

### The Terror of Insecurity

The word insecure is defined as feeling more anxiety than seems warranted (Webster's Dictionary). In the realm of spiritual things, insecurity is a progress killer because it will not allow an individual to rest in the promises of God. Regardless of the evidence in God's word, insecurity never feels safe. This anxiety was seen in ancient Israel after the Israelites spied out the promised land. They seem to forget what the Lord had done for them. When they saw that the fruit of the land was what God had said; they also caught a glimpse of the giants in the area. Insecurity is a hot bed for fear, it breeds fear, and fear is a daily companion of torment.

1 John 4:18 – The report of the ten trembling hearts was enough to paralyze the whole congregation. Confidence was at an all-time low. Insecurity opens the door to fear and anxiety.

Numbers 13:31-33 Insecurity blocks from visualizing the largeness of God by only showing us the smallness of ourselves. When one is insecure, everyone and everything is enormous and presents a threat to the one who is unsure. At some point insecurity masks itself as a precaution that does not want to make a mistake; however in reality it is a fear of failing.

Numbers 13:30 Caleb was personally convinced that God's promises were enough to make it happen. As for insecurity, the more negative speech it hears, the more it withdraws into defeat. The crowd heard the report of the ten and reacted in **fear**, which **equals defeat without effort.**

James 1:6-8 – Insecurity is critical of anyone who attempts to step out on God's word. This self-doubt prevents people from entering God's perfect will for their lives. Insecurity is so afraid for its own safety that it has no confidence in the ability of others. When Caleb and Joshua stood in favor of proceeding to possess the land, the paralyzed multitude could not take the risk. Fear, which is a companion of insecurity, will achieve Satan's plan just as faith will accomplish God's strategy. In pursuing God's promises a person must not allow anything to shake their confidence. This disqualifies one from receiving.

Romans 10:17 - Position yourself to receive a continuous diet of God's word that your faith can consistently grow. Develop your confidence in God which will decrease the intimidation of life's circumstances.

Inadequate people compensate for their lack by abusing others. Putting someone down doesn't build anyone up. King David, with his powerful war record, great riches and reputation, wrote of his relationship with God, saying, "Your gentleness has made me great."(2 Samuel 22:36).

## 1 Samuel Chapter 18

Proverbs 28:1; 1 John 4:4; 2 Timothy 1:7 – Inferiority is a breeder of jealousy, just as stagnate water breeds mosquitoes, or an unclean house breeds roaches. Wherever inferiority controls, jealousy is sure to follow. Jealousy is suspicion of a rival or suspicion of one believed to enjoy an advantage.

King Saul's beginning was ideal; he showed much humility when chosen to be leader over God's people (1 Sam 9:21). Time and neglect took its toll on his relationship with God. A rebellious spirit overcame him; he became afraid to receive assistance from those who could help him. When one loses quality relationship with God the door becomes open to negative attitudes.

Proverbs 28:1 says, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are as bold as a lion." Confidence in God is our best defense against inferiority or jealousy. The previous text expresses "...but the righteous are as bold as a lion" A right relationship with the Lord gives inner strength.

When we are resting in God, every promise of God comes alive in our spirits. Whereas an insecure person dealing with inferiority feels threatened by the success of others, a confident person or a person of faith feels that whatever is for him or for her will come to pass. Inferiority brings upon someone a type of paranoia; which is defined as "a mental disorder marked by irrational suspicion." One perceives that everyone is out to get them. Truth be told, when one has lost out with God, nobody has to pursue them; their own fear will chase them.

Song of Sol 8:6; Proverbs 6:34,35 -The negative attitude of inferiority has or can reduce God's operation through the church to a snail's pace. When insecure persons are in places of leadership, unity cannot survive the many attacks brought on through jealousy. This jealousy is without discrimination or reservation. Insecurity and jealousy will seek to destroy whatever is in their path (Psalm 37:32). Jonathan and David were among the best supporters King Saul had, yet his insecurity provoked him to seek their death. An insecure heart will not allow one to rejoice in the success of others; the insecure soul is too terrified for his own distinction or identification. Saul could not appreciate David's value to the kingdom because he took the praises heaped upon David to indicate that David was in competition with him (1 Sam. 18:8-9). David was a loyal team member. He was not a combatant. He served with faithfulness and behaved with wisdom. David's godly attitude caused Saul to be more afraid, but yet jealous of him (1 Sam 18:5,14-15,30). The Kingdom suffered greatly during this period because the king was too busy fighting his helpers to fight the real enemies.

As of today, we must be careful not to fight amongst our own kind. If we look upon one another as enemies, the real enemy can run uninhibited dividing, harassing, depressing, distressing, and possessing lives, breaking up homes, addicting our children and corrupting our leadership.

James 3:1-8 - War is an enemy of man. If we allow Satan to turn the congregation into a war zone, everyone suffers as a result. An insecure choir leader may think someone is trying to take over the choir, heated words and divisive feelings are released one toward the other. Deacons are often sidetracked by insecure feelings. The chairman who isn't sure of himself starts reading into others what he feels in himself (Titus 1:15). Young gifted ministers become a thorn in the side of the insecure pastor. He becomes irritated by the way people respond to the young anointed minister. The insecurity in him will not allow him to be thankful for this young person.; he can only see the person as a threat to his standing. When this happens, he either attempts to show them up, or seek to send them away too soon. When you give your best service to the Lord, there is absolutely no reason to be jealous of anyone. Each of us is unique in our individual personality that no one can replace us.

As leaders over anything for God, let us be elated when those who work with us do well. Often the leader is credited for their success or failure. Pastors must not allow insecurity to kill their influence within their sons and daughters in the gospel, for when the children do well, their foundation will point back to their father.

Acts 15:8-9; 2 Cor. 10:12 - Insecurity is a leap off point for congregational clicks and splits. Those who would cause division often use the disguise of seeking purity for a front. The reality is they want to be surrounded by those with whom they feel comfortable or that they feel as good as or better than.

1 Sam 18:10-12 – Insecure jealousy only knows one way to discard its enemy, which is to seek the persons death. Saul in his envious rage did more to focus attention on David then he even realized. The more he tried to eliminate David the more people loved him.

1 Sam 18:29 - As Saul's strategy failed, he became more afraid of David. Saul's daughter, who he thought would assist him in destroying David, was seriously in love with David. Being out of step with God makes it impossible to have a wholesome relationship with others (Prov. 16:7).

1 Sam 15:16- 24; Proverbs 21:3 - Insecure meaning not firm or dependable; unreliable. This definition speaks clearly to "wait and see" kind of leadership. Leadership that relies on or yields to what the majority says or how the most influential people are going to think about it. Insecurity will not allow people to use their minds because they are unsure of the outcome. An insecure person will change without giving any thought to who will be hurt by their modification. We must not be subject to opinion polls, but rather to God's divine plan. Paul corrected those who took a carnal approach to ministry (1 Cor 3:1-10).

Numbers 11; 27-29 - When one's relationship to God is right, he does not feel threatened by God's use of others. A Christian's desire is that all of God's children would let God use them.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – The foundation of our security is found in Jesus Christ, and when we are led by Him, we will succeed in the things He has given us to do