

NEHEMIAH

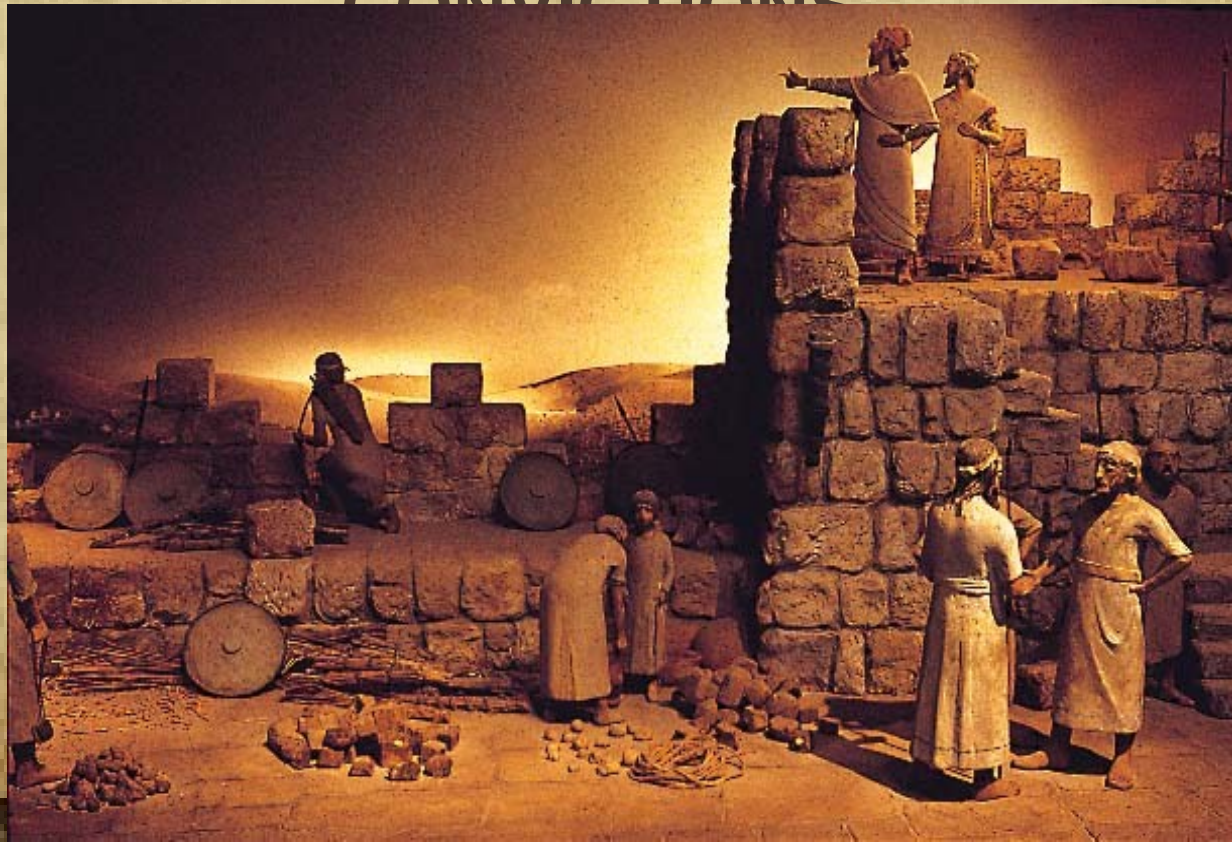


The Integrated Leader

Integrating faith into every area of our lives

NEHEMIAH- “COME LET US BUILD”

SESSION 4: ASSESSING MY CHOICES AND CONVICTIONS



NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

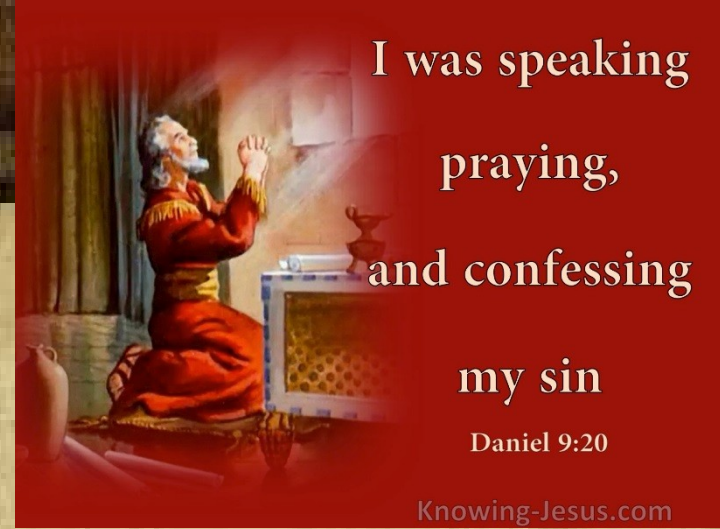
CONFESSION

*Nehemiah 1:6-7- “**I** confess the sins **we** Israelites, including **myself** and **my father's house**, have committed against you. **We** have acted very wickedly toward you. **We** have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses...”*



DANIEL'S PRAYER

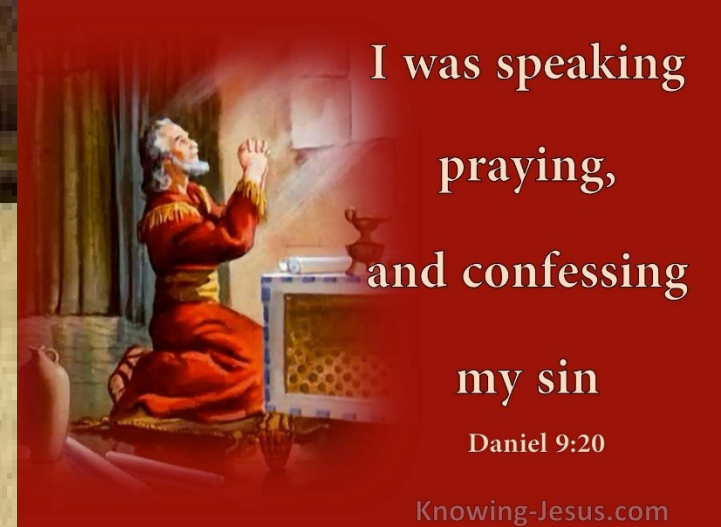
DANIEL 9



“I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **we** have sinned and done wrong. **We** have been wicked and have rebelled; **we** have turned away from your commands and laws. **We** have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to **our** kings, **our** princes and **our** ancestors, and to all the people of the land...

DANIEL'S PRAYER

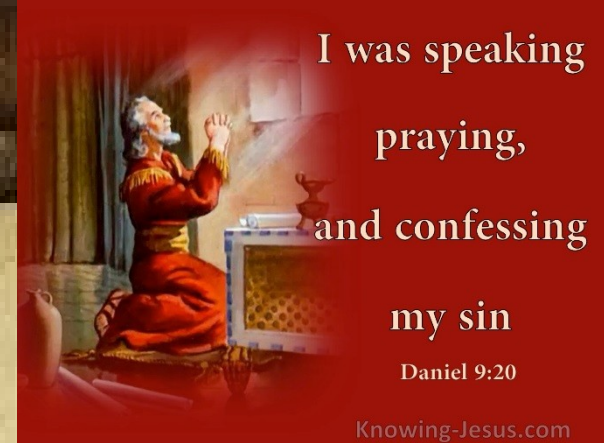
DANIEL 9



“...Lord, you are righteous, but this day **WE** are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered **US** because of **our** unfaithfulness to you. **We** and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because **we** have sinned against you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though **we** have rebelled against him; **we** have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave **us** through his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you....

DANIEL'S PRAYER

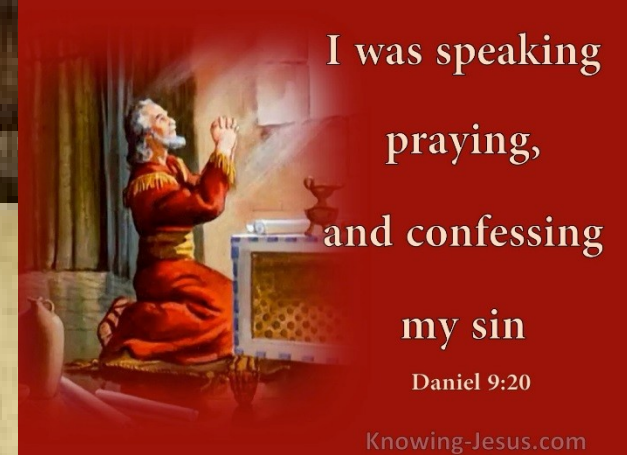
DANIEL 9



Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on **us**, because **we** have sinned against you. You have fulfilled the words spoken against **us** and against our rulers by bringing on **us** great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on **us**, yet **we** have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from **our** sins and giving attention to your truth. The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on **us**, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet **we** have not obeyed him...

DANIEL'S PRAYER

DANIEL 9



“Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, **we** have sinned, **we** have done wrong. Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. **Our** sins and the iniquities of **our ancestors** have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around **us**....

DANIEL'S PRAYER

DANIEL 9



I was speaking
praying,
and confessing

my sin

Daniel 9:20

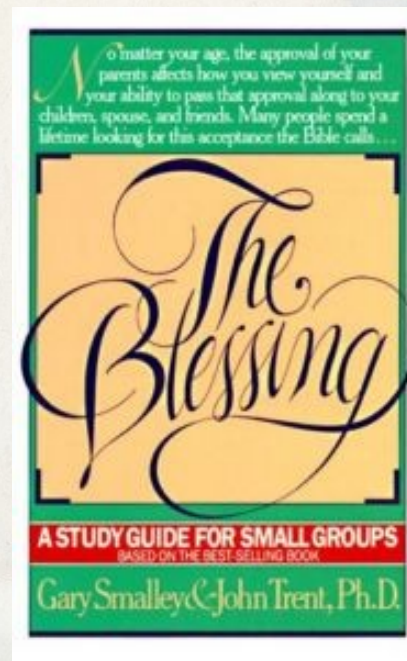
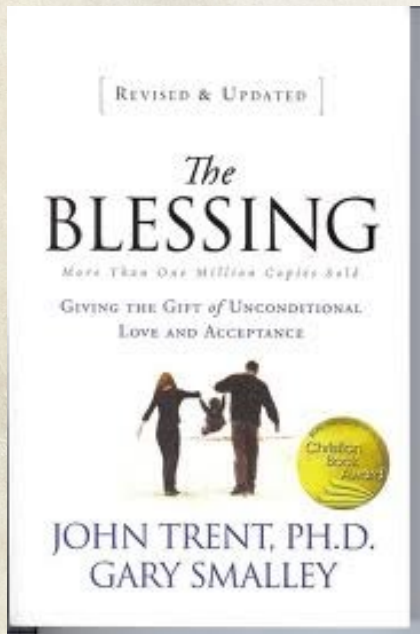
Knowing-Jesus.com

“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. **We** do not make requests of you because **we** are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

Books-

"The Blessing"

by Gary Smalley & John Trent

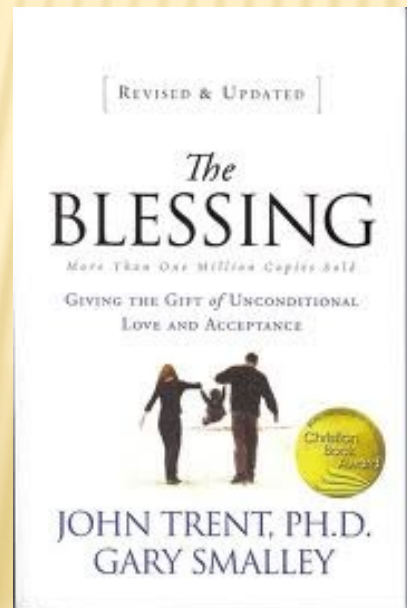


The BLESSING

“The blessing” by John Trent and Gary Smalley

5 aspects of the blessing:

- 1) Meaningful touch
- 2) Spoken words
- 3) Words that communicate high value
- 4) Words that communicate a bright future
- 5) A commitment to partner with you to achieve that bright future



The Blessing

Exodus 20:5- "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, **on the third and the fourth generations** of those who **hate Me.**" (NASB)

Exodus 20:6- "...but showing love to a **thousand generations** of those who **love Me** and **keep My commandments.**" (NIV)



The BLESSING

Definition of “The Blessing”

To "bless" means "to value"

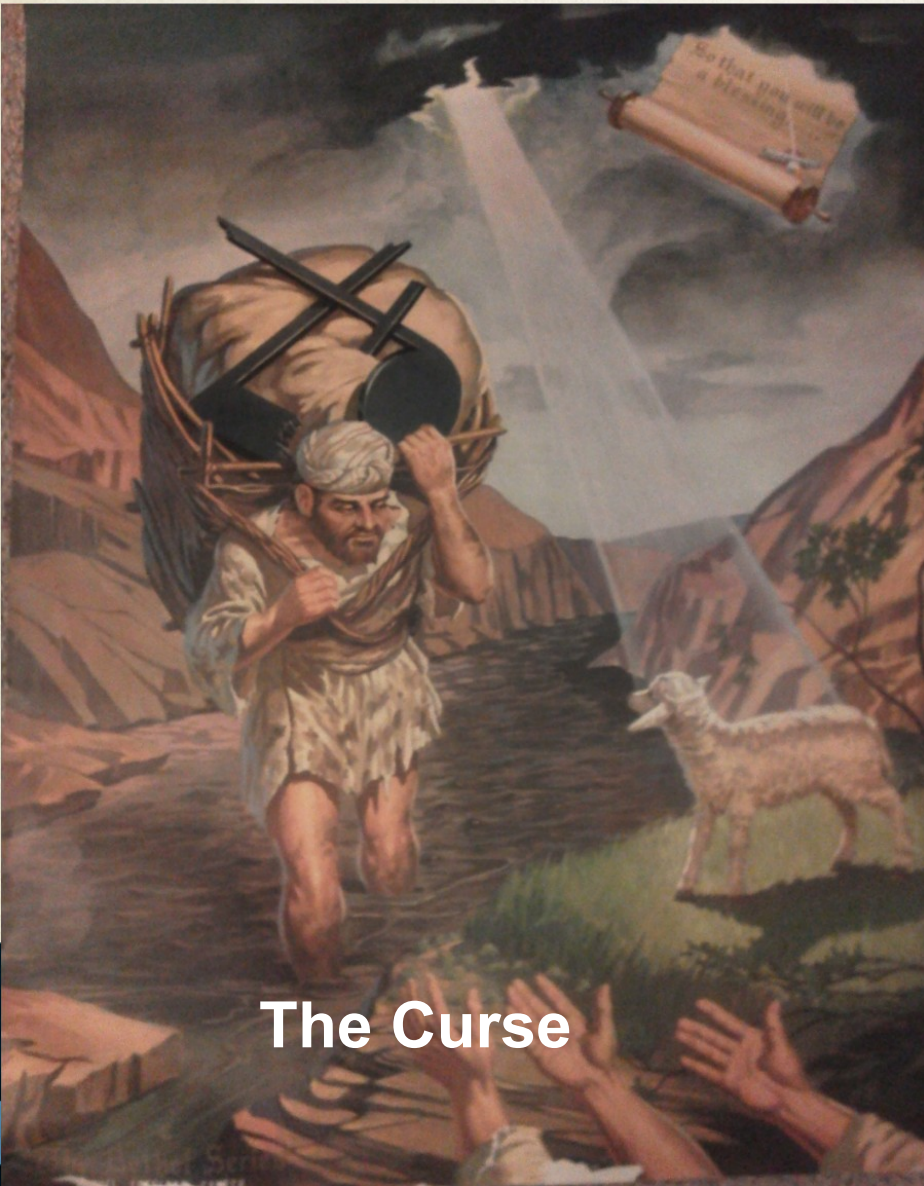
The opposite of "The Blessing"-
"curse" means to "devalue"

Two forms of cursing:

- 1) "Active cursing"- abusive words and behavior
- 2) "Passive cursing"- neglectful words and behavior.



Result of receiving “The Blessing”



5 Features of “The Blessing”

1. Meaningful touch

The Blessing

- Physical Affection- handshake, hug, kiss
- Laying on of hands
- Loving discipline
- Husbands & Wives- Sex within the covenant of marriage



5 Features of “The Blessing”

1. Meaningful touch

The curse- active

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Abusive, extreme discipline
- Sexual immorality (sex outside the covenant of marriage)



5 Features of “The Blessing”

1. Meaningful touch

The Curse- passive

- Lack of physical affection
- Husbands & Wives- withholding affection, sex
- Affairs
- Pornography



5 Features of “The Blessing”

2. Spoken words

“The Blessing”

- Words of affirmation
- Words of acceptance, love
- Words of blessing (“value”)



5 Features of “The Blessing”

2. Spoken Words

“The Curse”- Active

- Abusive words
- Angry words
- Cursing



5 Features of “The Blessing”

2. Spoken Words

“The Curse”- Passive

- Silence
- Little or no communication
- Formal communication



5 Features of “The Blessing”

3. Words communicating high value

“The Blessing”

- Words showing respect, dignity
- Recognition of value
- Praying with/for others



5 Features of “The Blessing”

3. Words communicating high value

“The Curse”- Active

- Words that belittle, berate
- Controlling words or behavior
- Accusing words



5 Features of “The Blessing”

3. Words communicating high value

“The Curse”- Passive

- Favoritism
- Overlooking, ignoring
- Abandonment



5 Features of “The Blessing”

4. Words that communicate a bright future

“The Blessing”

- Affirmation
- Recognition of achievement
- Words of encouragement



5 Features of “The Blessing”

4. Words that communicate a bright future

“The Curse”- Active

- Servitude
- Failure words
- Unrealistic expectations



5 Features of “The Blessing”

4. Words that communicate a bright future

“The Curse”- Passive

- Favoritism
- Overlooking, ignoring
- Abandonment



5 Features of “The Blessing”

5. A partnership with you to achieve that bright future

“The Blessing”

- Active commitment
- Sustained commitment
- Sacrifice (esp. financial)
- Perseverance



5 Features of “The Blessing”

5. A partnership with you to achieve that bright future

“The Curse”- Active

- Servitude
- Divorce
- Abandonment



5 Features of “The Blessing”

5. A partnership with you to achieve that bright future

"The Curse"- Passive

- Withholding support
- Procrastination
- Broken Promises



Galatians 3:13

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law **having become a curse for us**, as it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'"



The BLESSING

The Ultimate Blessing

Jesus' blessing to His disciples
(AND US)- the Upper Room

The Cross- He turned the
CURSE into a BLESSING



The BLESSING

REPEATED THEME OF THE BIBLE

Acts 2:38- Peter's 1st speech at Pentecost- "**Repent!**"

Matthew 3:17-John the Baptist- "**Repent...**"

Matthew 4:17- Beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry-
"**Repent...**"

Revelation 2-3- Jesus to the 7 churches- "**Repent...**"

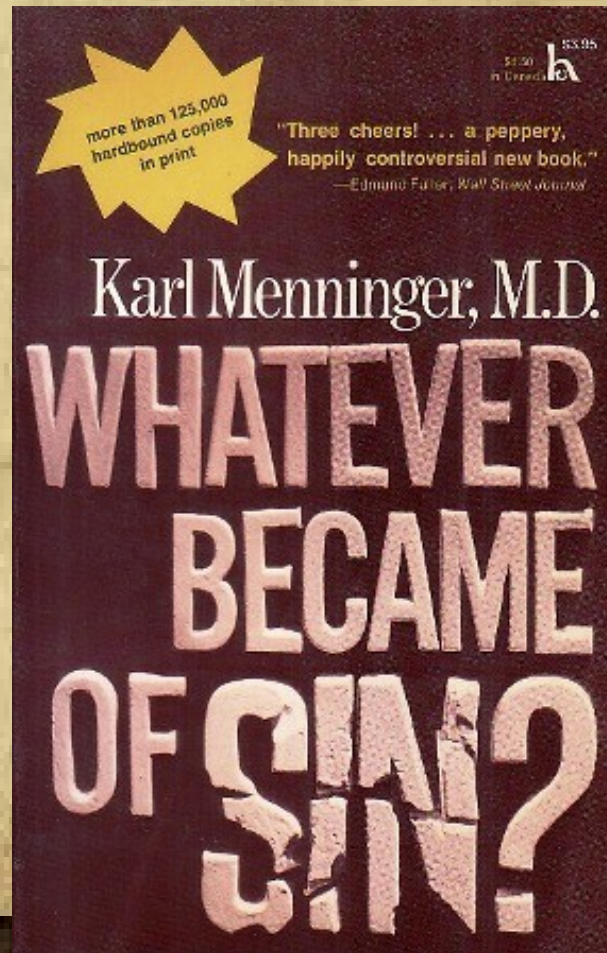
THE “STING” OF SIN

2 Samuel 12:7- “David, **you are the man!**”

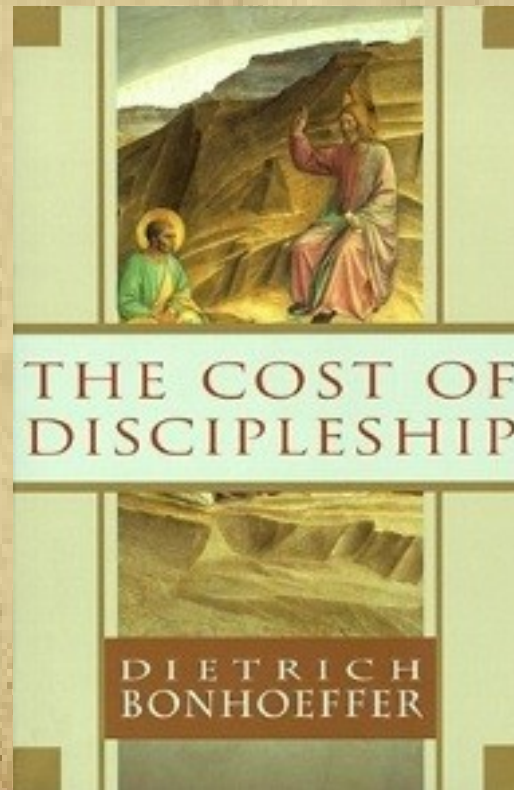
Sin is spelled “**s**-**l**-**n**” (an “l” in the middle of “sin”)



KARL MENNINGER- "WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN"



DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, “THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP”



ISAIAH 59:1-2-

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But **your iniquities** have separated you from your God; **your sins** have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”



ROMANS 1:18-

“For the wrath of God is revealed against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of men, who suppress the truth in their unrighteousness.”



SOME OF OUR EXCUSES:

“I’m working on it”

“I wasn’t myself when I did that”

“You made me do it”

“The devil made me do it”

“Christians aren’t perfect- just forgiven”

3 GREAT PHILOSOPHERS- SOCRATES, SARTRE, AND SINATRA.

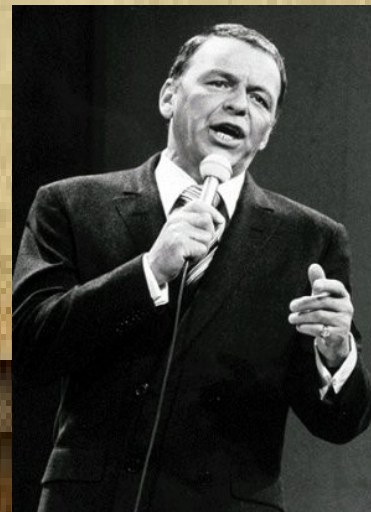
Socrates- “To *do* is to *be*.”



Sartre- “To *be* is to *do*”



Sinatra- “Do-be-do-be-do”



Aaron, when confronted by Moses (after the “Golden Calf” incident)

*Exodus 32:24- “...So I told them,
‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take
it off.’ Then they gave me the gold,
and I threw it into the fire, and **out
came this calf!**” (“**The fire
did it!**”)*

A step toward freedom- **No- “I did
it!”**



GALATIANS 5:1

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”



MONKEY TRAP



DAVID- *PSALM 32*-

“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away...but, I said, ‘I will confess’...and, you **forgave** (past tense) the guilt of my sin...”



HOW IS REPENTANCE DESCRIBED IN ACTS 3:19?

“Repent,...in order that times of
refreshing may come...”

*I John 1:8-9- “If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is
not in us. But, if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will
forgive our sins... and **cleanse** us
from all unrighteousness!”*



BAD CHOICES?

- ✘ *Proverbs 24:16- A righteous man falls 7 times, but **gets up again**! But, the wicked are brought down by calamity.*
- ✘ *Example- Peter at the crucifixion & after the resurrection:*
- ✘ *Matthew 26:69-75- Peter denies Jesus*
- ✘ *John 21:15-19- Jesus restores Peter*



SILENT PRAYER- CONFESSION

p. 44- "Life-graph"- consequences as a result of choices that I

made

God's compassion, forgiveness-

Psalm 103:8-12-

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.*

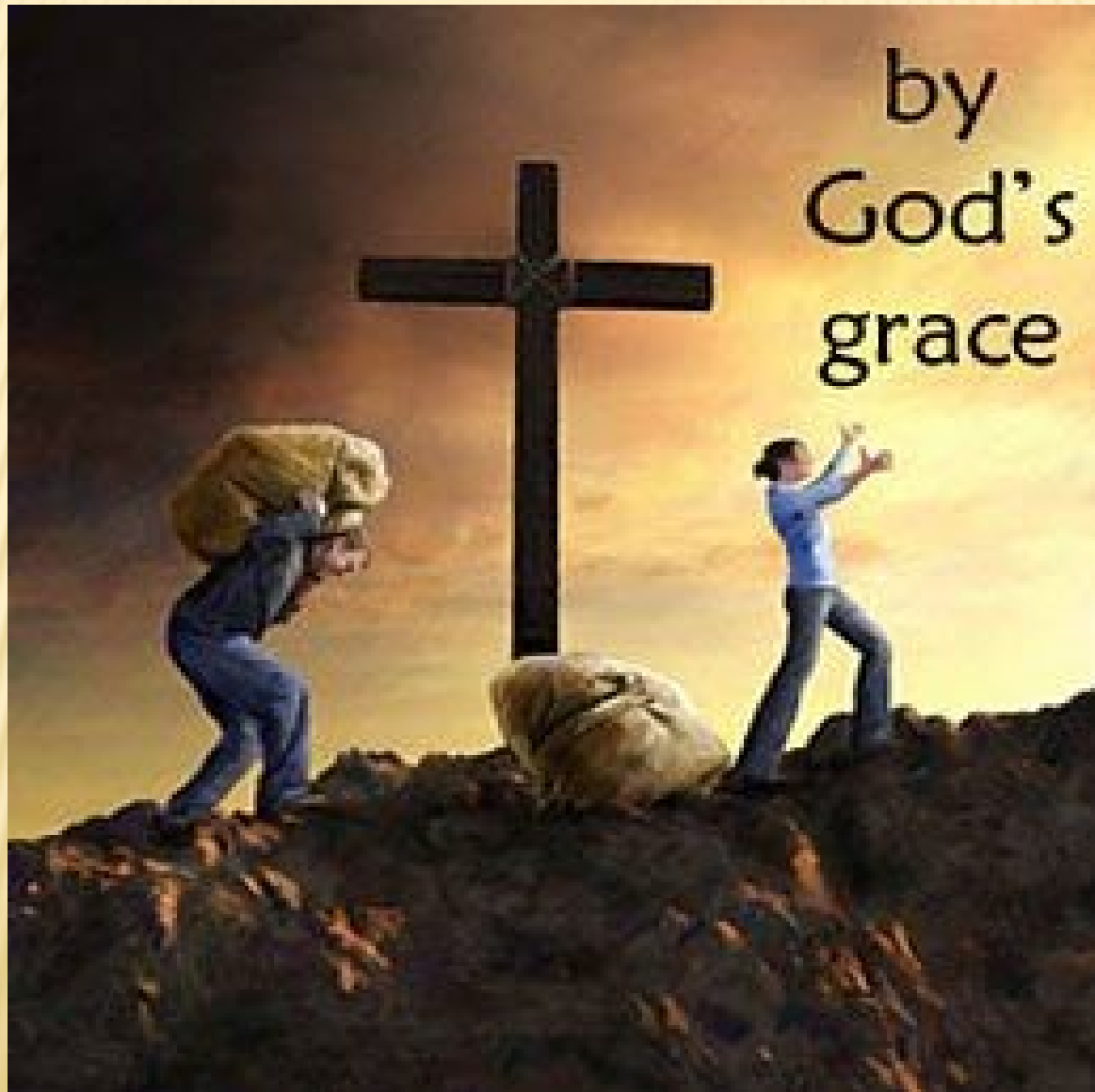
*He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.*

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,*

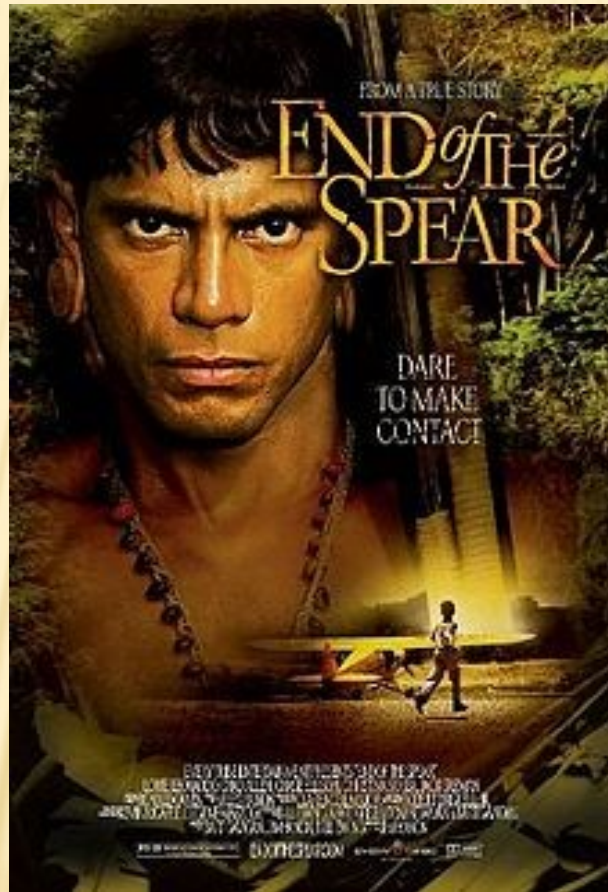
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.



CASTING CROWNS- “EAST TO WEST”

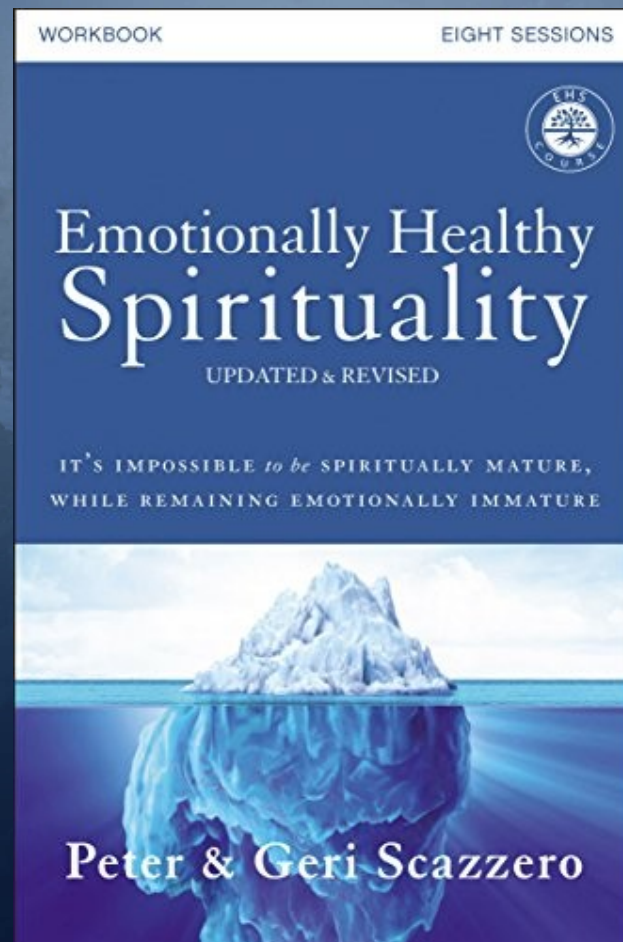


“END OF THE SPEAR”- FORGIVENESS



Lessons from the story of Joseph

(From Peter Scazzero, “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality”)



1) Recognize that God has a dream for your life

Genesis 37:2- God gave him a dream.

Joel 2:28- “...your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

Joseph focused on the wrong thing

*“sheaves bowing down to him...
the sun, moon and stars bowing down to him.”
(Genesis 37:6-7,
9-10)*

God’s Dream for Joseph

“...the saving of many lives...” (Genesis 50:20)

Our Dreams move us into action!

- Dr. Martin Luther King- “I have a dream”

“...that all people would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

Our Dreams move us into action!

My Dream for “Living Waters Church”

Based on John 4- Jesus & the woman at the well

- Meet people outside of the church walls- met people where they are- at “the wells of life”
- Cross over racial, social and religious barriers to meet with them
- Accept people as they are, but help them to become all that God intends them to be
- Deal with their physical needs as well as their spiritual needs
- Speak to them about eternal life
- Deal with their choices that lead to broken relationships in their lives
- Involve them in ministry right away- that they will become “waterbearers” for Jesus.

2) Recognize that The Dreamer has to be set free from his/her own **pride** (goes through a period of testing)

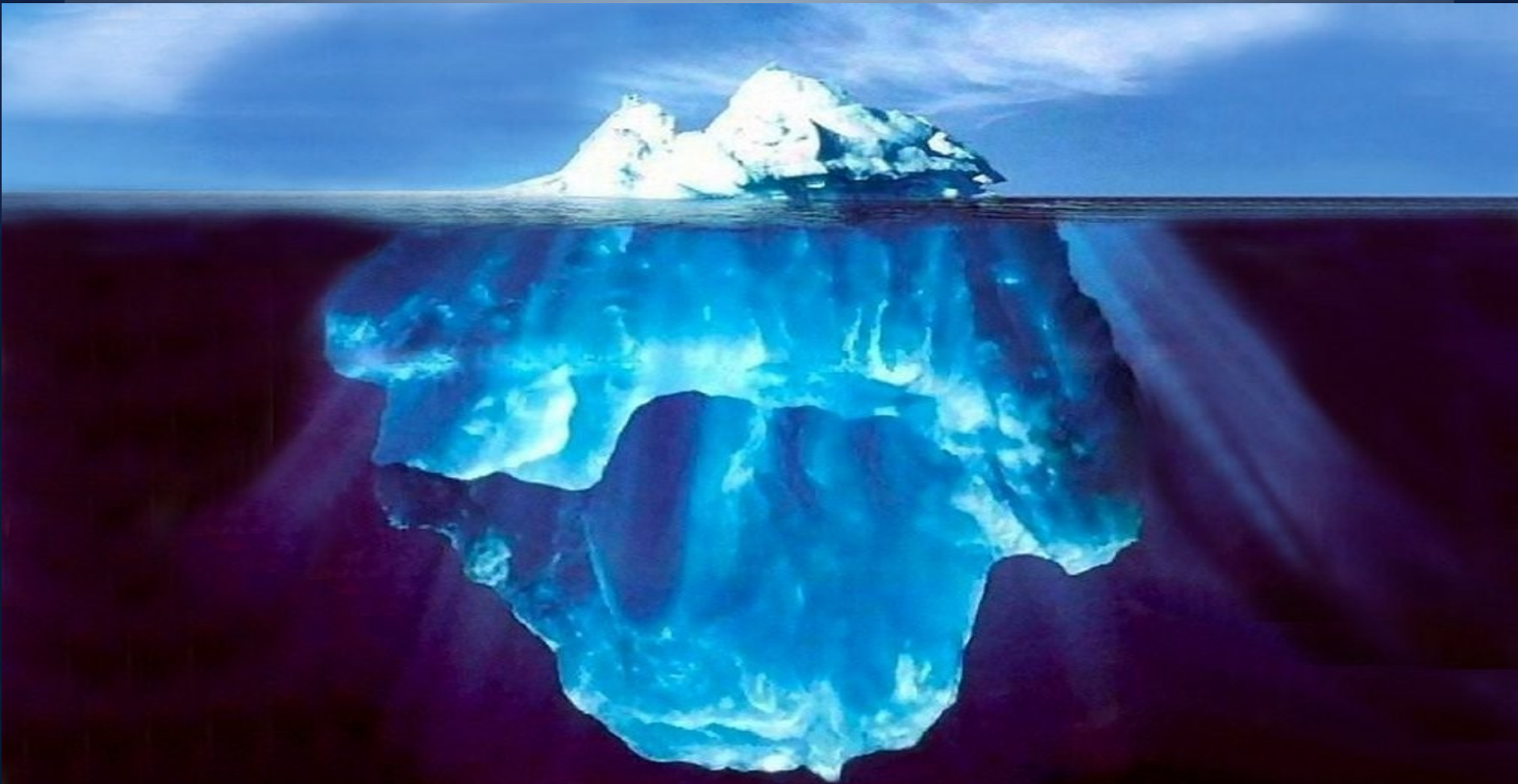
Joseph became a man of deep faith- where?

In the soft life in Jacob's tent?

No- in the hard life of his slavery in Egypt.

Romans 5- "...we **rejoice in our sufferings**, because we know that **suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope**; and hope does not disappoint us, because **God has poured out His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit**, whom He has given us."

The iceberg in your life-
recognize the part of the iceberg that comes
from your own pride!

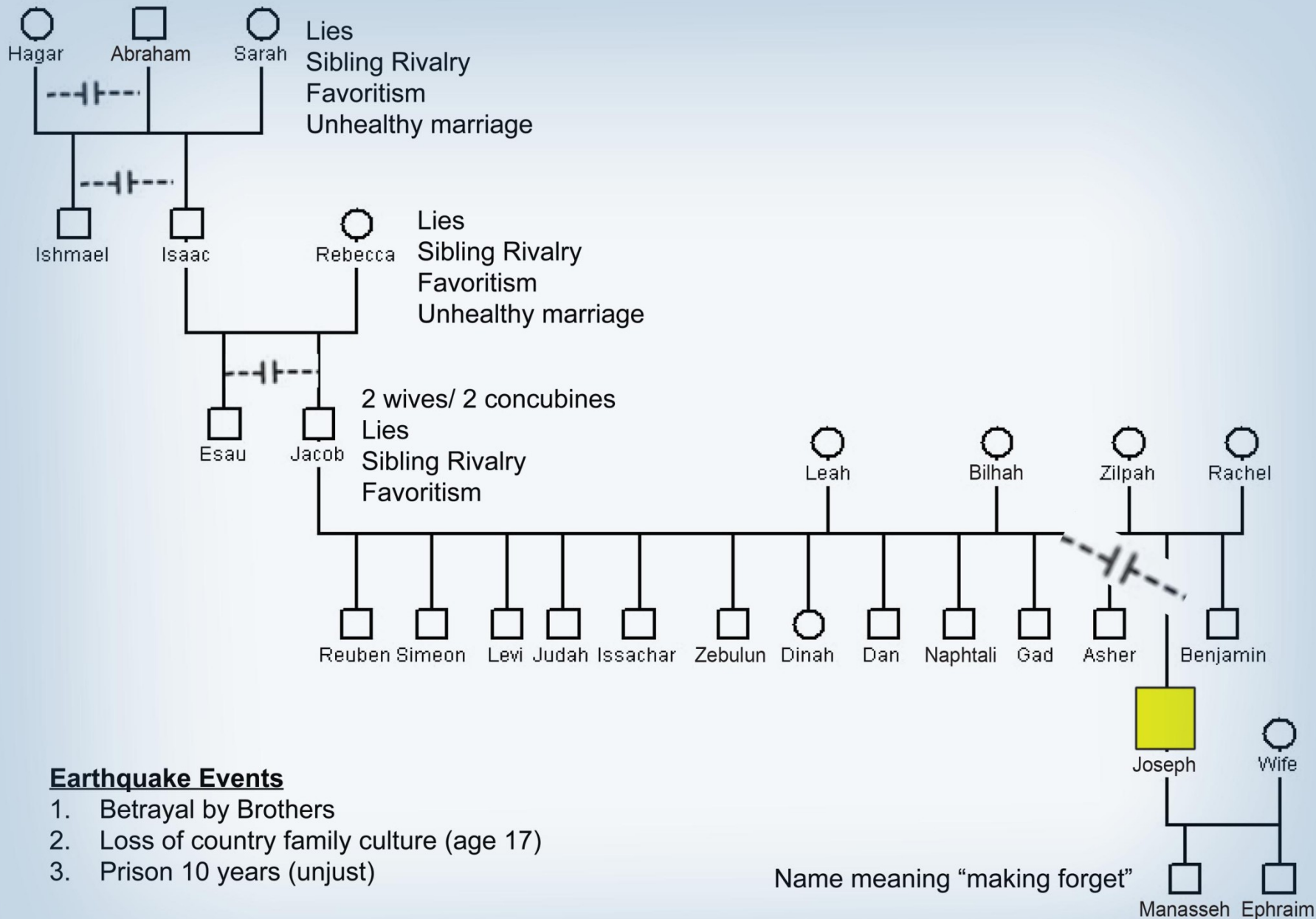


3) The dreamer also has to be set free from failure patterns in his/her own **family**

A “Family Genogram”
Recognizing patterns in my family
from which I need to be set free

Exodus 20:5-6-

“...**visiting** the iniquities of the parents upon the children **to the 3rd and 4th generation** of those who hate me, but showing **love and mercy to a thousand generations** of those who love me and keep my commandments.”



Earthquake Events

1. Betrayal by Brothers
2. Loss of country family culture (age 17)
3. Prison 10 years (unjust)

Name meaning "making forget"

Manasseh Ephraim

Name meaning "fruitful in land of suffering"

My Family Genogram (partial)

Peter Amerman

(Divorced, Alcoholic, Unfulfilled Potential)

Charles Behnke

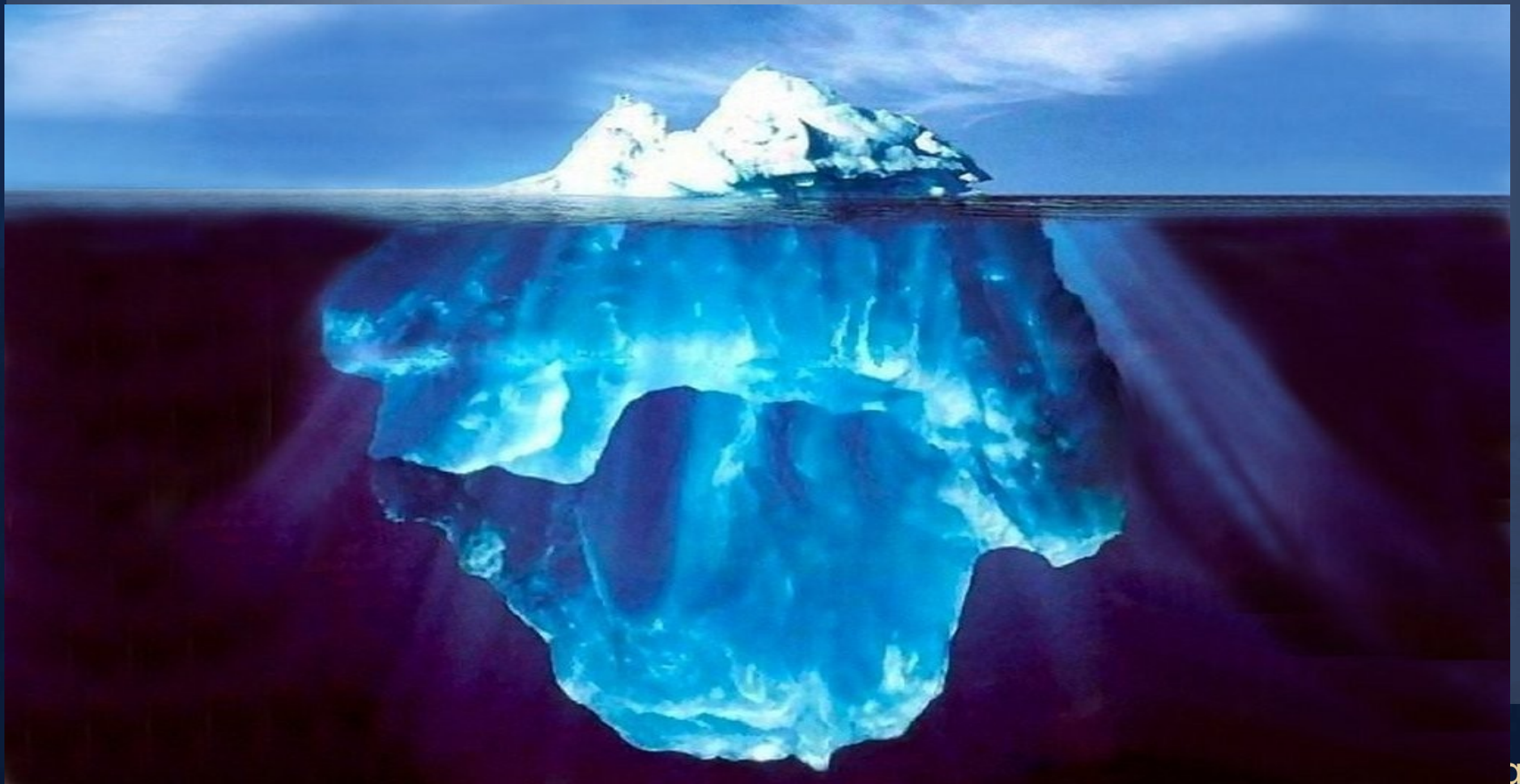
(Pastor, Unselfish, Loving, Giving)

David Amerman

Lois Behnke Amerman

Peter Amerman

The iceberg in your life-
recognize the part of the iceberg that comes
from your family history!



Freedom in Christ!

*Hebrews 9:11-14- If blood determines our families,
blood also determines our new family!*

The blood of Jesus Christ changes our nature, failure patterns and even our sins, and makes us part of a new family- the family of God!

4) Hold on to your dream even if things appear to get worse (**God is working!**)

Genesis 39:17- Potiphar's wife falsely accused him, and he was thrown in jail without a fair hearing!

2 Purposes:

1) **He needed further refinement**

Psalm 105:18- “Joseph was put in irons”

2) **God's preparation to elevate Joseph's position**

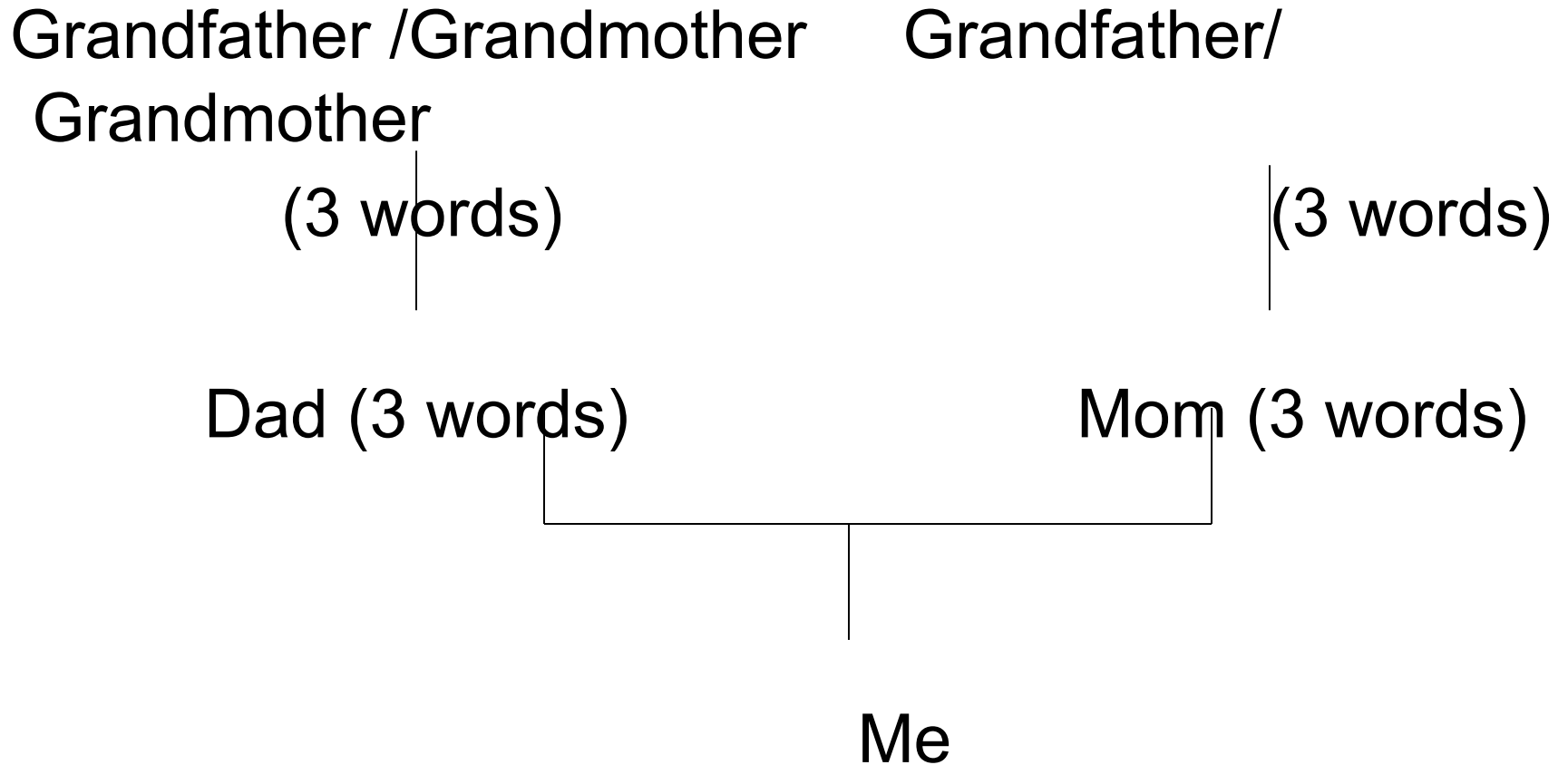
vs. 2, 21,23- “The Lord was *with Joseph.*”

5) Receive your dream in the spirit of a servant

Genesis 50:20-22 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Joseph said, ‘So, then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.’ And, he reassured them and spoke kindly to them...and, Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with his father’s family, and he lived a long life.”



Family Genogram



INTEGRATING MY CONVICTIONS

Nehemiah 1:10-11- “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name.”



WHO ARE YOU?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xiuw-iMCpnU>



TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS IN THEOLOGY

- ✘ “Who is He?”
- ✘ “Who are we?”

Exodus 3:11-13-

Moses' questions to God:

Vs. 11- “Who am I...?”

Vs. 13- “Who are you...?”



JESUS' BAPTISM & TEMPTATION

- ✦ Matthew 3:17- (the Father said)- *“And a voice from heaven said, **this is my Son,** whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*
- ✦ Matthew 4:3 & 6- (Satan said)- *“**If you are the Son of God...**”*
- ✦ Revelation 12- *“The **accuser of the brethren**”*



WHO ARE WE (BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST)?

John 1:12- *“...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to be called **children of God**...”*

John 15:9- *“As the Father has loved me, **so have I loved you**.”*

John 15:15- *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you **friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

WHO ARE WE (BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST)?

1 Peter 2:9-10- “But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a people **belonging to god**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the **people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have **received mercy**.”

1 John 3:1- “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God**! And that is what we are!”

Application- As Nehemiah recalled *who he was* as “a child of God”, and a part of his Covenant People, so also, we need to remember who we are as His child, and a part of the “New Covenant” people of God.

Application question— According *John 1:12; John 15:9; John 15:1; 1 John 3:1*, write down a two- to three-sentence statement that defines who we are in Christ Jesus



“LES MISERABLES”



ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK



- ✦ Read Swindoll- Chapters 7-8
- ✦ Read Amerman- pages 49-59- Chap. 5-“Assessing My Spiritual Gifts, Experiences & Personality Type”
- ✦ In your journal, prayerfully think through and answer application questions- p. 54-59

PLEASE NOTE- THIS WILL TAKE TIME! MEDITATE, PRAY, WRITE, EDIT, REWRITE

- ✦ Swindoll- Write two paragraph summaries of Chapters 7-8

NEHEMIAH



The Integrated Leader

Integrating faith into every area of our lives