

## **RELEASE!**

*(Breaking Free From Normalcy!)*

### **(1) Dealing With Performance Issues**

#### **Hebrews 12:1-2...**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us **RUN** with perseverance the **RACE** marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

#### **ACTIVITY DOESN'T ALWAYS EQUAL MATURITY!**

*If our **VIEW OF GOD** remains **SMALL** and **MANAGEABLE**... "**NORMAL**"... Then we will continue to have a **SMALL VIEW** of **WHAT HE WANTS TO DO IN** and **THROUGH US!***

#### **TRUTH #1...**

**"RELEASING" YOUR LIFE - BEGINS WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW!**

#### **1 Samuel 16:1-13...**

*The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." 2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." 4 Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" 5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. **The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**" 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "**Are these all the sons you have?**" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."*

*12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.*

#### **John 1:14...**

*The Word became human and made his home **among us**. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness, And **we have seen his glory** – the glory of the Father's one and only Son.*

#### **TRUTH #2...**

**"RELEASING" YOUR LIFE BEGINS BY UNDERSTANDING  
THAT GOD WANTS GREAT THINGS FOR HIS CHILDREN!**

#### **1 Chronicles 29:10-13...**

David **praised the Lord** in the presence of the whole assembly, saying **“Praise be to YOU, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. 13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.**

#### **ACTS 9:3-6...**

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” 5 **“Who are you, Lord?”** Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. 6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

**“RELEASING”** your lives is not about **CONVINCING GOD** of how **GREAT YOUR PLANS ARE...** but rather **UNDERSTANDING** that you can **LIVE THE LIFE GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOU!**

Once we can **“SEE WHO HE IS”...**  
we will find it far easier to **“SURRENDER TO WHAT HE SAYS!”**

Living a **“RELEASED” LIFE** rarely deals with **WHAT** you and I can **DO** –  
It’s more about understanding **WHO** you and I... **ARE!**

#### **Philippians 3:7-9...**

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them **RUBBISH**, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

#### **1 Samuel 17:1-3...**

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 **The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.**

**THEY** were **GOD’S CHILDREN** not because **THEY WERE GOOD** –  
but rather because **HE IS GOOD!**

We can live a **“RELEASED” Life** because of **WHOSE WE ARE** – not **WHO WE WERE!**

Regardless of **HOW MANY TIMES** the **ISRAELITES** messed up... **HIS LOVE** was based not on their **PERFORMANCE** but rather their **POSITION** as **HIS CHILDREN!**

**GOD’S LOVE** cannot be **ACHIEVED** – it can only be **RECEIVED!**

#### **Isaiah 29:13...**

The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, **but their hearts are far from me.** Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

When we can genuinely **UNDERSTAND** the **AMAZING GRACE OF GOD** and **THAT HE LOVES US NO MATTER WHAT** – it **“WILL”** motivate us to **STOP** doing whatever **WE WANT** and begin to pursue... **WHATEVER HE WANTS!**