

21-DAY DEVOTIONAL



#ONETEAM
CHALLENGE

GRIFFIN, MIRANDA, WOOD

#ONETEAM Challenge

21-Day Devotional

by

Vandeon Griffin, Armando Miranda, Tracy Wood



#ONETEAM CHALLENGE: 21-Day Devotional

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FOREWORD

The good news: Children who had a religious upbringing are likely to be healthier and have a higher degree of well-being in early adulthood than those who did not. *The bad news:* Conversations between Gen Z'rs are often peppered with jokes of self-harm, anorexia and suicide.

These represent the realities of 21st century youth culture. You have been called to provide ministry to these precious ones and there is only one unquestionable remedy – the saving grace of Jesus Christ. And thankfully, youth and young adult leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist church are not alone in the quest to demonstrate the love of God to new generations. We are part of #oneteam!

North American Division leaders Tracy Wood, Vandeon Griffin and Armando Miranda have joined voices to share examples from their own journeys about the power of #oneteam. Through a lens of experience representing 52 years of

ministry, you will read their perspectives of how biblical writers have influenced their lives and how it can be applied to yours.

Why should all of us take the #oneteam challenge? Because the forces seeking to destroy our leadership and our young people are so compelling, we must fully engage in devoting our minds to God's Word. This 21-day journey of reading scripture together, as written by your colleagues in ministry, will inspire and encourage you.

Some of us are called to be leaders where we are the lone champions for youth, where we face tests that sometimes seem insurmountable. Be assured, you are part of #oneteam, where others understand and appreciate your faithfulness, and join you in the vital work of ministering to the young people God has entrusted to you.

*Debra Brill,
VP for Church Ministries
North American Division of Seventh Day
Adventist*

Day 1

WEIGHT LOSS

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins.

Hebrews 12:1 MSG



It goes without saying that every year people make all kinds of resolutions from eating healthier, to saving money for Christmas, to starting an exercise plan, to losing weight. I desperately try to keep my resolutions to a minimum—eat healthier than the year before. It starts out great, but by the time I hit the third week of the year I am back to my old habits that eventually chase me down and send me back into an eating slump. It's not a good thing nor is it a healthy thing to do, but it happens.

The result of my challenging eating habits is weight gain. I pick up more than I ever hope to and add to it yearly. Isn't that your story too? We tend to start a project, a new habit, ritual, and then in less than 30 days, we give up and throw in the towel only to attempt the exact same thing a year later. However, I do believe I would do better with accountability. Additionally, I am inspired by others who have gone before me and have accomplished the same goal I am seeking to accomplish.

These stories give me hope that I too can make it. I can experience weight loss and keep it off. Paul gives a motivating admonishment to the believer when it comes to weight loss. Paul says, many have already been successful in losing weight. We have pioneers that have run the Christian race and are winners.

They have blazed a trail so that we may follow in their footsteps and they are cheering us on to victory! You can do this! Paul paints the picture of an Olympic race taking place and in order for

the Christian to run the race and complete it there must be weight loss. The Christian must lay aside anything that will prevent them from running the race successfully. Maybe the things that are preventing us to run the Christian race are bad habits that are weighing us down. Maybe we have negative attitudes that hold us back. Maybe we are involved in tasks in ministry that we are not called to be a part of; maybe we overrate relationships that inhibit our ability to move forward. Whatever it is, we are charged by the Word to lay it aside and experience weight loss. This weight loss gives us the ability to make the race doable. We don't have to be the first ones across the line, the goal is to simply finish the race.

I have heard from so many ministry leaders who have experienced burnout and the challenges associated with burnout result in marriages being strained, parent—child relationships becoming rocky and a spirit of resentment towards God and anything remotely spiritual. Simply because we are too weighty in

our spiritual life. The things of this world will put so much unnecessary weight on us and for many of us we can manage it but only for so long and then it breaks us. Whatever is keeping you from running this spiritual race in ministry, with Jesus along with your family I charge you to lay it aside. The answer is not quitting but unloading the parasites and even the extra spiritual fat so that real weight loss can be accomplished, and ultimately you finish the race and the kingdom is realized. Weight loss is possible starting today!



#ONETEAM Challenge

- How committed are you to living a healthier spiritual life?

- What parasites and extra spiritual fat are you willing to let go of?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- When will you start your spiritual weight loss program?



SOCIAL SHARE

I am taking the spiritual weight loss challenge starting today by releasing the negative people and things that are preventing me from running the God race.

[#oneteam](#) [#weightloss](#) [#acceptchallenge](#)

Day 2

IT'S DEFINITELY A LIMP

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

1 Kings 18:21 ESV



I grew up in Joliet, IL. Most people when they hear that and are familiar with the area, they refer to it as prison country. Well it was home to an Illinois penal facility, but it was also very close to Chicago, IL where many cool and somewhat hip people hung out. Some of the people of Joliet would go to Chicago to learn the cool game. They would return with a different kind of wardrobe, a different kind of hairstyle and a lot of the guys would come back with a different type of walk. It was a walk that was distinct—a limp kind of walk

that was cool, very trendy and hip. It was funny now that I look back on it.

The guys walked with a limp, I must admit I tried it a time or two until my mother (bless her heart) corrected my cool walk, my hip walk—my limp! My mother didn't see the need for someone who had two perfectly good legs walk as if he had a walking challenge that was brought on by actin'. The limp was unnatural and didn't display a sense of true confidence. It suggested I wasn't clear on whether I actually wanted to walk or hop! This is where we find a guy named Elijah. Elijah is on Mt. Carmel with about 450 men who all have a limp.

The very essence of their walk emphatically states they are in over their head. They don't know who they should support. They have no clue who they should give their allegiance to. They are unclear about who gets their worship...should they worship God, or should they worship Baal. This lack of overt clarity shows up in their physical walk! Imagine every time you were unclear on what God wanted you to do,

every time you were uncertain about which relationship you should detach from, every time you were unsure of which direction to go with major spiritual decisions it showed up physically in your walk! You attempted to mask it by moving faster than usual but others can tell, it's definitely a limp. That is what happens to these prophets of Baal. They had an issue with trusting the one true God.

I do believe because of God's grace He has shielded us from exposing ourselves with our walk but only for so long. The game the enemy beats us at is telling us no one knows how unreliable we are in trusting God, no one knows how irresolute we are when it comes to trusting God for our every move. The enemy beats us every time because we have a bad limp. Victory will be our outcome if we simply choose to be on the Lord's side. Any other choice will definitely result in a limp! Living a life of victory will be accomplished simply by choosing to serve the

Lord unequivocally. Leaders must be careful how they walk!

I didn't say it would be easy—just because its hard doesn't mean it's not a victory. Victory comes in many different packages but never with a limp! I want to encourage you today to be really cool, walk without a limp by walking with Jesus. A text of assurance is simply this, *"Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am Phil.4:13 MSG.* You can have a limp free life in Jesus Christ!



#ONETEAM Challenge

- What are the things that have caused you to limp over the years?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- What is your prayer concerning these things?

- Will you covenant with Christ to start a new walk today?



SOCIAL SHARE

I may have a physical limp but spiritually Christ has adjusted my walk to represent Him and lead others to do the same.

[#don'tletthewalkfoolyou](#) [#mylimpiscovers](#)

[#Jesusleadsme](#) [#oneteamNAD](#)

Day 3

FREESTYLE

Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

John 11:44 NASB



I don't want to date myself, however it is clear that the term "freestyle" is not a new term. It's a term that gives one the privilege to be mobile, free, and uninhibited by whatever may be around. When it comes to music, freestyling gives the musician by way of singing or playing the opportunity to sing without constraints that are limited by a certain key or range—you can just go for it! Freestyling in youth ministries is the most amazing thing for a youth leader. The brakes are taken off, the fetters are loosed, and restraints are only used as caution to keep older people from getting hurt—right? I know youth leaders have a heart for students and a desire to be creative and

allow those that they lead exercise the same gifts within the context of a spiritual setting. The issue many times is dealing with the dead. The youth ministry is dead, the youth are dead, the church is dead nothing is alive. This is where we find Jesus and His team, in front of Lazarus' tomb. Lazarus didn't survive the health challenge and it is clear Jesus didn't get to Lazarus in time to prevent his ultimate demise, so it seems. I am hopeful even in situations like this, especially for youth leaders who have arrived in front of their lifeless youth groups and lifeless churches and lifeless support staff. It is clear to you that Jesus didn't arrive in time to keep the ministry alive so that you would have to be a part of a resurrection service. I do believe that at times it is necessary for a burial of what is not working so that Christ can give new life and freestyling can take place. The opportunity to start over is not always daunting, it can actually be a blessing. Jesus arrives at Lazarus' grave and Lazarus' family members are there bothered that Jesus would even show His face at this most

challenging time in their life. Isn't it true? Jesus will show up, sometimes He waits until it is the most difficult of times for you in leadership. He sometimes waits until it's the most difficult time in your youth program. He sometimes delays until all human, skilled, college-trained, certificate holding leaders are completely exhaustive of ideas, tricks and gimmicks so that He can resurrect something brand new in you. If you are at your wits end and feel that what you have been working on is dead, hold on Christ is the master of resurrection on His timeline not ours. I am elated that Christ performed a resurrection that day in front of His team members, and even in front of the family members of Lazarus. I am elated because it says to me no matter how challenging it gets the team must remain together. The team must work through the issues together. Pray through the issues together and above all remain #oneteam even in the darkest of hours. This happened with Lazarus' family and I want to encourage you to allow it to happen with your

team. Jesus calls Lazarus from the grave, and he comes forward completely wrapped, restrained, and bound. Jesus gives Words of Life to all youth leaders. Jesus gives a freestyle Word, "Unbind him, and let him go." Jesus too believes in freestyling. The good news for you today is that all the ideas you have dreamed about, all the promptings of the Holy Spirit you have received, all the thoughts towards moving students from grace to grace can be realized today if you allow Christ to unbind what has always been and loose you to go "freestyle" listening to His voice, His commands, His instructions. Prepare today for a new beginning.

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Where do you need a resurrection to take place in your life? In your ministry?

- Is it possible you are trying to keep some aspect of your ministry alive that Christ wants dead, so He can do something new? What needs to die starting today?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- Christ's command to loose Lazarus is a command to you today. Name those things that you would like Christ to loose you from?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



SOCIAL SHARE

Today Christ I receive the gift of resurrection and the gift to freestyle as I listen to your voice.

[#freestyle](#) [#oneteam](#) [#unbindme](#)

Day 4

ENCAMPING

*The Angel of the Lord encamps all around
those who fear Him, and delivers them.*

Psalm 34:7 NKJV



It was our first wedding anniversary and we decided we would go explore the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in mid-June. We loaded our camping equipment and our mountain bikes for a great adventure. And an adventure it was!

The first night of camping we arrived at a state campground on the shores of Lake Superior at dusk. We built a campfire, set up our tent, and ate our veggie dog and baked-beans campfire-supper. With everything cleaned up and our food supply safely stored in our SUV, away from vermin, birds, and bugs, we retired to our tent.

We awoke to the sound of scratching and squeaking and the banging of steel - in the

distance. What was it!? It went on for some time and then it stopped. And then it started again but it sounded louder and nearer!! What could it be?! It lasted for a while and then it stopped again. And then - it started again - only nearer and louder!!! Now we could hear grunts as well. What could it be? It was much bigger than a vermin or a bird. We were uncertain, but could it be a bear?

The banging and squeaking stopped but the scratching and grunts got louder and closer. And then we realized that it was just on the outside of our tent. It was definitely a bear! And it was way too close for our comfort! We were terrified! While I was silently quoting Psalm 34 my wife was quoting Psalm 91 - all mixed up. However, God knew what we meant. We were terrified and yet there came peace.

The bear went around to the front of the tent, and then we heard it. The sound of plastic being crumpled, like a water bottle being crushed. "Oh No!" We didn't put our water jug away and he

found it. But at least he was moving away from our tent!

The grunts got quieter and then it was that loud noise of scratching and squeaking and banging steel. "What was it?" It lasted a while and then silence. Bewildered yet thankful, our racing hearts slowed down and eventually we fell asleep.

As the morning daylight approached and the sun began streaming through the forest we awoke with thankfulness in our hearts. What happened last night? Was all the noise and grunts really a bear or was it just a nightmare?

Up and out of the tent - and there they were - the tell-tail signs. Claw-punctures in our plastic water container. Paw prints on the ground outside of our nylon tent. Those noisy, squeaking, banging steel bear-proof garbage can lids and holders.

And then we saw the signs posted around camp that we did not notice at dusk when we arrived. "Beware, this is bear country." And then it showed diagrams of how to suspend your food or keep it in containers so that bears do not smell it.

Thankfully we did not have any food in our tent or around our campsite!

The Angel of the Lord literally camped with us and delivered us from the claws and mouth of the bear.

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Are you living an adventure? Do you have everything you need? Is your Angel of the Lord with you or are you needing more of His awareness?

- Is there a lot of scratching and squeaking and banging going on in your life? Can you identify the causes? What Bible verses are you claiming that are carrying you through?

- A bright new day after a long fearful night is coming. What can you do to get courage? Have you seen the Angel of the Lord encamping around you?



SOCIAL SHARE

Fearful dark nights are followed by bright morning hope.

[#oneteam](#) [#campingwithangels](#)

[#sonlightchasesdarknessaway](#)

Day 5

SHOW ME

Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you

Genesis 22:5 ESV



I have a favorite relative—an uncle to be exact. I love all my relatives. I have a heart for each cousin, aunt, uncle, in-law and the list goes on. I have one uncle that I am drawn to more often because he took an interest in me at an early age. My uncle intentionally invested human and financial resources in me because he felt it was his responsibility to not only live a certain way around me but show me how to live that life as well. My uncle owns a demolition and construction company. He has tandem axle dump trucks and dozers and paving equipment that would turn the heads of any inquisitive

youngster like me at the time. I loved seeing the trucks at work, the old buildings being demolished and a clean slate at the conclusion of the job. It was exciting. My uncle had several employees working with him and he encouraged me to join his team.

I didn't know how to work a dozer, drive a 13-speed dump truck or any of the demolition activities that took place, but my uncle did and he committed to showing me step-by-step how to drive these huge trucks and load them with dirt or debris depending on the job. I became his best driver because he took time to walk with me and talk with me and hear me even when he didn't have the answers but depended on Christ to reveal the answer to him. I asked my uncle recently, Why did he "show me" how to drive his trucks, operate his heavy equipment, load his dozers, etc.?

He replied "nephew, it's my responsibility to show you what wasn't shown to me in hopes that

you will do the same for someone else.” My uncle knew the value of mentorship.

Abraham knew what mentorship looked like as well. Abraham was privileged to mentor his own son Isaac. Abraham and Isaac make the hike up Mount Moriah, the Bible informs us they have wood in their hands, they have a dagger for the sacrifice, they have tools to make a fire, but Isaac wants to know where is the sacrifice? Abraham takes a moment to mentor his son in what it's like to trust God for something that you have no clue will actually come to pass. Abraham knows that he must trust God, but he must mentor his son in trusting the same God. Is your faith transferring to those whom you have the privilege to lead? Is your faith strengthening others to have faith in the God you claim?

Mentorship is all about living out before others the clearest picture of the God who can be trusted. Many people will not get that picture unless you take the time to show them. Isaac at the top of Mount Moriah, with all the elements to

make a sacrifice realized he was indeed the sacrifice. His father had shown so much trust in God, that Isaac trusted the same God to provide for him as he had provided for his father. Isaac was clear that in order for there to be a sacrifice—something must die! Mentorship requires a willingness to die in order that we might become selfless for the sake of others. Mentorship requires that our personal agendas die, that we might take up the agenda of Christ in leading others to trust the God of Abraham. The Lord provides on the mountain a caught in the thicket blessing for both Abraham and Isaac. The good news today is that the “caught in the thicket” blessing is available to all who take up the mantle of mentorship and show others what may not have been shown to you for the sake of investing in the next generation of leaders.

The blessing is yours today to carry someone up the mountain of sacrifice knowing by faith as Abraham did, “me and the lad will return.” Everyone knows the walk down the mountain is

much sweeter than the trek up! Take time to show me Jesus today and I will take time to show someone else tomorrow. Uncle Kenny, thanks for showing me.

#ONETEAM Challenge

- What are the things that you need to sacrifice to be a better you?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- A gift is waiting to be developed in someone that is dear to you, identify that person by name.

- Now write a short prayer to God on behalf of that person asking God to give you the time and space to be available to develop the gift(s) in that person.



SOCIAL SHARE

Today's journey will be different than any other day. Why? I am sharing the journey with someone special.

Day 6

SERVING

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."

Matthew 20:25-26 NKJV



Traveling the dusty, long, Jordan Road towards Jericho. It happened during a rest stop - a conversation between the wife of Thunder and Jesus - about her two boys.

How ironic! Jesus explains His most important kingdom principle - by the gentile city that had been destroyed centuries before. And He accomplished it through His servant Joshua, the appointed and anointed of the Lord. March

around the city once each day. On the seventh day march seven times around. Then shout My message!

"Whomever desires to become great among you - let that person serve." Really Jesus!?

You want us to be like Joshua and just follow Your commands? You want us to serve? You want us to be like You and follow Your commands? You really only want us to serve? What about our plans? What about our reputation? What about our agendas? What about our ...? (Fill in the blank.)

Jesus speaks again. "Gentile rulers exercise authority over those they "serve." Unbelievers who do not understand my ways lead with authority. I, your servant, lead by serving. Yes - it makes no sense, but it is My reality - it has worked for Me!

Now lead My way - lead by serving. See who needs your assistance. Seek after My servants. Raise up their hands. Help them accomplish their calling - not yours. Lift them high above you! Strengthen their efforts - not for the sake of your

agenda, but for the fulfillment of their calling. Pray them heavenward for the Holy Spirit's blessing on them - not on you.

Discover that your calling is to serve others to fulfill My calling on their lives. Then you will be fulfilling My calling upon your life! Shalom

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Are you traveling the dusty Jordan Road of leadership into the gentile city of Jericho? Are your conversations with Jesus about what you need to do to become His greatest leader? Does your leadership style identify you as a Gentile or a Believer?

- Like Joshua, have you given yourself over to God's leadership agenda? Are walls coming down because you serve, or are they being built because you lead?

- Who needs you to champion their cause? Are there leaders around you that you are called to serve? What is their agenda and how can you align yours to strengthen their hands?



SOCIAL SHARE

We're here to serve - even if we lose our authority.

[#oneteam](#) [#weareheretoserve](#) [#servantleader](#)

Day 7

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9 NLT



You know the feeling? The one where you are finally alone, after a whirlwind of events that have placed you in a new leadership position, and after all that hustle, you are alone, right there, taking it all in, reflecting on what this all means, on what the responsibilities are, on the risks and the expectations. You start to think on the possibilities, on the things that can be done and accomplished...yet, you have that sinking feeling of not knowing exactly what you will do or how you will do it or who you can count on for this.

Don't worry...you are not the first one, nor the last one to feel: incompetent, overwhelmed, overjoyed, overexcited, scared, worried, etc. The only assurance you have is that somehow GOD has called you for this, and yet, you still don't feel relaxed or calm. The task ahead seems monumental and maybe you are following someone who was such a great leader, that you know many will compare you and your leadership style to his.

Can you imagine Joshua? Moses had just died and here they were, finally at the doors of the promised land. The expectations were high, and the burden of leading an army and leading it well was huge. It is at this moment, when Joshua is alone that GOD shows up and encourages him. God not only encourages but reassures Joshua of something: HE fulfills His promises and as HE promised to be with Moses, HE will be with Joshua!!!

If you had any doubts, GOD is still GOD, and HE fulfills His promises to you too!!! Whatever the task, the challenge, the amazing truth is that if GOD called you to where you are, HE will never leave you to face what comes alone!!! GOD is with you!!!

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Look back 10 years and write down 5 ways you see God's hand in your life.

- Read Joshua 1:1-9 and write how this text helps you in your current situation.



SOCIAL SHARE

I am called by God. I may be afraid, overwhelmed, overextended, amazed by where I am, but I am trusting HIM to lead me and to take me where I need to be because [#Godwithme](#) is a reality in my life. [#ONETEAMNAD](#)

Day 8

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?

"Moses objected, "They won't trust me. They won't listen to a word I say. They're going to say, 'God? Appear to him? Hardly!'"² So God said, "What's that in your hand?" "A staff."

Exodus 4:1-2 MSG



What is your excuse? It seems that we have plenty. Every year we start with many resolutions, many ideas of what we will accomplish in the next year. For many of us, the process gets interrupted very quickly:

- Life gets complicated
- My work gave me more this year
- My family is taking more time than I thought

- No matter what I do, there are no significant results
- People don't understand my vision
- I am not experienced enough
- I am too young/old
- What difference will it make?
- Insert your excuse here_____

The reality of life is that as a leader, people will look to you to lead them, not to come up with excuses. The moment you start listening to the voice of doubt, the vision that God has given you will kill any progress that is needed. Moses was asked to go back to Egypt by God (see Exodus 3) and his reply was a bunch of excuses. God is patient with him but after a few excuses, God is still adamant that Moses go to Egypt. Here is the moment when God had enough, as interpreted by the Message paraphrase of the Bible: *"God said, "And who do you think made the human mouth? And who makes some mute, some deaf, some*

sighted, some blind? Isn't it I, God? So, get going. I'll be right there with you—with your mouth! I'll be right there to teach you what to say."

This year, you may already have failed in some of your goals, your resolutions...you may be filled with "just and fair" excuses to accomplish what God is calling you to in ministry...Please take a look at your excuses and ask God to give you courage. It's time to kick excuses out of our lives!!!

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Don't list excuses...list the vision God has given you to accomplish this year.

Pray the following: *"Dear God, help me as I fight the voice of doubt, help me hear Your voice loud and clear as I set my life in order and as I follow the vision You have given me. May Your voice overpower the voice of doubt in my life. AMEN"*



SOCIAL SHARE

#Nomoreexcuses this year. I am following God's call to action and leaving the excuses behind. God granted me a vision, and with His help, I will pursue it and accomplish it.

[#Godcalls](#) [#iFollow](#) [#ONETEAMNAD](#)

CREATE IN ME A NEW HEART

"Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health, God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don't throw me out with the trash or fail to breathe holiness in me. Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!"

Psalm 51:7-11 MSG



All of us are battling it out...behind the facade, behind the nice picture we paint, we all are battling some demons in our lives. If you think you are not, there you are, battling self-righteousness, the idea that you are better than everybody else

because you don't struggle with the wickedest sins. Let's not fool ourselves, we are all sinners (Rom 3:23) and leaders are not exempt of having some issues with sin. The more responsibility you have, the more powerful the attacks of the enemy will be to make you fall. David, a man after God's own heart had issues too. His story gives us plenty to chew on, for when sin is hidden, we will try to keep it hidden by making more mistakes and sins!!!

Your story may not be as intense and problematic as the story of king David and Bathsheba, but you may be trying to hide the sin that so easily ensnares you. The amazing thing about all this is that even though God knows everything, and could change everything in an instant, He allows our freedom of choice to function, even though it may mean that it will take us down paths that we don't need to be on. But God, will bring all into account at some point. He is righteous after all, and just with His people.

God wants His leaders to be accountable, to be righteous, to be close to Him, to lead by example. If by any circumstance, you have fallen short of that, know that HE is able to forgive you and to help you through it all. With His help, you may defeat your problems, your sins, your issues. Will you repent today so that HE can forgive you and change you?

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Do you have an accountability partner? If you do not, find someone who is mature and godly enough to help you through some of the issues you may be dealing with.

- Read Psalm 51 in at least 3 different versions of the Bible, and at least 1 paraphrase and write down the message of God for you today.



SOCIAL SHARE

I thank God for His forgiveness today. I may not be perfect, but I have asked forgiveness from the one who can forgive, and I am on my way forward with Him.

[#Godforgives](#) [#Godisgracious](#) [#ONETEAMNAD](#)

EVEN THOUGH

"Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty,¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!"

Habakkuk 3:17-18 NLT



Your plans are as perfect as they can be. You have spent plenty of days and weeks planning for this event and suddenly it seems that everything that could go wrong is going wrong. From the little details that you thought were taken care of to some big issues with people and volunteers that simply are not doing their job. The stress is

mounting, and the expectations are still the same: You are responsible in the end...

As leaders, we are tasked many times with organizing and executing events that will bring many to the feet of Jesus, and sometimes it feels like what we planned and the actual execution are so far apart that we feel deflated, frustrated, angry and upset. Have you had those moments? It has happened many times that by focusing on what went wrong and what was supposed to happen, we tend to overlook what actually is going on and what God is doing instead!!!

Have you noticed how in the midst of our busyness, God is still at work? Slow down for a moment and see what activities are being enjoyed, how are your attendees being impacted, how some of them are responding to the music, to the preaching. If you have worked long enough in this ministry, you know that there are powerful moments that happen at every event we participate in and plan. God is still at work!!!

#ONETEAM Challenge

- We know that the bad things will surface quick and will be on the top of the list of things to improve and do, but for this, take a moment to pray for what God did, in spite of all the "flawed" things that did not happen according to plan. List 5 good things that happened at your last event.

- There are lessons to be learned indeed. At your next planning meeting, highlight the amazing miracles that happened in the event and if you can, share a story of someone who was impacted by what was done.



SOCIAL SHARE

I recognize that there are things I can't control. They may freak me out, upset me and in some cases frustrate me. But even though those things may happen, I know that God is still at work and that He is in control. And knowing that, I share that. [#GodisstillGod](#) [#Godstillatwork](#)
[#TrustingGod](#) [#ONETEAMNAD](#)

Day 11

RUN

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV



Following through. A promise broken has its consequences. A job not well done will be remembered. That is the reality of our leadership position. Wherever you serve, and whatever the

capacity, the leaders directly under you will always remember your consistency. If you have promised to do something and you don't do it, they will notice. And they will expect that to happen the next time. Nothing kills a God-given vision more than the inconsistency of leaders who don't follow through...

Looking at what Paul is speaking of here in 1 Corinthians 9, you can see that he understands the importance of discipline, of consistency, of certainty. He understands that we have a purpose, a God-given vision that we have the responsibility to follow. Using sporting terms, he lays out to you and me that even though we may have the vision, the calling, we may be disqualified without discipline and consistency.

Our people will become discouraged and even though they will do what is needed, their attitude may be lacking. But herein comes the request from Paul: "RUN in such a way that you may obtain it". If you have ever run a long race, you may have had to train for it, spending big amounts of time

getting ready for it. You simply don't wake up one day and decide to run a marathon. You prepare for it!!! You consistently train and follow patterns to help you come through in the end. You sacrifice things so that it may happen.

Paul is sharing a leadership secret with us here. We must follow through with our plans, with our training, with our work so that the vision may be fulfilled!!! What is hindering you to lead yourself and your people with consistency that helps you all to fulfill the vision God has given you?

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Take some time to analyze where you have failed to be consistent. Write down what you need to consistently change the trajectory of your leadership?

- _____

Research your favorite sport. Who is the top player of that sport? Read about their beginning and their story. See what kind of training they had to go through to be where they are.



SOCIAL SHARE

I want to be consistent. I want to follow through. The vision is clear. Pray for me as I allow God to help me be the person I need to be for His glory.

[#Godhelps](#) [#Consistencyinmylife](#)

[#Followingthrough](#) [#ONETEAMNAD](#)

INCREASE

"But for right now, friends, I'm completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God. You're acting like infants in relation to Christ, capable of nothing much more than nursing at the breast. Well, then, I'll nurse you since you don't seem capable of anything more. As long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important, are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content only when everything's going your way? When one of you says, "I'm on Paul's side," and another says, "I'm for Apollos," aren't you being totally infantile?

Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the

seed, Apollos watered the plants, but God made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working."

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 MSG



Don't you get tired of comparing yourself with others? Of people stating that they are the best, or that they are doing it right, implying that you aren't? That they have the truth while basically saying you don't? In leadership, it is inevitable to feel that you don't measure up to the standards. Someone is doing things bigger, better and badder!!! Suddenly you are left feeling that they are doing something that you can't achieve. They must have a special sauce for the flavor they bring to their events and their group.

If you keep looking at others and keep comparing yourself to what others are doing, eventually you will become discouraged, grumpy, disheartened, jealous and maybe even mad. Don't be like that please. Take a look at what Paul tries to say to some people that were discussing these same things:

- Stop acting up
- Understand that all of you are servants of the most High God
- Different people, different talents, different results
- All your effort would be meaningless without God

When you get the urge to compare yourself and your work to others, remember these words: God gives the increase!!! When you are tempted, boast about whatever you boast about, know that others are listening. Help them by always referring back to God and how He is the one that is helping

your team make it happen. All glory should be to God, because without Him, whatever we do, would not increase...Paul is #justsaying

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Re-read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 and ask yourself if you have been guilty of infantile things?

Pray the following:

Lord God, thank You for entrusting me with leadership. Help me stay grounded and acknowledge that whatever happens, it's because of You. Thank You for allowing me to be a part of Your work. Forgive me if I have boasted about the great things that might have happened, thinking or implying it was because of me or my vision. Humble me oh Lord. AMEN



SOCIAL SHARE

Today, I want to praise God for His patience with me. He continues to work in my heart. It is He and He alone that makes everything happen. He will finish His work in me [#GlorytoGod](#)
[#Godworkinginme](#) [#ONETEAMNAD](#)

Day 13

THEY WILL KNOW

*"By this all will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another."*

John 13:35 NKJV



Great things happen when there is love...Take a look back, think about the moments when you could have kicked out someone for doing something that they should not have. If you are in leadership, there are, and will be moments when one of those young ones, loved by God, breaks rules and acts in ways that will make many on your team react and ask for discipline and for expulsion.

All of us have had that moment when faced with that individual, and looking at the assigned consequences, it is clear that there is only one way out. Yet, how many of us have encountered

those individuals and felt that showing some grace and forgiveness could do them good? If we dig deeper, we could probably understand why these individuals acted in a certain manner. You may be tempted to just follow protocol, but as Christian leaders, we also have a redemptive mission with those who test and break rules.

Can you imagine if God did not show grace, forgiveness and love towards us? We would have been already done!!! God shared His love with us, His grace, His forgiveness so that we may understand that there is hope!!! There is hope through love!!! Many times, a kind word, a show of grace and forgiveness will result in far greater blessings than you could ever dream of!!! Showing love to someone can change their perspective on life!!!

People will know if we are Jesus' disciples, when we love them and show them grace and forgiveness. And they will want to follow after Jesus, just because of the love that was shown to them. That is the power of love!!!

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Think of that individual that perhaps you have treated strongly. _____
- Would a show of grace/forgiveness/love be part of the process to help them reach their potential and also meet God?



SOCIAL SHARE

God has been so good to me. He loves me. I want to reflect His love today. If I have done or said anything that is not good towards you, I ask for forgiveness. I want to make things right.

[#Godislove](#) [#Forgiveness](#) [#Grace](#)

[#ONETEAMNAD](#)

Day 14

BEHOLD!

And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

Matthew 20:30 NKJV



I was in second grade when my teacher realized that I could not read the blackboard from my desk. I didn't know that I had poor vision. I thought it was normal - that everyone saw as I was seeing. So, after visiting an eye doctor for the first time in my life I came home with some "kid-proof" black-framed glasses. And, Wow could I see! I could see everything everywhere - sharp!

Matthew calls us to "behold" his story. Look at it. Listen to it. Join him by entering into it with him.

He gives details so that we can see and experience it. Look with me at the details.

Two friends are blind. They can't see past their runny noses. They can't see past their immediate moment. They are sitting on the curb of the dirty Jericho road where the billowing dust from passerby's and braying donkeys and Roman chariots cover them with filth. They are immobile unless a friendly "someone" comes by and shows them their way around.

We too are sitting with them - sitting in this dusty old world, unable to see past our immediate moments either. Oh yes, we may have sight. But vision? That is different. We too are limited by our blindness and at times are not even aware of it. Like my experience in second grade. If my teacher had not noticed my limited ability to see, I would have never known that it wasn't normal.

The two friends can't see - but they can hear. They hear the commotion of a large crowd coming up the cobblestone road. They are already breathing more billowing dust from the

approaching multitude. They stand up to get above the filth and to hear better. What are the people saying? Who is coming? Could it be true? Is it really Jesus from Nazareth?" Oh, they had heard of this man. They had talked together about him many times. "If only He would ..." Could this really be the Healer - the one who had helped others recover their vision? He had given sight to other blind people. "Would He give sight to us too?"

We too hear the stories of Jesus - and wonder. Would He do something for me? Does He even notice me? Am I so dirty and dusty and blind that He would pass me by? And yet - would He give me insights and perspectives and vision if I asked?

The two friends "cry out" in hopefulness. They determine that they are going to get Jesus' attention. They call out. No, they repeatedly cry out! Their crying swells into an outcry - a screaming at the top of their lungs for Jesus' attention.

We too join them in their crying out to Jesus for His attention. "Jesus, do you hear us? We are crying out to You! Have mercy on us!"

The two friends call him "Lord, Son of David." They May not be able to see, but they do have insights. They see Jesus as "Lord" - as YHWH - the relational creator God! They may not facially recognize Jesus, but they do have spiritual recognition. They see Jesus as the "Son of David" - the Messiah - the One who is coming to save them from their blindness.

We too join them in their faith in Jesus. We must because we can't see him either. Some days we are stronger in our trusting in Him than others. But we choose to believe in Jesus as our Lord, our God, our Savior!

The two friends believe that Jesus will have mercy on them if He knows they are seeking Him. Seeking Him? They can't just push their way through the crowd to find Him. They are blind. Rather, they trust that Jesus can see them. And

they have confident faith that He will respond to their pleas for mercy.

We too join them in seeking Jesus. We too ask for Jesus' blessing of physical as well as spiritual sight. We too believe that Jesus will bless us with His vision.

#OneTeam Challenge

- Where are you sitting now? Do you need to stand up and move?

- How dependent are you on your physical vision? Have you settled for your limited sight?

- Are you seeking Jesus for His spiritual vision?
Do you believe that He has more for you than
you can see?



SOCIAL SHARE

I choose to believe that God has more for me to see than what can be viewed with my eyes.

[#oneteam](#) [#spiritualinsights](#) [#ibelieve](#)

Day 15

LET'S EAT!

But Jesus replied, "That isn't necessary—you feed them!"

Matthew 14:16 TLB



It goes without saying that man cannot survive on bread alone—but bread is necessary for survival. I am probably not the only person in this world that likes good food. I visited a restaurant in London England called Jimmy's. The restaurant was huge. There was food representing several cultures from Mexican to Chinese to Italian to American and the list goes on. Jimmy's is an all you can eat establishment. All one must do is bring the cover charge and a healthy appetite. I remember being so overjoyed at seeing all the food and the many different desserts that I pulled out my phone snapped pictures, sent them to my

wife and daughter and then followed up the moment with a phone call saying there is food as far as you can see. I promised my family that day, I would see to it that they experience Jimmy's restaurant. The Lord allowed that promise to be fulfilled exactly 2 years later.

My family was able to see and enjoy food in excess. We enjoyed the meal at the conclusion of an evangelistic series I was leading in the UK. We enjoyed the Word and then we feasted on food for days. Jesus did the same thing with this fish and bread miracle. He preached the Word to the people on a mountainside. Their hearts were warmed with the truth and their minds were convicted that Jesus was the Christ. Jesus performed miracles before their very eyes by asking all the children and women along with men to have a seat in groups. As the people found themselves at this Hillside Restaurant, many of the disciples wondered how they could serve this vast audience of more than 5,000. A bright idea

that was masterful in gest was to send the crowd away to feed themselves.

I can't be mad at that option knowing that there was no food and if it was, who brings food for over 5,000 people to a church service? Jesus gives a command to the disciples who wanted the crowd to go feed themselves by saying to them, "that isn't necessary—you feed them!" Jesus makes it clear that as His disciples we should all have something to share with others. The enemy is winning in our lives mainly because of what God has done and is doing in our lives we are not sharing with others. We are simply getting overweight on the goodness of God and not making it available to others. Who comes to a meeting prepared to feed 5,000? The answer is simple—a young person. Philip recognizes that young people have something to offer to their peers, they have something to offer to older people, they have something to offer in a religious service. The idea is to allow them to feed others now. Too often we get beat at the church game

because we are waiting on students to become "old enough" to serve.

Remember the disciples were not 30-year old's, their leader was in his early 30's but his followers were much younger. It is clear that Jesus wanted the disciples to understand that they must be willing to serve people sooner rather than later, and that they are not above the ministry of service. Like Jimmy's restaurant Jesus requested that little boys' lunch and prayed over it and blessed it and those 5 pieces of bread and 2 pieces of fish were multiplied enough to feed more than 10,000 people that day because a little boy was willing to use his lunch to feed THEM! I imagine someone shouting—Let's Eat! I believe you and I are able to experience victory today by simply taking our little bread and fish and sharing it with someone that works in the cubicle adjacent to ours, by sharing our faith with someone in the breakroom, by sharing our school supplies with a fellow student who is in need, by sharing our lunch with someone standing outside the

restaurant, by sharing a ride with someone who doesn't have ample gas money for the week, by sharing our prayers by asking God to bless someone else as opposed to always asking for more stuff for ourselves. Jesus never gives a command without suppling the demand. There was so much food that day it was like being at Jimmy's on the hillside. We can have victory today if we simply make a decision to listen to the command of Jesus--"You feed them!" We will beat the enemy today and experience victory if we start sharing.

#OneTeam Challenge

- God has given you a gift that needs to be shared. Where are you willing to share?

- When will you start sharing your gift?

- Trusting God to share at the appropriate time will always be an excuse not to share. List your fears when it comes to sharing?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- Now list promises that will bring victory when you share.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Social Share

The good news for me is that I have something that is worth sharing and I commit to sharing it today and beyond.

[#littlebecomesmuch](#) [#putitNthemastershand](#)
[#letHimdoubleit](#) [#oneteamNAD](#)

Day 17

FUMBLER FAITH

And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but prayer and fasting.

Mark 9:28-29 KJV



I used to think my brother was one of the strongest and most powerful men on the planet. I still do! You have to know my brother to understand that statement. You see the guy is about 5'9" and all muscle. He considers himself an iron addict. He can be found most days after work lifting weights for fun. I said to him once, that I wanted to get into the weight room and workout to build upper body muscle.

My brother replied, "if you want to get where I am you must be willing to make a commitment to a lifestyle and not as a hobby." In other words, it's possible to be strong, buff and have nice abs but it doesn't happen just being around the weight room. I have to actually pick the weights up and use them.

Jesus makes His way down the mount of transfiguration after an amazing time with Elijah and Moses who both show up on the mountain along with three of His disciples. The time on the mountain was so powerful that Peter exclaimed, "Let's build three tabernacles, one for Elijah, one for Moses, and one Jesus." Peter had no desire to come off the mountain because mountains represent strength. As leaders we are often excited when we lead major programs and the Lord shows up and makes His presence known during the training or worship experience. It brings us great joy. Our fear oftentimes is being able to upstage the last training or event we hosted.

We are afraid of the valley. Valley's represent the low times of our lives. This is where we find the remaining 9 disciples who didn't have the chance to go up with Jesus. They were told to remain in the valley. The 9 were angered that they were not chosen to go to the mountain but rather assigned to the valley. Maybe that's where you are as a leader. You are just as called, just as skilled, just as anointed and yet you haven't been chosen for the "mountain" position. You seem to be overlooked constantly. I want to encourage you that depending on how well you serve in the valley will determine if you will ever make it to the mountain.

There are so many opportunities to make a difference in the valley. As leaders we must not lose sight of the joy of serving all who come to us in the valley. The 9 didn't feel they had any significance in the valley, their worth was tied to being on the mountain. In the high moment of tension and bickering a man brings his son who is demon possessed to the 9 disciples who were

unprepared to serve this family at their weakest and lowest spiritual point in life. This man was looking for Jesus, but had no problem asking the people who were supposed to be strong and buff and full of faith to deal with his son. These men thought they had power and strength just because they hung around Jesus.

It is not enough to hang around Jesus, we must allow Him to have residence in our lives. With no power, none of them are able to exorcise the demons from this boy, he only grows worse. One by one all 9 disciples Fumbled their faith that day. Hanging around the weight room won't build your muscles just like hanging around spiritual things won't build your faith—you will fumble each time. Faith must be exercised! It is built stronger in the valley than it is on the mountain. I would encourage you today friend to not discount the valley experience, it only builds your faith to handle what's going to happen on the mountain. How do leaders build their faith? Jesus said it best "This kind can come forth by nothing, but prayer

and fasting." Mark 9:29 Don't fumble your faith over unwillingness to spend time in the weight room of prayer and fasting. It is necessary to build character, and commitment and confidence in Jesus Christ so that even when you are not chosen to be on the mountain you can still be effective in the valley!

#OneTeam Challenge

- What job, leadership role, call, were you overlooked for? Sometimes writing it out helps!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- If you are in the valley today, what opportunity awaits you to exercise your faith so that you don't fumble?

God has a million opportunities for His children to serve. We don't all get chosen for the mountain. Are you willing to work in the valley as if you were already chosen for the mountain?



SOCIAL SHARE

Father I am thankful that I wasn't chosen for the mountain at this time. Strengthen my faith in the valley and allow me to exercise faith in You to bring victory to those who need You.

[#nomorefumbles](#) [#faithstreghthened](#)
[#biggerthanthat](#)

HE KEEPS CALLING

And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

1 Samuel 3:10 KJV



I can hear my little 3-year-old calling my name time and time again, "daddy, daddy, daddy." I do believe that my little girl called my name because she needed me at times, but it was clear that other times she was calling my name just to hear herself. No matter how often she called my name she never grew tired—she kept on calling her daddy. The older my daughter gets the more precious the times that I hear her calling my name. I can't wait to receive phone calls from her or a text message. It gives me great joy that someone like her consistently reaches out to call on her daddy.

Samuel grew up around spiritual things and people. Samuel was privileged to be connected to Eli the priest and yet the Bible says that Samuel did not yet know the Lord. He was in a place to learn of the Lord but had not yet experienced the Lord. Samuel's introduction to the Lord was "the call." While sleeping in his bed, Samuel hears a voice calling him and he assumed it was the voice of Eli. He respectfully returned to Eli's chambers to respond to the call and Eli informed him that he had not made the call. The call was repeated and each time Eli informed Samuel that he did not call him. I want to encourage leaders that it is possible to be unsure of who is calling you. Never be misguided by your own ability to decipher who is actually calling you. The mistake that we can make in leadership is listening to the wrong voice.

Please know that if you are not just a good leader but God's leader you will always get calls; decoding if it's a call of God will only be made clear as you intentionally interact with Him through prayer and study of His Word. The good

news is that when you are not sure if it is a call from God, He will place others around you to assist in making the call clear. Eli responds to Samuel by saying, If He calls, respond by saying, "Speak Lord, for your servant hears." The good news is that He Keeps Calling. God called to Samuel again and He is calling you today as well. The grace of God makes possible the call of God.

God called Samuel while he was young, but more importantly He called Samuel when he was ready to listen. God keeps calling you friend, the question is are you ready to listen? To be called by God no matter where you are in your journey is an privilege that should be taken advantage of whenever possible. He is willing to call each of us, but we must be willing to respond to the call. Samuel gives us the correct response to the call— Speak! I need the Lord to speak into my life this day how about you? I am open to hearing His voice and I am excited to hear what He wants to talk to me about. He keeps calling and His desire is that we would appropriately respond to the call

by saying Speak. Today, listen for the voice that keeps calling you.

#ONETEAM Challenge

- What call has God placed on your life?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

- What measures are you putting in place to be able to discern God's voice above other voices that are speaking?

- Are you willing to not only listen to the voice of God, but also follow?



SOCIAL SHARE

God I am thankful that you are still calling people like me to be used for Your glory. Give me discernment and strength to listen and respond to the call on my life!

[#not2old2becalled](#) [#Hecallswhomever](#)

[#Hecalledmetoo](#) [#oneteamnad](#)

Day 19

CALLED

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

Isaiah 43:1 NKJV



I Am with you. I Am here and near. I love with an everlasting love; therefore, I have called you.

I have called you to give Me 100% of your attention and your time. I have called you to focus on Me and My words to you. Do not be absorbed by cars and house decorations and sports and media and ... Rather be absorbed by My presence and My Word for you daily, every hour, moment by moment. I have called you by your name. You are Mine.

Remember, people are more important than things. I have redeemed people. I have redeemed you. I have not redeemed things. They will burn – but not you. I want you with Me forever. I Am making plans for you to be with Me where I Am.

Now come to Me and I will give you rest. I Am meek and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your soul. Yes, rest, comfort, relaxation for your inner-being. Rest for your inner turmoil. Rest from your anxieties. Comfort for your irritabilities. Rest - for your soul.

It is the deep expectations that you cannot seem to achieve. Give these to Me. I can lift these burdens from you. Know that I can accomplish them within you as I choose. Remember, when you give yourself to Me, you are Mine. And I love you so much that I will raise you up to become all that I have in mind for you.

Put your personality into My hands. Let me reshape your responses and reactions to people and to life issues as I know you would want but are unable to achieve. Let Me give you My

character in place of your personality. My character is pure and holy and true. You will not have to try to be true to yourself because I will be true to you. And then you can be true to yourself and to others. Remember, I have called you by your name. You are Mine - if you will let yourself be Mine.

You have the option to let your human nature dominate you, or you can allow me to cover your human nature with My divine nature. What does this mean? Ask Me to wrap My loving arms of grace around you and you will discover My love and the gift of deep satisfaction I have for you. For your humanity to be wrapped up in My loving arms of grace is the most fulfilling experience you can have with Me. I can cover you with My blanket of righteousness, but it only comes with My hugs of love. I will hold you close and never let you go - unless you choose otherwise.

#ONETEAM Challenge

It's not a fight to let go, but rather a surrender. A giving up. A giving in. A letting go.

- Does God usually talk this openly? Have you heard Him call you by your name? What does it take to be able to hear the voice of Jesus more often?

- Find your favorite blanket and wrap up in it. Consider it as being wrapped up in God's righteousness. Could God's presence be as real as your blanket wrapped around you?



SOCIAL SHARE

Does God really know my name?

[#oneteam](#) [#blanketwrap](#) [#Heknowsmyname](#)

TRANSFORMED

And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

Romans 12:2 AMP



It's earthy. It's brown. It's damp. It's messy. It's fun to play with. It's creative. It's organic. It's water-soluble. It brings out creativity. What is it? It's modeling clay.

If you have ever handled modeling clay you know that the water-to-clay ratio determines the

malleability of it. And you know how much fun it is to press it onto an object and then peel it off to discover how it has conformed to the shape of the object.

After examining the intricacies of the newly formed shape you begin looking for another object that you can use to completely transform the impression into another new shape. It becomes exciting to keep on pressing the clay over new objects that transform it into new molds.

The conformed-to-transformed process with modeling clay is not difficult. It doesn't take a potter to do it. Anyone can play with clay. Anyone can have fun working it. Anyone can experience joy in creating something new!

Can it be this way with us? We are earthy, damp, messy, organic, creative, and mostly water. We were molded from the clay of the earth. We were organically formed and yet we are called to be "transformed."

From conformed to transformed. What a concept. What an opportunity. What a possibility.

And it can happen - by the renewing of our minds. It is not our outer form or shape, but rather our inner.

The renewing of our minds. The experience of mind-renewal is a spiritual experience - whether it is intentional or not. Spiritual because it is in the mind where hope and belief and trust and faith and confidence and courage and assurance and surrender and will-power and mental-strength and abilities and boldness and emotions and fear and worth and value and communication and interaction and understanding and vision and wisdom and affections and desires and longings and character and human-nature and personality and thought-processing and ...

Oh, the importance of continually re-examining our logical thinking - and challenging our assumptions - and renewing our conclusions. And all for the beneficial purpose of proving - yes, proving to ourselves that we are where we should be. Yes, from renewing to proving.

And proving for ourselves what? Proving what is the best for us. Proving - being assured - being persuaded - being convinced - being confident - being convicted - being ...

Knowing that we are in the center of God's divine plan for us. Yes, our loving, gracious, merciful, caring God's will. His holy desires - for us! His divine longings - for us! His beautiful plans - for us! All of this - for us!

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Are there some things you have been conforming to that need transforming? How can you determine what those things are?

- Is there some thinking that needs to be renewed? Do we have to live life by trial-and-error processes? How can we really “prove” God’s will for us?

- Does God have divine plans for you that may be out of your reach or beyond your comprehension? What does it take to discover them?



SOCIAL SHARE

Transforming my mind towards proving God's will – part of my spiritual life-journey.

[#oneteam](#) [#conformedto](#)[transformed](#)
[#lifejourney](#)

COLLABORATION

So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" "

Zechariah 4:6-7 NKJV



He was commissioned to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem after 70 years of desolation. Called and commissioned! What a huge job!

The temple had been destroyed, ravished, burned, knocked down, nothing left but stones - and some of them pulled down. Satan had done all he could to obliterate worship and destroy

ministry! And God had allowed him to do it! Yet - God has timing!

He makes all things beautiful in His time - not ours. And it was His time now!

Zechariah prophesied what he saw and heard. The temple would be rebuilt! The ministry would be re-instituted. But not by Zerubbabel's might, nor by his power. He and his workers were only human.

Yes - there was much work and heavy labor to be done. But to accomplish the task of ministry development - this required collaboration!

Not that we can bring any strength and ability to God's work - and yet He calls and commissions us to be a part of His divine plan. Collaboration with God's Spirit. Human willingness joined to divine might and divine power.

It is not what we bring to His work, but what He provides - the might and power of the Holy Spirit upon those called and commissioned to collaborate with Him!

#ONETEAM Challenge

- Has God commissioned you to a work beyond your capabilities? How do you respond towards God-size tasks? Is there something you need to talk with Jesus about that you feel needs His attention?

- Are you feeling a need for more power and more might? Or could it be you need more people and more money? Maybe it is more patience and more mercy that is needed?

- What can you do to increase your collaboration with the Holy Spirit? If it is truly God's work - His ministry - how does He want to collaborate with you? What does the Holy Spirit want from you?



SOCIAL SHARE

Holy Spirit collaboration is more about what He wants to do through me than what I can do through Him.

[#oneteam](#) [#HolySpiritcollaboration](#)

[#itsnotaboutme](#)

Day 21

IMPLORING

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV



We ARE ambassadors now - children of the heavenly kingdom living here on earth as foreigners.

When we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord we became sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. We are His children and He is our God.

As we daily recommit our minds, and our hearts, and our wills into His hands we affirm our relationship with Jesus as our Older Brother. He is the One who saves us from our sins! He is the One who cleanses us from our unrighteousness. He is

the One who transforms us to become partners with Him in helping others get to know Him.

And this is the point. Ambassador training is not complex. Ambassador training does not take a lifetime. Ambassador training is not our agenda.

Ambassador training is our Father's work through us. It is His Holy Spirit pleading through us - as though it is us sharing. And it is us sharing - sharing from our experiences how amazing it is to be His children.

We discover that as we are daily surrendering to our Father, and continually committing ourselves to our Elder Brother, Jesus, the depth of our relational experiences with Them grow beyond our words of explanation.

Being children of the Heavenly King, we find ourselves imploring others to give themselves to Him. We want them also to experience His amazing love.

Imploring? Yes! Begging someone earnestly or desperately to do something. And if others don't want to hear our words, then we implore by our

lifestyle - by our silent witness - by our deep respect and love for them.

We ARE imploring on Jesus' behalf. It is not our agenda nor our tactics. Rather we follow Jesus' inspiration - the ideas we gather while in our solitary time with Him every day.

We ARE ambassadors for the kingdom of heaven. How? However, our Heavenly Father and our Older Brother prompt us to implore.

#ONETEAM challenge

- Have you invited God to be your Heavenly Father? And Jesus Christ to be your Older Brother? Are you a child of the kingdoms of heaven?

- What would it take for you to get so excited about your relationship with Jesus Christ that

you could not hold back your enthusiasm? Do you know anyone that is contagious like this?

- Who are you "implore" by your words and/or your life, to be in relationship with our Father or our Older Brother? Who do you want to implore? Who does Jesus want to implore through you?



SOCIAL SHARE

Implore - to beg earnestly or desperately.

[#oneteam](#) [#implore](#) [#myolderBrother](#)



#ONETEAM CHALLENGE

21-DAY DEVOTIONAL

The #ONETEAM CHALLENGE is a 21-day devotional written by leaders for leaders. As co-laborers in the Seventh Day Adventist Church commissioned to lead and serve the youth and young adult generation, we share the burdens and triumphs of ministry.

In this devotional, we will walk together through scripture and journey through the lessons of life and ministry. Daily, you will be challenged with reflective questions and to share your affirmations on social media to encourage and inspire others. We are #ONETEAM!