

Letting Go of Stuff that's Not Working Series: Letting Go... Moving Forward

I. Introduction

- A. (Image) Sometimes It's Not Working
- B. We **Need** to Listen to God and Surrender
- C. Text: Genesis 18:17-33

II. When Stuff Isn't Working: God is Speaking (Genesis 18:17-22)

- A. The Sodom & Gomorrah Situation is Not Working
- B. Are You Listening? (Genesis 30:1, 3-5, 14, 22-23)

III. When Stuff Isn't Working: God is Just & Fair (Genesis 18:23-26)

- A. God's Justice: Righteous people save Nations
- B. No One was Righteous (Psalm 146:8-9; Genesis 15:6)

IV. When Stuff Isn't Working: Will You Trust God? (Genesis 18:27-33)

Stop Questioning! Start Trusting!

V. Conclusion: Surrender Your Plans to God

Make Adjustments: What's Not Working in my Life?

- Never want to hear God say I will go down; Gen 11 same level and God; God came down to knock them down; Revelation riding on a white horse hHe comes down; **When Something is Not Working God is Speaking**; door closed in face, not working like you anticipated

- Illus: Started Connect Church; Did a lot of stuff to get people to come to church; Giveaways, sponsorships, events most did not work. Team of over 100 came to do a sports camp. They got here day 1, 20 people. Frustrated Guy said in everything give thanks **When something isn't working God is...**

- Illus: About to sing at S Dekalb Mall; God used us to tear this mall up; I don't need a sound system just need you to surrender

- Illus. Gen 30 Rachel demanded to be pregnant; got a surrogate; took drugs; Nothing worked! God spoke the Lord allowed her to conceive!

- We look for love in all the wrong places; Men look for joy in wrong places; God is Speaking!

God is Just and Fair - Read Gen 18:23-26

- Abraham had good theology! Righteous should not suffer the same punishment of the wicked

- Illus. Ever had to ask God why? Remember God is just and fair! Ps 146:8-9 The Lord loves the righteous 9 The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widows, But He thwarts the way of the wicked

- All are sinners but He is not talking about salvation; This is the principle of reaping and sowing;

- Righteous people preserve Nations; Illus. Study of End times believe in Pre trib. Believers will not be here for tribulation; We are preserving this world.

- God is fair when stuff isn't working it's not b/c He's picking on you.

- Gen 15:16 Then in the 4th generation they will return here for iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete God has a line where people can cross to get His judgment; He gives everyone and opportunity

Will You Trust God

- Abraham says God you can't treat the righteous like the wicked. What If? 45? 40? 30? 20? 10 Abraham intercedes for the city; But He could not save Sodom

- No matter what plan you have it ain't working! You got to change your plans and move forward!

- When stuff isn't working you got to trust God!

- Stop Questioning Start Trusting!

Conclusion: What's Not working In Your Life

Abraham said, what if there are 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 20? **It ain't working you got to let it go; God called me to something else**

- Peter fisherman. Follow me make you fishers of men;

- Elisha the ditch digger for oxes

- My own life without Jesus didn't work; frustrating;

- Let I go grab hold of Jesus

Funny Cable Commercials- Let them go they ain't working; All Cable providers are rip-offs; - Great Testimony from Hulk Hogan; Grew up a wrestling fan but He said I finally had to let it go **Sometimes You got to Let go of stuff that's not working**

- New Series challenges you to let go and grab hold of God; Let Go Move Forward

- 2013 may have had pains and disappointments let go and move forward

- Background: Still barren but all of a sudden God shows up; Next year you will have a son; Sarah laughs to keep from crying let go of pain move fwd

- Today Abraham let go of stuff that's not working

- All of us have been going in a direction that's not working; People warned you didn't listen; Illus. I was dating a girl why don't nobody like you; People push you away from God; Sometimes you got Let it Burn

- Married don't run and blame it on me (sometimes we are pushing things that God clearly is not blessing)

- Struggled in 2013? Financially? Doing something that wasn't working.

- Struggled w/ Employment? Try working hard faithfulness

- Struggled w/ Weight? **Try something different**

- Looked for joy in all wrong places. Relationships, money, friends, Not working. Let go trust God

God is Speaking - Review Abraham great promise of descendents but No Children! New Year your change is coming! Read Gen 18:16-18 - Sign of a man of God if he gets a message from Lord

- Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets God speaks Gives message

- Read Gen 18:20-22 deafly silent

- Sodom at war with kings of Siddim

- Gen 14:10 Siddim was full of tar pits and the kings of Sodom fell in them; Abraham saved them! Maybe they will get saved? Instead Lord came down!

- Gen 4:10 Voice of your brother blood is screaming

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Dan 4:35 God is so great he does as he pleases

James 1:17 NO shifting shadow with God

God is every where at the same time! God is

eternal! God is all knowing Ps 147:5 God

understanding has no limit!

- Illus: A lady came to church said I only take the big things to God; I don't take all of my little stuff to God; Anything you bring to God is little! Is anything to Hard for God!
- Are you holding on to something in your past? A failure? Disappointment? Pain? Let it go! Anticipate God working!
- Jesus paid for your Past! Move forward to your future!
- Tell one of these prayer warriors you are letting go of it will help you move forward in 2014

Relationships

Non-believer I don't want to be single forever so

I'd rather set for Mr. Wrong vs. Trust God He

brings Mr. Right

Worry?

How is this gone work out vs. I know the Lord will make a way

Attack

Non believer get even vs. Vengeance is the Lord..

Hurt? Peace in time of storm

No way out? He makes a way out of now way

Sick? By His stripes I'm healed

Don't Miss the Savior! Accept Him! Best Decision you will ever make

- Can't change by positive thinking! Just counseling! Repeat 300 times a day you will not sin that won't help! You need the Holy Spirit to up root the junk out of your life.

- Long ago I didn't know nothin about Jesus and His love I had heard about it but I never felt it His manna that comes from above but in this life of sin I could no longer stand I asked my mother how do I get to know the man she said you must be you gotta be born again; You might need to go back to the water!

Non-Believer doesn't understand why - Believer says I trust in the Lord w/ all my heart don't lean on my own understanding

Financial problems

Don't know what I'm gone do vs I know the Lord will make a way some how

- You need to surrender Today! Fully Accept Him Today! Get down to this altar and say Jesus you are my Lord! You are My God!

Closing: Keith went to Stanford. It was very expensive, father said get a job to help pay some expenses; He didn't do it; Got in a class and began to reject God; It's not intellectual to believe in Jesus! I should be able to make my own decisions;

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Went home for winter break Dad I'm leaving to live how I want to live; Dad said that's fine. Leave your keys on the table I bought that car; All the money in your account I put ther give me your debit cards; All the clothes in your closet and even your suit case I bought to; You can at least keep the clothes you have on. Is there everything. You can go now! The boy said Dad you taking everything. At that time he surrendered, apologized and talked! See right now its easy to rebel; In the presence of the father eventually you will surrender! You'd rather surrender now rather than later;

Take and assessment what would be the most important? Eccl Solomon said I had money, possessions, friends, can't take it w/ you; Guy wanted to be buried with jewelry and cadillac. People dug his body up and stole it.

- Job? God is a firm foundation can't be knocked down; Relationships? My God said I'll be w/ you always; Stock Market? Account? Strong tower that will not crash; Money? God owns cattle on 1000 hills the earth and fullness therof Depend on God; Where do you spend your time?
- Satan's favorite temptation is greed and coveting; Ex 20:17; Duet 5:21 you shall not covet; You get greedy for stuff you will forget about God; Satan said in beginning you will be like god. Take God's authority; - Where you spend your time and money is where you find your heart.

What changes need to be made? -God blesses you for 3 purposes; 1 Support ministry of Gospel 1 Tim 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor especially those work hard at preaching and teaching; Phil 4:14-19 you have

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done well to share in my affliction. You yourselves phillipans when I left Macedonia no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in thesalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs

2 Handle your business (1 tim 5:8 if anyone does not provide for his own and especially those in his household is worst than a unbeliever)

3 Help those in Need - God does not bless so you can have more stuff; Gal 6:10 while we have opportunity let us do good to all people especially to the household of faith; Ephesians 4:28 work so that you can share with those in need.

Final Challenges: Establish budget (figure out what's coming in. Make sure you are giving to support ministry)

Support Connect Church: Give at least 10% over the next 3 months. Never done that before you step in faith in that way God will bless your finances;

Support people in need; Start with sponsoring a child this Christmas

Conclusion: Get the Right Perspective

- We believe in tithing; Don't look at tithing as God owns 10 I own 90%. God owns 100% of everything. NT giving is give to the glory of God. I believe we are going to have so much coming in that we will flip the tithe and give 90% out and run our church off 10%

77% world live in poverty;

Our pets eat better than most of the world

America 6% of the world but using 40% of resources

Have more wealth than most of the world ever imagined

1. God owns everything
2. Honor God with your Money

Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your prduce

- You get a check and you say let me honor Georgia power. Honor IRS, honor gas south, honor my cell phone company; honor myself I need some entertainment; if I have anything left I'll honor God.

Where is your heart?

Life depended on farming! Give from first what if disease breaks out! Giving shows a trust for God

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- Depression does not have the last word; Lk 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground;
 - Jesus dealt w/ depression; What an injustice they did to my Jesus! They spat, whipped, body was broken, What an injustice! It's depressing! They found no fault in Jesus; They mocked, You were the one to destroy this temple and raise it up?
 - God works through great depression so that resurrection can come; God works through pain to bring about change!
 - My friend your change is coming! Run to this altar and cry out to God!
 - Depression had to come so that resurrection could come
 - Greatest pains lead to resurrection!
- Depression does not have the last word! Victory in Jesus! Victory in Jesus! Victory in Jesus! Christ kills death! He kills depression! He wipes away every tear from your eyes; In God's future you are whole again.

od gives a message to Monoah wife; You would expect the husband to be on the same page, supportive, affirming; We can be thick headed **Read Judges 13:8 First, Monoah didn't believe his wife asks for direct confirmation Read Judg 13:9 I already gave your wife instructions just follow what I told her; Sometimes your wife knows best Second, Monoah wants a sign; What is your name?** He should have been saying baby let me rub your feet; get the baby room ready; husbands can be thick headed; Let God deal w/ us

- God: I Am Who I Am So Get With The Program; You don't need signs you need faith

- God may be challenging you to do non-ordinary;

- We got to follow-up with 200 people; Been through foreclosure, relationship problems, drug addiction, I know you don't like talking to folks; God is challenging you to say Tez I'll do it! Be available!!

- Don't you remember Moses; All excuses; Too old, can't speak; What's your name...

- Job asked for a sign; 38:4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding 5 Who set its measurements? Since you kno. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, When themorning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for Joy. 12 Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, and caused the dawn to know its place, Where were you when he made the earth? Where were you when God commanded the morning to come? Do you keep the clouds and tell them to send hail, snow, and rain? Can you place stars in the sky and form consolations? Do you control heaven and rule the earth? Can you control the fierce lions and make them crouch in their dens? Who feeds all of the birds who instinctively wander about for food? I control the oxes, the birds, the donkeys, the deers, the mountains, the calves, the hils. I control the sun, moon stars. I formed the world. When God set let there be light. I pulled the switch. There is no power greater than me. There is no one more knowledgeable about everything. I knew everything about everyone and every thing before it became knowable. Before there was anything there was me. When this world passes I will still be. I am eternal. I have no beginning and ending. You can't measure me. Because I am everywhere at the same time. You go to the highest mountain I am there. You dig to the core of the earth I'm there to. In other words. I am God! I am not obligated to do anything. I am God all by myself. God does not owe us anything! It's tough to believe and say but God is still God and he can really do what he wants to do. We should trust God because he is Sovereign. He is God all by himself. God does not owe us anything! I AM WHO I AM just get with the program! Live on Purpose.

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- Angel of the Lord received a sacrifice from Monoah and his wife; suddenly he vanished into the flame ascended into heaven;
- The child is born they name him Sampson; God had a plan and purpose! He's got a plan and purpose for you!

the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. If I can help somebody as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song, if I can show somebody he's traveling wrong, then my living will not be in vain. If I can do my duty as a Christian ought, if I can bring salvation to a world once wrought, if I can spread the message as the master taught, then my living will not be in vain."

- He understood it's all about God! He's gifted me to serve others.

- 5 Things to help you discover your plan and purpose

1. Purposed to Bring Glory to God Rom. 11:36 All things made through him for His Glory

- Stay at home mom be the best woman to your children to the Glory of God; Cook do it for the Glory of God; Administrator, Office manager, sanitation

2. Purposed to Worship the Lord Eph 1:11-12 Created to be praise of His Glory

3. Purposed to Become More Like Jesus Rom 8:20 Created to be conformed to Christ Image

4. Purposed to Serve Others 1 Pet 4:10-11 Each one received a special gift to serve one another

Illus: Asked to serve PTSA; Didn't want to do it purpose to serve others

5. Purposed to bring others to Jesus

It's a real privilege to share Jesus with people; I hadn't always been Pastor Tez of Connect Church but I found the joy of following Jesus;

Illus: MLK gave a sermon called Drum major instinct;

If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. And every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize—that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards—that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school.

I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving

others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried

to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question.

I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. And I want you to be able to say

that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked.

I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison.

I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum

major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all

of the other shallow things will not matter. I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have

Roe v Wade legalized abortion in 1973; Since then millions of abortions have happened; Protect women from dangerous pregnancies, results of rape or other complicated situations

- Mother 8 children, 3 deaf, 2 blind, 1 mentally ill; pregnant again. Should she abort?

- Young lady gets pregnant. Engaged to be married but never slept w/ fiancée; Parents will likely disown her. Should she abort; **God had a plan! God had a purpose** for Beethoven and Jesus!

- God's got a plan and purpose for you!

- Get involved Great ways at Church! Home & Work

- Gideon Stop Questioning and Start Surrendering! You may be questioning where is God? Where are You?

- If Gideon surrenders God uses him to tear down pagan gods and stand for change Read Judg 6:33

Massive Army is coming; What's Next?

- This Week Where is God when you need Him?

Where are You - Next Week Where is God when you need? I been right here all along

- Questioning God: Where are you God? God is saying where are you?

Conclusion: Illus Muslim spent years questioning

God; Christian man said, Stop questioning start surrendering! Muslim said I have my life to Christ! Pray for me I have renounced Allah and my family may kill me;

- Pray for a boldness on the mission team this week

- Pray you will surrender

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- Pray you get to know God; Learning God move from ignorant questions; Not where where is God! Where are You

one man taking the lead; 25 year old woman attempted to drown her and all her children in the Hudson;

Illus. had a child when young; Would I walk away? 3 A-B students; All have accepted Christ; 1. Commit to Godly manhood 2. Learn Man-hood 3. Take responsibility and initiative for failures

You Must surrender! Tell God I' am yours! What do you need to do to commit your life to Him?

ffering time after time but he offered one sacrifice once and for all Jn 10:28-30 God has you and no one can steal you out Jesus work is complete! - Who can separate you from the love of Christ! You got the victory!

Nothing Can defeat us Rom 8:37-39

- Satan thought he had you; Pull you back in addiction; kill you; We are more than conquerers
- Dn't play around with Satan; wants you to think you defeated have no control! He has no authority over your home, children, finances, mind, body or soul; At the cross of Jesus He stole the keys of death your greatest weapon is powerless; Not death can separate me! I am more than a conquerer in Christ Jesus;
- Paul could say in Phil 1: 21 to live is Christ but to die is gain
- Peter could be sentenced to death by Herod but in verse 6 chained to 2 soilders it says he's sleep! Satan you ain't got a hold on me. I have the victory!
- Claim to yourself; Jesus has rendered you powerless! By the power of the Holy Spriit in the name of Jeuss you are defeated. Under the blood of Jesus you are rebuked and prohibited form taking my life, family, church, will. I reject your evil and everything about you;
- Rev. 20 Satan you will ultimately be judged and sentecnec into the lake of fire. You snaggle tooth dragon serpent of old; devil you have no power over me;

Ere

You Go to Live in the Authority God has given!
You need to get connected to Jesus Christ!
No reason to walk in defeat walk in victory;
Take the authority God has given you

Closing: If a police officer was trying to tell everyone what to do in plain clothes no one would b/c he's missing his badge of authority; When he puts his uniform on he is in a position of authority! Squad car gun; You listen! Puts his dekalb county badge; backed by stae of GA; backed by USA
In your own power you are defeated! But clothed in the blood you have authority! That's authorized by the Holy Spriit, Jesus Christ, God Himself!
I don' thave to surrender to temptation! I got complete victory in Jesus! Are you connected?

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES CHART

Solitude	<i>Spend time alone with God to get perspective on your normal routine</i>	Study	<i>Meditate on the Word of God gain perspective on your life</i>
Silence	<i>Spend time listening with no noise to gain perspective on self and people in life</i>	Worship	<i>Proclaiming the Greatness of God</i>
Fasting	<i>Self-Denial of food to discover dependence on God</i>	Celebration	<i>Discover God's goodness to me.</i>
Stewardship	<i>Management of all my resources (i.e. time, money, responsibilities, etc...)</i>	Service	<i>Do things for the good of others</i>
Chastity	<i>Abstain from sex to discover fulfillment from God</i>	Prayer	<i>Conversing with God</i>
Secrecy	<i>Deny acknowledgement for deeds</i>	Fellowship	<i>Commitment to Community</i>
Sacrifice	<i>Self-Denial to discover dependence on God</i>	Confession	<i>Honesty and openness about personal flaws</i>
Submission	<i>Giving in to leadership</i>	Evangelism	<i>Sharing the message of the Gospel</i>
Learning	<i>Obtaining Truth</i>	Journaling	<i>Writing bible learning and daily living experience</i>

CONNECT WE CARE CARD

Name _____

Birthday _____ Gender: M/F _____

Address _____

City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Cell Phone no. _____

T-Mobile Verizon Metro ATT Sprint

Other: _____

Sign-Up

What's Next New Member Class

Join the Twelve Campaign

Response:

I want to be Saved Today

I want to be baptized

I want to Serve (be a member) at Connect

I want to talk to a Minister

I want to enroll in a Bible Study

How can we pray for You?
