



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Job 1:21; 1 Samuel 15:30
- Ps. 34:1; 2 Sam. 12:19-20

SURRENDER MY RIGHTS

- Surrender Entitlements
- Practice Gratitude

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him**, for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

“He said, “**Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked will I return** there. **Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away**. Blessed be Yahweh’s name.”” Job 1:21 WEBUS

“Then [Saul] said, “**I have sinned; yet please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and come back with me, that I may worship Yahweh your God.**”” 1 Samuel 15:30 WEBUS

“**I will bless Yahweh at all times.** His praise will always be in my mouth.” Psalms 34:1 WEBUS

“...**David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?”** They said, “**He is dead.**” Then **David arose from the earth**, and washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothing; **and he came into Yahweh’s house, and worshiped...**” 2 Samuel 12:19-20 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your sense of being entitled and practice being grateful for what you already have and for what you may never have.

Pray this without ceasing: "God, I stand before You and confess that I have oftentimes demanded that I have rights, and that I am inherently deserving of what I desire—entitled to whatever I want. I have believed, for some reason, that what I already possess, and whatever more I want, I am privileged to, as if I am owed something. Today, I stand before You and declare, I have become fully aware that I am entitled to nothing, and my worship of You will never again be contingent on what I receive from You; in fact, I will praise You in all things, even when it feels like a sacrifice. I acknowledge that I need not be grateful for all of my circumstances, but I certainly can be grateful and raise a shout of praise to You, my God, in all of my circumstances."

Whoever won't surrender their feelings of being entitled and instead practice an attitude of gratitude simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THAT I HAVE ANY RIGHTS AT ALL!

1. **Surrender My Rights: Surrender Entitlements & Practice**

Gratitude

A. Surrender Entitlements

(1) **Introduction:** to feel entitled is to believe oneself to be inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment; the right to claim, to receive, or to do something.

(a) **Surrender Entitlements:** What rights do you really have? What do you inherently deserve? What privileges does God owe to you?

1. “He said, “**Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked will I return** there. **Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away.** Blessed be Yahweh’s name.”” Job 1:21 WEBUS

- a) After experiencing a blessed life, in a whirlwind, and because of no fault of his own, Job lost everything.
- b) In immense suffering and pain, Job’s response is both outrageous and beautiful.
 - 1) “I was born with nothing and I will die with nothing.”
 - 2) Remember, we are informed that Job had done nothing deserving of his unimaginable suffering.

c) With keen spiritual insight, Paul captures and elaborates Job's sentiment in his letter to Timothy, his spiritual son and faithful disciple.

1) ***"But godliness with contentment is great gain.***

For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can't carry anything out. But having food and clothing, we will be content with that." 1 Timothy 6:6-8 WEBUS

d) Paul, as Paul often does, adds striking clarity:

1) Because you came into this life with nothing and you are leaving this life with nothing, you ought to be content with having nothing (or in Job's case losing everything).

e) It is possible to achieve and maintain utter satisfaction in life just by pursuing the things of God...

1) ...regardless of your current circumstances (great or horrific), accomplishments (many or not any), successes (huge or negligent), or possessions (abundant or none at all).

2) ...and despite your suffering, pain, anguish, loss or persecution.

(b) The assumption that you are entitled...

1. A disposition of feeling entitled leads one to believe he can do just about anything he wants, and God still owes him something, or that you should never suffer any disappointment or pain if you don't deserve it.
 - a) The belief that you have the *rights to*, the *privilege of*, or that you are *deserving because*, indicates you don't understand God's grace, nor His mercy.
 - b) God's grace exerts pressure on your perverted will, and by God's mercy you are forgiven over and over again; without which you are entitled to nothing but eternal separation from God (AKA: death).
 - c) Your sin had separated you from God, yet because of His love, Christ died for you! No one is exempt from this reality. Everyone has fallen short of God's standards and is deserving of death!

(2) An attitude of Entitlement...

- (a) Attitude Defined
 1. A settled way of thinking or feeling that is reflected in a person's behavior.
 2. Position: a physical or emotional posture that reflects a mental state.
 3. An uncooperative behavior.
 4. A resentful or antagonistic manner.

5. Individuality and self-confidence as manifested by behavior.
 - (b) An attitude (**way of thinking, position, posture, behavior, manner*) of entitlement leads to death...
 1. **““Not everyone *who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. *Many will tell me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?’ Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, *you who work iniquity.’”** Matthew 7:21-23 WEBUS
 - a) Come to the Lord with “an attitude” that you can do it your own way, and that God is simply forced to accept it, and must bless you anyway, is a grave error!
 - 1) **“Everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell—**and its fall was great.**”** Matthew 7:26-27 WEBUS

1. “John answered, “**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him** from heaven.” John 3:27
WEBUS

- a) Be ever appreciative and thankful to God; everything you have comes from Him—in this world and in eternity.
- b) Obey Him in return; that is your best life—in this world and in eternity.
- c) Don’t complain when things are bad and don’t brag when things are good!

1) *“For who makes you different? And what do you have that you didn’t receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”* 1 Corinthians 4:7 WEBUS

(3) What can cause a man to feel entitled?

- (a) **Double-minded:** seeks only the answer you want.
 - 1. “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings. **Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations**, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But **if any of you lacks**

wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. For **that man shouldn't think that he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**" James 1:1-8 WEBUS

- a) **Suffering:** if your suffering and testing is not embraced and used for what God intended, it will not accomplish in you what God desires.
- b) **Lack:** you will experience trials as if something is missing or inappropriate. There is still time to gain understanding if you are willing to seek the Lord for what He intends.
- c) **Doubt:** you are a step closer to missing it altogether. If you seek God, but are looking only for answers that will satisfy what you feel entitled to (the double-minded man), then you should know this—you will end with nothing: neither answers nor relief!

(b) **Position:** it convinces you that you are entitled to certain circumstances.

1. “**Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position; and the rich, in that he is made humble**, because like the flower in the grass, he will pass away. For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass; and the flower in it falls, and the beauty of its appearance perishes. **So the rich man will also fade away in his pursuits.**” James 1:9-11 WEBUS

- a) **Circumstances:** life is short; regardless of your position at any given moment, the Lord expects acceptance with joy.
- b) **Lack of humility:** will cause you to believe you are more deserving than others; insistence on this attitude always ends in failure.

(c) **Temptation:** it inspires you to make a choice.

1. “**Blessed is a person who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord **promised** to those who love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God can’t be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed.** Then **the lust, when it has conceived, bears**

sin. The sin, when it is full grown, **produces death.**"

James 1:12-15 WEBUS

- a) **The crown of life:** the promises reserved for you, if you choose to love and honor God.
- b) **The crown of death:** being impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own desires.
- c) **Lust:** when you are enticed by the idea that you are entitled to satisfy your fleshly desires.
- d) **Anti-birth:** when lust is conceived it births sin and death, not life.

(d) **Self-deception:** it makes you feel entitled.

1. **"Don't be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,** coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow. **Of his own will he gave birth to us by the word of truth,** that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures."

James 1:16-18 WEBUS

- a) **God as the origin:** if you believe anything good comes from anywhere or from anyone else but God, you are living a lie.

- b) **Self as the origin:** if you believe you can generate something good on your own, it will nurture a sense of entitlement.
- (e) **Humility:** it helps you hear God's voice!
 1. **"So, then, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger;** for the anger of man doesn't produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, **receive with humility the implanted word,** which is able to save your souls."

James 1:19-21 WEBUS

 - a) **Self-righteousness:** pride, impetuousness, impurity, and drowning in evil desires, will muffle God's voice.
 - b) **Humility:** you must cultivate humble "spiritual sensitivities" to hear what God is saying (*to receive with humility the implanted word*)—you have one mouth and two ears for a reason.

(4) King Saul: a double-minded man, enamored with position, tempted with entitlement, and enticed with self-deception, self-righteousness, and pride... **James could've easily said,** "*Saul shouldn't think he'll receive anything from Yahweh. He's a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*"

(a) Yahweh's Orders

1. "Samuel said to Saul, "**Yahweh sent me to anoint you to be king** over his people, over Israel. **Now therefore listen to the voice of Yahweh's words.**

Yahweh of Armies says, 'I remember what Amalek did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way when he came up out of Egypt. **Now go and strike Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and don't spare them;** but kill both man and woman, infant and nursing baby, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.''" 1 Samuel 15:1-3 WEBUS

- a) **Position:** Saul, you are the King.
- b) **Humility:** you must cultivate humble "spiritual sensitivities" to you hear what God is saying (*to listen to Yahweh's voice; to receive with humility the implanted word*)—you have one mouth and two ears for a reason.
- c) **God as the origin:** if it comes from God it is a good thing. Strike Amalek and utterly destroy all (and all means all!).

(b) Saul spared the Kenites

1. "Saul summoned the people, and counted them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen and ten

thousand men of Judah. Saul came to the city of Amalek, and set an ambush in the valley. **Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart, go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.”** So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.” 1 Samuel 15:4-6
WEBUS

- a) **God as the origin:** this was an act of obedience; see Numbers 10 where the Kenites treated Israel kindly and they were promised future protection.
- (c) A man who thinks he's entitled to do it his own way...
 - 1. “Saul struck the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is before Egypt. **He took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people** with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people **spared Agag and the best of the** sheep, of the cattle, of the fat calves, of the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to utterly destroy them; but everything that was vile and refuse, that **they destroyed utterly.**” 1 Samuel 15:7-9 WEBUS
- a) **Self as the origin:** if you believe you can generate something good on your own, it will nurture a

sense of entitlement. Saul chose not to utterly destroy everything; he chose, on his own, to spare the king and the best of what he determined was “good.”

- b) **Self-righteousness:** pride and impetuousness will muffle God’s voice.

- (d) Yahweh is furious...

1. “Then Yahweh’s word came to Samuel, saying, **“It grieves me that I have set up Saul to be king, for he has turned back** from following me, and has **not performed my commandments.”** Samuel was angry; and he cried to Yahweh all night.” 1 Samuel 15:10-11 WEBUS

- a) **Position:** it convinces you that you are entitled to certain circumstances. Saul believed that, as king, he could do it his own way!
- b) **The crown of death:** being impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own desires.
- c) **Lust:** when you are enticed by the idea that you are entitled to satisfy your fleshly desires.

- (e) Obviously, Saul is happy with his performance.

1. “Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning; and Samuel was told, saying, “Saul came to Carmel, and

behold, **he set up a monument for himself**, turned, passed on, and went down to Gilgal.”” 1 Samuel 15:12 WEBUS

- a) **Lust:** when you are enticed by the idea that you are entitled to satisfy your fleshly desires. Saul disobeyed a direct command from Yahweh and then celebrated himself and his accomplishments.
- b) **The crown of death:** impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own desires.
- c) **Self as the origin:** you believe you can generate something good on your own—nurtures a sense of entitlement.
- d) **Self-righteousness:** pride, impetuousness, and drowning in evil desires muffles God’s voice.

(f) The confrontation...

1. “Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, “You are blessed by Yahweh! **I have performed the commandment of Yahweh.**” Samuel said, “**Then what does this bleating of the sheep in my ears** and the lowing of the cattle which I hear **mean?**”” 1 Samuel 15:13-14 WEBUS

- a) **Double-minded:** seek only the answer you want.
- b) **Temptation:** inspires you to make a choice.

- c) **Position:** convinces you that you are entitled.
- d) **Self-righteousness:** muffles God's voice.
- e) **Self-deception:** makes you feel entitled to believe and do whatever you want. Saul is so deceived that he literally brags about his obedience in the midst of his rebellion.

(g) An entitled man's version of obedience...

1. "Saul said, "**They have brought them** from the Amalekites; for **the people spared the best** of the sheep and of the cattle, to sacrifice to Yahweh your God. **We have utterly destroyed the rest.**"" 1 Samuel 15:15 WEBUS
 - a) **Position & Self-deception:** convince yourself that you are entitled to do whatever you want.
 - b) **Lack of humility:** causes you to believe you are more deserving than others; I disobeyed; come, celebrate my obedience, while I blame others for my disobedience (double-minded). This attitude always ends in failure.

(h) You were NOTHING and what you became was ALL because of God—NOT because you were entitled.

1. "Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stay, and I will tell you what Yahweh said to me last night." He said to him,

“Say on.” Samuel said, “**Though you were little in your own sight, weren’t you made the head of the tribes of Israel? Yahweh anointed you king over Israel; and Yahweh sent you on a journey, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ Why then didn’t you obey Yahweh’s voice, but took the plunder, and did that which was evil in Yahweh’s sight?”**” 1 Samuel 15:16-19 WEBUS

- a) **God as the origin:** if you believe anything good comes from anywhere or from anyone else but God, you are living a lie.
- b) **Humility & Position:** humility helps you hear God’s voice (*Why then didn’t you obey Yahweh’s voice?*) and position convinces you that you are entitled to do whatever you want.
- c) **Lack of humility & Self-righteousness:** causes you to believe you deserve what you want and it muffles God’s voice.
- d) **Humility:** you must cultivate humble “spiritual sensitivities” to hear what God is saying.
 - (i) The utter blind arrogance of a man who thinks he can do whatever he wants.

1. "Saul said to Samuel, "**But I have obeyed Yahweh's voice**, and have **gone the way which Yahweh sent me**, and have **brought Agag the king** of Amalek, and **have utterly destroyed** the Amalekites. But **the people took** of the plunder, sheep and cattle, **the best** of the devoted things, **to sacrifice to Yahweh your God** in Gilgal."" 1 Samuel 15:20-21 WEBUS
 - a) **The crown of death:** being impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own desires.
"Saul's crown had gone to his head. It was no longer ON his head, it was IN his head."
 - b) **Position & Self-deception:** convince yourself that you are entitled to do whatever you want. *"I obeyed Yahweh's voice, and did what He sent me to do, by not doing what He commanded and saying I did do what He commanded (double-minded dribble)."*
 - c) **Self-righteousness:** pride, impetuousness, and evil desires muffle God's voice.
 - d) **Lack of humility:** will cause you to believe you are more deserving than others, and so why not just blame them for your mistakes, instead of confessing and apologizing.

- e) **Self as the origin:** you believe you can generate something good on your own because Yahweh is "your God," not really my God!
- (j) Your arrogant sense of entitlement has lost you the crown.
 - 1. "Samuel said, "**Has Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying Yahweh's voice?** Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry** and teraphim. **Because you have rejected Yahweh's word, he has also rejected you from being king.**"" 1 Samuel 15:22-23 WEBUS
 - a) Sacrifices vs. obeying Yahweh's voice?
 - b) Rebellion/Stubbornness = Witchcraft/Idolatry
 - c) Rejected Yahweh's word = Rejected as king
 - d) **The crown of life:** promises reserved for those who choose to love and honor God.
 - e) **The crown of death:** impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own desires.
- (k) It is clear that because of Saul's entitled thinking, he is not authentically repentant.

1. “Saul said to Samuel, “**I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of Yahweh** and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, **please pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship Yahweh.**”

Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you; for you have rejected Yahweh’s word, and Yahweh has rejected you from being king over Israel.” As Samuel turned around to go away, Saul grabbed the skirt of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, “**Yahweh has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you.** Also **the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent; for he is not a man, that he should repent.**”

Then he said, “**I have sinned; yet please honor me** now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and **come back with me, that I may worship Yahweh your God.**”” 1 Samuel 15:24-30 WEBUS

- a) Saul is not sorry for his rebellion. (He still feels entitled; why not? He’s the king.)
- b) **Double-minded:** I have sinned; I transgressed the commandment of Yahweh... *because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.* Pardon my sin, and

come with me, that I may worship Yahweh **your God.**

- c) He is actually sorry for something—the suffering for and consequences of his rebellion...
 - 1) *"You have rejected Yahweh's word, and Yahweh has rejected you from being king over Israel."*
 - 2) *"Yahweh has torn the kingdom from you and has given it to one who is better than you."*
 - 3) **Suffering:** if your suffering and testing is not embraced and used for what God intended, it will not accomplish in you what God desires.
 - 4) **Lack:** you will experience trials as if something is missing or inappropriate. There is still time to gain understanding if you are willing to seek the Lord for what He intends.
 - 5) **Doubt:** If you seek God, but are looking only for the answers that will satisfy what you feel entitled to (*"I have sinned; yet please honor me now before the elders."*), then you are a double-minded man and you should know this—you will end with nothing: neither answers nor relief!

- d) There is nothing good prepared for those who demand their own terms, yet expect God to bless them anyway...
 - 1) *"and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'*—as though the **drunkard** could be included with the **sober.**" Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV
 - 2) I can do my own thing, my own way, and still maintain my right to God's blessings. But that reasoning is not any different from a man staggering around in a drunken stupor who clamors on about how sober he is.
- (l) Samuel goes with Saul, not because Saul is approved, but to finish what Saul did not... He cuts king Agag in pieces before Yahweh.
 - 1. "So Samuel went back with Saul; and Saul worshiped Yahweh. Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag the king of the Amalekites here to me!" Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so your mother will be childless

among women!" **Then Samuel cut Agag in pieces before Yahweh in Gilgal.**" 1 Samuel 15:31-33

WEBUS

(m) Yahweh grieves the man whose entitlements become his god. Samuel never visited Saul again.

1. "Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. **Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death**, but Samuel mourned for Saul. **Yahweh grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.**" 1 Samuel 15:34-35 WEBUS

(n) Remember—This was not Saul's first rodeo!

1. "Saul said, **"Bring the burnt offering to me here, and the peace offerings."** **He offered the burnt offering.** It came to pass that as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. **Samuel said, "What have you done?"** Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, **and that you didn't come within the days appointed,** and that the Philistines assembled themselves together at Michmash, therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down on me to Gilgal, and I haven't entreated the favor of Yahweh.' **I**

forced myself therefore, and offered the burnt offering.” Samuel said to Saul, “**You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of Yahweh your God, which he commanded you; for now Yahweh would have established your kingdom on Israel forever. But now your kingdom will not continue. Yahweh has sought for himself a man after his own heart, and Yahweh has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept that which Yahweh commanded you.”**” 1 Samuel 13:9-14 WEBUS

- a) Saul has a track record of doing things his own way. He once offered sacrifices on his own (without a priest) and it was then that Yahweh first told him that we has lost the kingdom.
- b) So, that makes it even all the more outrageous that he would handle the Amalakite business so poorly.
 - 1) *“You have not kept Yahweh’s commandment.”*
 - 2) *“Yahweh would have established your kingdom on forever.”*
 - 3) *“But now your kingdom will not continue.”*
 - 4) *“Yahweh has sought for himself a man after His own heart.”*

(o) A new era... Out with **the crown of death**; in with the **the crown of life**... "Yahweh has sought for himself a man after His own heart."

1. "Yahweh said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since **I have rejected him from being king over Israel?** Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for **I have provided a king for myself among his sons.**"" 1

Samuel 16:1 WEBUS

- a) **The crown of life:** the promises reserved for you if you choose to love and honor God.
- b) **The crown of death:** being impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own desires.
- c) **Lust:** when you are enticed by the idea that you are entitled to satisfy your fleshly desires.
- d) **Anti-birth:** when lust is conceived it births sin and death, not life.

B. Practice Gratitude

- (1) **Introduction:** to demonstrate gratitude one must posses the quality of being thankful; be ready to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

(a) **Practice Gratitude:** Offer Yahweh a sacrifice of praise.

You need not be **grateful** for all circumstances, but you must praise Him and be **grateful** in all circumstances.

1. **“I will bless Yahweh at all times.** His praise will always be in my mouth.” Psalms 34:1 WEBUS

a) Grateful Defined:

- 1) Thankful: feeling or showing appreciation and kindness.
- 2) Welcome: received or experienced with gratitude.
- 3) Filled with gratitude: appreciative, indebted, obligated, obliged, in your debt.

b) **Sacrifice of Praise:** praise offered to God at every moment, even in difficult situations, not just at times of celebration—*for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

1) *“Through him, then, let’s offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which proclaim allegiance to his name. But don’t forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

Hebrews 13:15-16 WEBUS

c) **Sacrifices of Thanksgiving:** thanksgiving offered to God for his wonderful deeds in times of distress—for *He sends His word and delivers us in times of trouble.*

1) ***"Then they cry to Yahweh in their trouble, and he saves them out of their distresses. He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves. Let them praise Yahweh for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men! Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his deeds with singing."*** Psalms 107:19-22 WEBUS

(b) When is it time to rejoice? At all times!

1. ***"Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, "Rejoice!" Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 4:4-7 WEBUS

a) What does a sacrifice of praise and of thanksgiving look like?

- 1) A gentle and peaceful spirit with no hint of anxiety.
- b) How does a child of God rejoice **in** all things (not **for** all things) and have his heart and mind guarded from anxiety?
 - 1) **Prayers:** earnestly speaking to God aloud and with worship.
 - 2) **Petitions:** prayer that asks of God earnestly.
 - 3) **Thanksgiving:** Praying with an attitude of gratitude; grateful language as a act of worship.
 - 4) **Requests:** making known the thing asked for from God in prayer and worship.
- c) Do you see the common denominator in order to arrive at a place of no anxiety and a peace that extends beyond human understanding? **PRAYER with...**

(2) An attitude of Gratitude...

- (a) Attitude Defined
 1. A settled way of thinking or feeling that is reflected in a person's behavior.
 2. Position: a physical or emotional posture that reflects a mental state.
 3. An uncooperative behavior.

4. A resentful or antagonistic manner.
5. Individuality and self-confidence as manifested by behavior.

(b) An attitude (**way of thinking, position, posture, behavior, manner*) of gratitude leads to life...

1. **““Not everyone *who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. *Many will tell me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?’ Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, *you who work iniquity.”** Matthew 7:21-23 WEBUS

- a) Come to the Lord with “an attitude” that you just want to love and obey Him, and acknowledge that **“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.”** (John 3:27)

- 1) **“Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it didn’t fall,**

for it was founded on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25 WEBUS

- b) **Be thankful:** everything you have comes from God—in this world and in eternity.
- c) **Be Obedient:** that is your best life—in this world and in eternity.
- d) **Don't complain:** when things are bad!
- e) **Don't brag:** when things are good!
 - 1) *"What do you have that you didn't receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"* 1 Corinthians 4:7

(3) An attitude of gratitude: not perfect, but perfectly flawed...

- (a) The Backstory: David a man after God's heart...
 - 1. "When he had removed him [Saul], **he raised up David to be their king**, to whom he also testified, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after my heart, who will do all my will.**'" Acts 13:22 WEBUS
 - a) Remember, Saul was a repeat offender when it came to violating God's commands.
 - b) In 1 Samuel 13, he side-stepped the priesthood and offered sacrifices on his own—which is strictly prohibited.

- c) And in 1 Samuel 15, he unilaterally redefined what it means to obey God as **The Father of Gaslighting.**
 - 1) "I have gone on a mission for God and utterly destroyed everything as commanded by Yahweh, except for the things I did not utterly destroy. But that's okay because I built a monument to myself celebrating my obedience while simultaneously blaming my disobedience on others!"

- d) Saul is out as king and David is in!

- 1) *"But now your kingdom will not continue. Yahweh has sought for himself a man after his own heart, and Yahweh has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept that which Yahweh commanded you."*

1 Samuel 13:14 WEBUS

- (b) David's Fall (See 2 Samuel 11:1-27)
 - 1. "At the return of the year, **at the time when kings go out**, David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But **David stayed at Jerusalem. At evening, David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house.** From the roof, **he saw a**

woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to look at. David sent and inquired after the woman. One said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, Uriah the Hittite’s wife?”” 2 Samuel 11:1-3
WEBUS

- a) In order to truly understand David’s heart (*Yahweh has sought for himself a man after his own heart*), we must first understand his fall!
 - 1) David should have been out in battle with his soldiers, but instead he was home with too much time on his hands.
 - 2) Because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, he spotted a beautiful woman (Bathsheba) bathing on a rooftop, and the rest of this history.
 - 3) With a heart, definitely not the one Yahweh was looking for, David launched an elaborate scheme to hide his sin of taking another man’s wife and ***impregnating** her. His scheme culminated with the indirect murder of Bathsheba’s husband Uriah.
 - 4) ***The crown of death:** impregnated with entitlement to fulfill the lusts of your own heart.

2. "When Uriah's wife heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. **When the mourning was past, David sent and took her home to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.** But the thing that David had done displeased Yahweh." 2 Samuel 11:26-27 WEBUS

- a) David didn't take long to make his move...
 - 1) He allowed Bathsheba to mourn for a bit, and then he swooped in and married her and they had a son (more on the child later).
 - 2) But, Yahweh was not happy about David's sin.

(c) Nathan the prophet: David's equivalent of Saul's Samuel
(See 2 Samuel 12:1-31)

1. "Yahweh sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, **"There were two men in one city:** the one rich, and the other poor." 2 Samuel 12:1 WEBUS

- a) Nathan confronts David...
 - 1) David is not immediately forthcoming with the truth (admitting his sin), so Nathan tells him an elaborate story about a rich man with many sheep who commandeered the one sheep of a poor man to slaughter and feed his guest.

2) Nathan represented the story as if it really took place somewhere in David's kingdom, and David is furious at the rich man's sinful actions.

b) Nathan then drops the truth bomb! I'm not talking about rich men and poor men and sheep; I'm talking about you, the king who could have had any single woman, but instead took a man's wife and had him murdered to cover your sin.

1) *"Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul."* 2 Samuel 12:7 WEBUS

2) *"Why have you despised Yahweh's word, to do that which is evil in his sight? You have struck Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon."* 2 Samuel 12:9 WEBUS

(d) David's Consequences

1. *"Now therefore the sword will never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken Uriah the Hittite's wife to be your wife.'* "This is

what Yahweh says: '**Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house**; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **For you did this secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel**, and before the sun.'"" 2

Samuel 12:10-12 WEBUS

- a) Bad things are coming, says Yahweh...
 - 1) The rest of your reign will be marked by conflict and war.
 - 2) I will raise up sons in your home who will fight against you.
 - 3) And the sin that you committed in secret will be exposed by what I do to you openly.

(e) David's response as opposed to Saul's...

- 1. "David said to Nathan, **"I have sinned against Yahweh."** Nathan said to David, **"Yahweh also has put away your sin.** You will not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to Yahweh's enemies to blaspheme, **the child also who is born to you will surely die.**" 2 Samuel

12:13-14 WEBUS

- a) David doesn't try to blame anyone. Once exposed,
He takes immediate responsibility for his own sin.
 - 1) ***"I have sinned against Yahweh."***
- (f) The immediate consequence and David's reaction...
 - 1. "But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, **David perceived that the child was dead;** and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then **David arose from the earth, and washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothing; and he came into Yahweh's house, and worshiped.** Then he came to his own house; and when he requested, they set bread before him and he ate." 2 Samuel 12:19-20 WEBUS

- a) The son that Bathsheba bore from David's adulterous behavior dies!
 - 1) **David's response:** He went into the house of Yahweh and worshipped Him!
 - 2) In the midst of his sin and consequences for his actions, David rose up and displayed what it looks like to be "*a man after God's own heart.*"

(4) Repentance

- (a) A man after God's heart is not required to be **PERFECT**, but he is required to **REPENT!**

1. "Have mercy on me, God, according to your loving kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. **Cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions. My sin is constantly before me. Against you, and you only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so you may be proved right** when you speak, and justified when you judge. **Behold, I was born in iniquity. My mother conceived me in sin. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts.** You teach me wisdom in the inmost place. **Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean.** Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness, that the bones which you have broken may rejoice. **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all of my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God.** **Renew a right spirit within me. Don't throw me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.** Uphold me with a willing spirit. **Then I will teach transgressors your ways. Sinners will be converted to you.** Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,

the God of my salvation. My tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. **Lord, open my lips. My mouth will declare your praise.** For you don't delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it. You have no pleasure in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. **O God, you will not despise a broken and contrite heart.**" Psalms 51:1-17 WEBUS

- a) *"Don't be anxious, but with prayer, petition, and thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And His peace will guard your heart and mind."*
 - 1) God, have mercy on me...
 - 2) Blot out my transgressions...
 - 3) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity...
 - 4) Cleanse me from my sin...
 - 5) **I know my transgressions...**
 - 6) Against You alone I have sinned...
 - 7) Create in me a clean heart...
 - 8) Renew a right spirit within me...
 - 9) Don't hide Your presence...
 - 10) Don't take Your Holy Spirit...
- b) David's heart as opposed to Saul's obstinance:
 - 1) [David's rejoicing] *"Restore to me the joy of your salvation. Then I will teach transgressors*

*your ways. **Sinners will be converted** to you. My mouth will **declare your praise.**" Psalms 51*

- 2) [Saul's obstinance] "*But I have obeyed Yahweh's voice, and have gone the way which Yahweh sent me...*" 1 Samuel 15:20
- c) David declared exactly what Yahweh wanted from Saul...
 - 1) **[From David to Yahweh]** "*For you don't delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it. You have no pleasure in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. O God, you will not despise a broken and contrite heart.*"
 - 2) **[From Yahweh to Saul]** "*Has Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying Yahweh's voice? ...For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry... Because you have rejected Yahweh's word, he has also rejected you from being king.*" 1 Samuel 15:22-23

(b) The Difference: Saul was Entitled vs. David was Grateful

1. David's response to Nathan after his sin is exposed:
 - a) **"I have sinned against Yahweh."** 2 Samuel 12:13
 - 1) I've sinned... period!

2. Saul's response to Samuel after his sin is exposed:
 - a) "***I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of Yahweh and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.***" 1 Samuel 15:24 WEBUS
 - 1) I've sinned... it's not my fault!
3. David's response as a result of the consequence for his sin (the death of his son):
 - a) "*Then David arose from the earth, and washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothing; and he came into Yahweh's house, and worshiped...*" 2 Samuel 12:20 WEBUS
 - 1) David worshiped Yahweh!
 - 2) The sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
 - 3) To rejoice, worship, praise, and give thanksgiving to Yahweh in all circumstances, but not for all circumstances.
4. Saul's response as a result of the consequence for his sin (the loss of his throne):
 - a) "***I have sinned; yet please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and come back with me, that I may worship Yahweh your God.***" 1 Samuel 15:30 WEBUS

- 1) Saul requested to be honored... and then he would worship Yahweh!
- b) And we are right back where we began—
Surrender Entitlements & Practice Gratitude.
 - 1) **Suffering:** if your suffering and testing is not embraced and used for what God intended, it will not accomplish in you what God desires.
 - 2) **Lack:** you will experience trials as if something is missing or inappropriate. There is still time to gain understanding if you are willing to seek the Lord for what He intends.
 - 3) **Doubt:** you are a step closer to missing it altogether. If you seek God, but are looking only for answers that will satisfy what you feel entitled to (the double-minded man), then you should know this—you will end with nothing: neither answers nor relief!

Prayer: I SURRENDER MY ENTITLEMENTS (*Father, I stand before You and confess that I have oftentimes demanded that I have rights, that I am inherently deserving of what I desire—entitled to whatever I have. I believed, for some reason, that what I already possess, and whatever more I want, I am privileged to, as if I am*

owed something.) I WILL PRACTICE BEING GRATEFUL (Today, I stand before You and declare, I have become fully aware that I am entitled to nothing, and my worship of You will never again be contingent on what I receive from You. In fact, I will praise You in all things, even when it feels like a sacrifice. I acknowledge that I need not be grateful for all of my circumstances, but I certainly can be grateful and raise a shout of praise to You, my God, in all of my circumstances. I am eternally grateful for what I already have, as well as for what I may never have.)

ASSIGNMENT #9

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. *“For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS*
- B. *“But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.” Luke 12:2 WEBUS*

C. “*For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.*” Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS

D. “*For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.*” 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS

E. “*For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who don’t obey the Good News of God?*” 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Entitlements:** “*He said, “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked will I return there. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be Yahweh’s name.”*” Job 1:21 WEBUS

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

- 1) Do you confess that you have oftentimes demanded that you have rights, that you are inherently deserving of what you desire—entitled to whatever you want?

- 2) Do you believe that what you already possess, and whatever more you want, you are privileged to, as if God owes you something?
- 3) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to surrender your feelings of being entitled?

3. Practice Gratitude: “*I will bless Yahweh at all times. His praise will always be in my mouth.*” Psalms 34:1 WEBUS

- A. Are you ready to surrender and to be grateful in all circumstances?
 - 1) Will you make the declaration today that you have become fully aware that you are entitled to nothing, and that your worship of God will no longer be contingent on what you receive from Him?
 - 2) Will you begin to praise God in all things, even when it feels like a sacrifice?
 - 3) Will you openly acknowledge that you need not be grateful for all of your circumstances, but that you can certainly be grateful and raise a shout of praise to Yahweh in all circumstances?
 - 4) Will you be grateful for what I already have, as well as for what you may never have?

5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to become grateful to God even at times when things are not happening according to your liking?