

The Deborah Report

A Partner Update from Deborah Ministries International

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One of the most famous characters of the Bible is David, "the man after

God's own heart," the giant slayer. As I studied the leadership transition of going from Saul to David as King of Israel, I was struck by how very real the Bible is in "telling it like it is." I also saw that we are all like Saul, destined to be like David, ruling and reigning in the Kingdom of God!

In order for you and I to become the people we were destined to be, it's necessary that we be transformed from people who are ruled by our carnal nature, like Saul, to people who walk by the Spirit, represented by David. Let's get real together and dare to look at ourselves in the light of these two men.

"Now the LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.'" 1Sam. 16:1, NKJV.

Remember that Saul represents our flesh, our carnal nature, and David represents the choice to walk by the Spirit. There is a point where God declares that **it is time to move on, as opposed to staying in the 'stuck place' of disappointment, disillusionment, hurt, sadness, loyalty to the old, or whatever emotion is preventing us from letting go of what must be left behind.**

After getting born again, most of us eagerly move forward with God, excited about the new life and experiences that have been opened up to us. But, after some time, something happens--perhaps in a circumstance at work or at church, or perhaps in an important relationship--that causes us to get disillusioned or demoralized, and we pull way back, even to the point of getting stuck. When this happens, the Spirit of the Lord deals with us to move on from the problematic circumstances. We have to realize that a given set of circumstances falls far short of God's best for us, and we have to emotionally move on from them. It's time to **stop focusing on what could've been and turn our focus to what God is currently doing.** Far too many people miss out on what God is doing because they refuse to move on when He does!

Your School of Higher Learning

If you choose to move on with the Holy Spirit, one of the first things He does is to enroll you in the School of Higher Learning. I'm sure many of you will recognize the curriculum, although you might be surprised to learn that it is part of a purpose-filled program designed to equip you for the abundant life!

It's Time To Move On...



Let's start with **Solitude 101**. When God enrolls you in His transformation process--spiritual training program--you must at some point go through this wilderness experience. Most of us think of the wilderness experience as something to be avoided at all costs. But

when God determines it's time to enroll you in Solitude 101, you are suddenly transported there, no matter where you live in the natural! The location where David did his time in Solitude 101 was in the moorlands around Bethlehem--a wild, character-breeding kind of place. That's where he spent years watching over his father's sheep. Obviously, from the name of the course, you realize that a huge component of this class is aloneness or loneliness. It is a time when, no matter how many people surround you, you feel emotionally alone--like you are walking through this season alone. Nobody else gets it. How can they? Even you don't get it, really. Nobody else can really walk through it with you--let alone *for* you. And you simply can't rush it--you don't get to determine how long the class is. Jesus spent 40 days in it, but He was Jesus, after all; most of us take much longer! David spent several years there.

Isolation--whether emotional or literal--is always a part of this class. At some point you feel "set aside," like whatever the main event is--it's happening without you. Then there comes the fear that you will never come to the end of this weirdness. But you will. Because your personal tutor will help you **get to the end of yourself**, so that you can be truly transformed into a man or woman who is truly acquainted with himself or herself. Because it's only when you have truly faced yourself instead of hiding or running, that you can be trusted to make choices and decisions affecting not only you, but others, according to the Spirit.

One of the primary course objectives of Solitude 101 is resolving conflicts in your inner person. Silence is usually part of it because silence loudly declares how comfortable you are with yourself with no one else to distract you or buffer you or shield you from the inner conflicts that you have ignored for so long. And, oddly enough, all the normal things you have relied on for comfort and solace no longer do it for you. It's because you're going through a stripping process where the things or the people you have relied on in the past either don't satisfy or aren't there for you. This is not happening because there is something wrong with you--it's by divine design and tailor made specifically for you, by the Holy Spirit! No, not to break you or punish you, but to fit you for a much better, higher life. Much the way a caterpillar must go through the cocoon phase before it learns to fly!

There's another class that many of us will recognize also--we could call it **Obscurity 201**. It's in this class where we experience all the un's: *unseen, unknown, unappreciated and unaffirmed*. **This is where real character is built**--the kind of character that will be able to handle being seen, known, appreciated or affirmed without getting hung up in pride or self-importance. David's work as a shepherd was a thankless job, considered by most to be the thing least worthy of respect. Not only was he too young to command respect, he wasn't even watching over his own sheep! Yet one day he would command the respect of all of Israel as well as believers all down through the centuries!

Why are these classes basic requirements for our development? Because God needs to be able to trust that when you are put in a key place to carry out His plan and purposes, you will respond as a man or woman after His own heart, **instead of responding out of your own need to be affirmed or acclaimed**.

There are two other classes on this track: **Time and Monotony**. There's nothing very exciting about watching over sheep. They just eat, bleat, drink, bleat, sleep, and bleat some more. The monotony can bore you to tears! So can the mundane requirements of your daily life. As you've heard me say before, **"Life can be so very daily!"** As for time, suffice to say it always takes longer than you expect. The point is, *it cannot be rushed*. Anyone can deal with mundane for a brief period of time. Then the impatience, annoyance and futility of it all set in, and that's when all of our character flaws and immaturity go on display!

David passed these classes with flying colors, as many of you have also. **You are to be commended**--many drop out along the way. If you are still enrolled in one of them, be encouraged. Every day you submit to the training equips you to soar on eagles' wings!

Calling All Giant Slayers!

When God called David out of his wilderness transformation classes, it was for a deeply significant assignment--to kill Goliath. Remember, David is simply a picture of walking in the Spirit at this point. That means we all have giants to kill. Really. Be honest; what is the biggest obstacle to keeping you and your family from experiencing the fullness of what the Bible promises us as believers? That's your Goliath.

The enemy always makes sure that any giant you face will look very big and imposing and intimidating--meant, of course, to make you feel small and powerless. Then there is the relentless taunting you with inner trash talk, *"Why*

do you even bother? You can't possibly beat this. Let's face it; you just don't have what it takes." The enemy will always point out the natural circumstances and draw your attention to your natural weaknesses and inadequacies. **But your natural identity is irrelevant in giant slaying--it's all about your identity in Christ and willingness to use His name and authority**. As long as you try to stand against your giants in your own strength, you're going to feel more and more defeated while the giant seems to get bigger and uglier. It's a question of **soul versus spirit**. If you think you're not worthy or strong enough to operate with God's power, strength and anointing--you're basing your assessment on your soul, just like Saul and his army did. However, if you realize that you are authorized to use Christ's victory over the world and the enemy at **all times**, you are basing that on the identity of your born again spirit. **Then any giant you face is not really facing you, but he's facing the full power and authority of Christ Himself!**

Remember that the enemy wants us to focus on what we bring to the table--our gifts, talents, skills, or experience. That being accomplished, he quickly moves to focusing on the inadequacy of all of these things. **But that's just to get our reliance on us, taking our eyes off of God**, wherein is our complete victory. **As long as we focus on our qualifiers, they become our disqualifiers** because they allow room for doubt, unbelief, worry, fear and a host of other emotional obstacles. David knew it wasn't about whether he was strong enough; it was about whether or not God was powerful enough. Therefore, there was no such thing in his perspective as 'not enough.' When you lose yourself and the identity of your natural inadequacy and realize that you have the standing of Christ in your born again spirit, you know what David knew. The giant doesn't stand a chance! As Harvey says, **"A giant presents a target that is just too big to miss!"** It's time. Arm yourself with the Word of God, the identity of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Begin to sling those stones, fully expecting that the Holy Spirit will drive one deep into enemy territory, toppling your opposition!!**

What's Up Ahead?

Plans for a Pastors School in Uganda are underway. This fall Harvey and Deborah will be heading back to Uganda to teach and facilitate another round of intensive training for the 30, 60, and 100 fold Pastors who are faithful to pass on their revelation to those they teach.

Harvey and Deborah will also be heading to New Mexico, Texas, and North Dakota this summer for remnant meetings. We'll keep you posted!

A big Thank You for all of your prayers and contributions!
God shows His faithfulness through YOU!



Deborah Ministries International ministers in response to Isaiah 61.1, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

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