- As you experience this, you'll gain confidence
- Next time: "It's going to get resolved and I know it"

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

SESSION 3 QUESTIONS

For Scriptural Understanding:

1. According to Proverbs 3:17, all of wisdom's paths are described as having what two qualities? What does this reveal about the nature of walking with God even before reaching final resolution?

2. In 1 Corinthians 3:11, Paul states that no one can lay a foundation other than what? How does verse 10 describe Paul's role in relation to this foundation?

3. Psalm 128:2-3 describes specific blessings for those who fear the Lord. What three areas of life does this passage say will be blessed?

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

For Deeper Understanding:

1. The teaching distinguishes between godly counselors and people who just give opinions. Based on the explanation and the CEO/son example, what is the PRIMARY role of a godly counselor, and how is it different from simply telling someone what to do?

2. Explain the concept of “all her paths are pleasant” (Proverbs 3:17) in the context of walking through adversity. Why can the path be pleasant even when the problem isn’t yet resolved?

3. The transcript tells Scott’s story about the collapsing barn walls as an example of “fearing the Lord.” What does this story teach about what “fearing the Lord” actually means in practice?

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

For Personal Application:

1. Second Chronicles 11:5-12 shows Rehoboam fortifying his cities AFTER God gave him victory. Think about an area where God has recently brought you to a place of safety or peace. What specific “fortifying” could you do now to build strength in that area (marriage, finances, leadership, spiritual disciplines, etc.)?

2. The teaching emphasizes that being a “prophet” means speaking what God says and going where He sends, without worrying about people’s responses. Think of someone in your life who is struggling or in an unsafe place. What is God specifically asking you to say or do for them this week—not your opinion, but HIS instruction?

3. Psalm 40:8 says “I delight to do your will, O my God.” David could say this because following God’s will consistently led him from the “pit” to the “rock.” Looking at your own experience: Has there been a time when following God’s specific instruction (even when it didn’t make sense) led you to safety? How can remembering that experience help you trust Him with your current situation?

LESSON 3

EXPERIENCING VICTORY AND BUILDING STRENGTH

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we thank You for this privilege. We pray that everyone who's been through this course will:

- Take the time to work through it
- Stay with it
- Let You provide them the confidence and reality of the beauty of You resolving something for them
- Gain strength
- Have confidence and courage to stay with it
- Learn it
- Receive it
- And then teach others as well

We praise You for that. We believe it. We're looking forward to what You're going to do in our life.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.





History of **Abide Ministries**



In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit.

In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit. They had been believers for most of their lives and regularly attended church and Bible studies, but began to realize that, despite knowing the Bible intellectually, their personal experiences seemed disconnected from the promises and truths found in scripture. As they then learned these essential truths through their abiding and hearing God's voice – and began to see the grand life play out in their lives God called them to give that knowledge away. In 2001, God initiated the ABIDE ministry at a retreat with friends in Austria, and through their personal experience of this abiding life, their friends noticed the change in their lives and inquired if Rich and Linda could host a similar retreat the following year. This was repeated three years in a row, and then God called them to host weekend retreats in their home in Colorado.

Through the formal development of the truths revealed by God with Abiding and additional electives, they founded All for Jesus – Living Waters Ministries, now Abide Ministries – and have seen it grow exponentially since then, with 24+ retreat leaders all over the world, 29 online courses, eight books on various aspects of living life with Christ, and a daily podcast. Rich and Linda have also worked with various churches to strengthening them with the truths of an abiding life in Christ, and seeing Christ bring reconciliation and new vision to desperate situations.

Their heart is to bring the truths and promises of God to as many people as possible, showing everyone that when you abide in Christ and seek Him daily, your life can be completely and utterly transformed – enabling you to experience the grand life promised by God.



Vision

At our core, we believe in walking along God's path and connecting to the vine (abiding). As we walk in unity with others and understand God's Word as the truth, we are sure to experience His promised grand life and thus, willingly accept God's will as our chosen path.

Mission

1. Live out and invite everyone to experience the grand, spectacular, abundant life by hearing God's voice.
2. Share God's majesty, a close relationship with us as he yearns for our restoration.
3. God is majestic, grand and pure goodness, so that we can experience His nature in real life.
4. Communicate to everyone, irrespective of their condition, that all are meant to experience God's Divine Life (grand, majestic), by receiving His personal plan for us.
5. God delivers this life for us in a SUPERNATURAL way, transcending human comprehension, and thus, becoming normal in our life.
6. Teach that personal truths are revealed to us by God, grounded on His word – the embodiment of Truth.
7. Recognize that abiding in Christ changes our life in tangible, real ways, and is not just learning about or studying this life.
8. Teach that as we abide in Christ, we learn to understand and follow God's will for our lives, as He leads us personally into His grand, Divine plan for us. His personal plan calls us into His bigger story with our best interest at heart (blessed to bless others).

Statement of Non-Profit Status

Abide Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that has been fully funded by our founders, leaders and retreat participants since its inception.

Tax-ID number: 27-1731819

Testimonies

"If I'm not abiding, I feel like I'm dying. Abiding is living...It's powerful to know that you have God's perspective on something."



Steve

"This was the first time that I understood what people meant by God's living Word. And I've been a Christian for a lot of years, but this was the first time it really came alive for me and I really could experience that."



Dan

"It doesn't matter where you are at in your walk. If you just got saved yesterday or if you've been a 20+ year believer like I have, learning how to hear God's voice and learning His will is just as important in day one as it is in day 3,426. You wanna hear God's will and this course has helped me hear Him more clearly."



Bob

"Abiding turned out to be the most transformational thing I've ever had since salvation in my Christian walk and in our marriage, and it's just been amazing. God has a path for us and He is there and He's showing it to us."



Heath

"Before, in my quiet time, it was more of a checklist thing for me to do in the morning, and, honestly, some mornings it was the thing that went if I was busy, and some days it didn't even happen. Now, it's become so personal to me and the time flies by in the morning and God speaks so directly to me and I just never felt that way on a daily basis before. That has been life-altering for me."



Rebecca

"I heard about people living in peace, I heard about people living in joy, and realizing all kinds of things around them are happening. And then we realize, wait a minute, we're there, we have peace beyond understanding."



Brad

Giving to the Ministry

Have you experienced abundant blessing from your time with Abide Ministries?

Pay it forward by donating at abideministries.com/donate and help us support others in learning how to seek Christ and abide in Him! We appreciate your desire to help us share the Abundant Life with the rest of the world.



Learn More at abideministries.com

Podcast

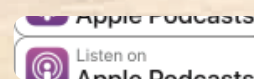
Escape the chaos and uncertainty of the world with our podcast, ***“Come and See, Finding Truth in a World of Chaos,”*** available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify.



CHANNEL



PLAYLIST PAGE



Tune in five days a week as our hosts, Rich Case and Kathy Rocconi, dive into the scriptures and discuss what it looks like to live an abiding life with Christ. Join us as we seek God's truth in a world of turmoil and darkness.

Online Courses



Abide Ministries online courses uncover life-changing biblical truths, with practical application and wisdom. Our courses are joyful and life-giving and are perfect for small groups as well as individuals.

Each course has an accompanying workbook. Join us as we learn about biblical topics like Hearing God's Voice, Discerning God's Will, the Covenant, Living in Forgiveness, Living in the Kingdom of God, Living in the Supernatural, Christ, Clutter and the Calendar, Living the Grand Life, and many, many more.



COURSES

Abide Retreats



Learn more at
abideministries.com

Do you have friends or a small group that you would like to experience what you just experienced?

Would you be interested in attending another retreat, which we call electives to go deeper in your walk with God?

See the various options on our website.
The topics for retreats and courses are the same.

RETREATS



COURSES



STORE

