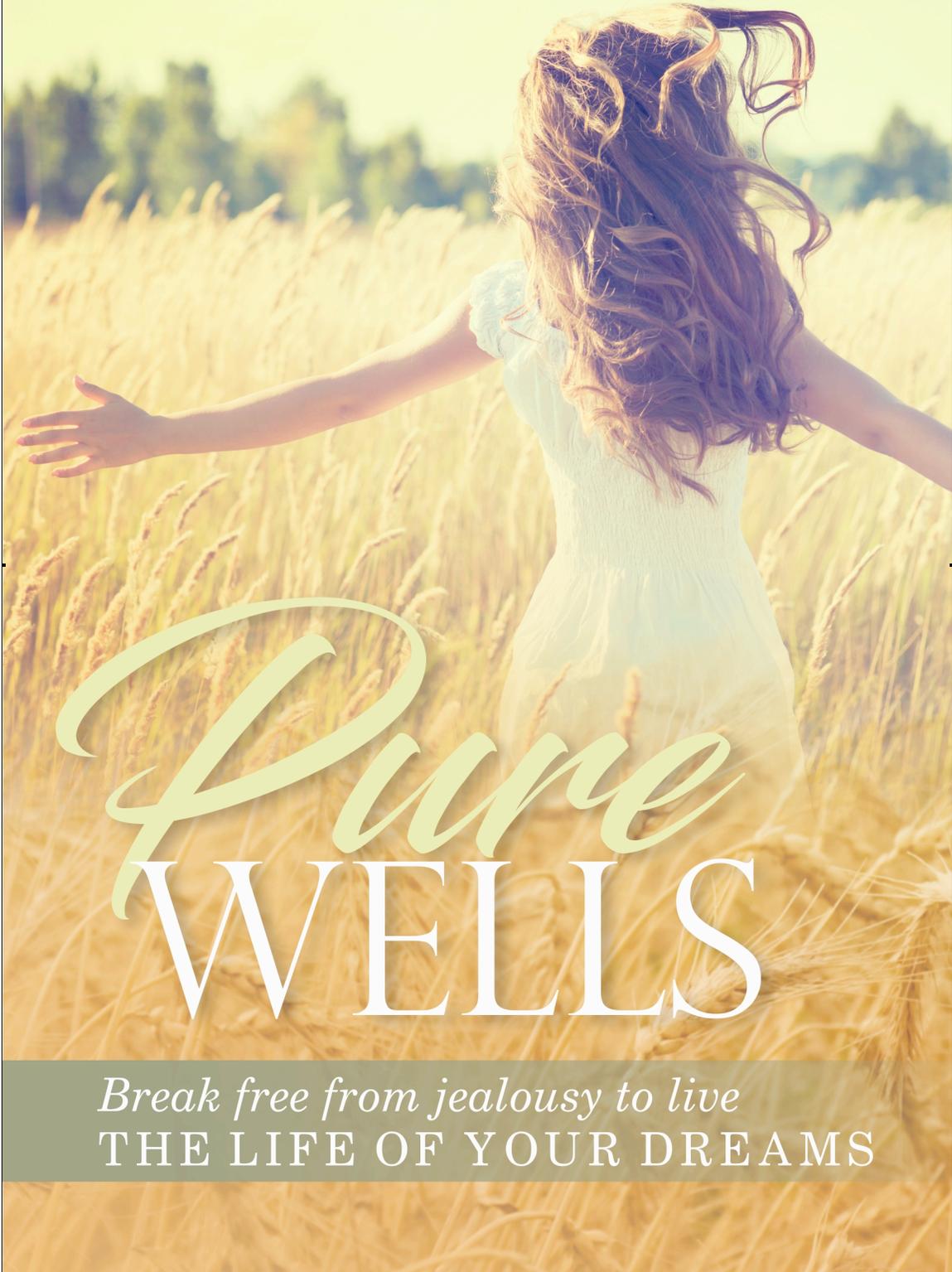


CHANDRA MOYER



Pure
WELLS

Break free from jealousy to live
THE LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS

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Introduction

Have you ever felt jealous of someone or had to deal with someone who was jealous of you? Unfortunately, jealousy is a problem we all wrestle with at some point in our lives. Either way jealousy is a strong uncomfortable emotion that we seldom like to face. It simmers below the surface. That green-eyed monster will invade your mind, distracts you from your purpose trying to change you into a monster. This can catch you off guard when you know that's not you!

It's one thing to be jealous of a random person on social media but it's another story when you're jealous of a friend or a member of your tribe. Are you comparing yourself to your friend's lifestyle, appearance, relationships, talents, etc? Only to feel frustrated and unhappy that things don't seem to be working out in your life? Just because someone has achieved something you want doesn't mean that you have failed. Comparison is a thief of joy and is a steppingstone to jealousy. It not only holds us back from living a happy life but it can lead to hurting others.

Jealousy steals your joy by undermining relationships. I have seen jealousy raise its ugly head on numerous occasions in my own life. Years ago, I was invited to lead a women's ministry at a church. After several weeks of bible study a lady confessed, "I was so upset to learn that you were leading the women's ministry. I thought, what right do you have to lead the study...you're new and to top it off you're black too. I realize that I'm jealous of you." She felt guilty about her feelings. We had an opportunity to pray together so she could be set free.

God instructs us not to compare ourselves with others because He knows by doing so we are allowing jealousy to access our lives. 2 Corinthians 10:12-13 (MEV) says, "They who measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another are not wise."

I shared this message at a women's conference and it was an amazing experience to watch many women receive freedom from this harmful behavior. I hope this message will motivate you to overcome jealousy and the effects of it in your life.

Jealousy Between Sisters

The bible is filled with illustrations of men and women contending with jealousy in their hearts, and the devastating effects caused by others in their lives. We see the misery between two sisters Leah and Rachel in Genesis 29-30. They each wanted what the other had. Leah desperately wanted Jacobs love something Rachel had. She hoped with each child she gave birth Jacob would love her. He never did. Rachel seemed to have everything except the ability to have children. Everyday she had to listen to Leah's children play outside her tent.

Let's look at the difference between envy and jealousy. Envy is an unhappy or angry feeling caused by a desire of not having what others have. On the other hand, jealousy is a reaction to a threat of losing something. You fear losing a relationship, position or recognition you already have. You become distrustful, watchful and suspicious. Envy is a two-person situation whereas jealousy is a three-person situation. Both jealousy and envy often lead to feelings of anger, resentment, and bitterness. Since they both come from a feeling of lack, I will be using jealousy and envy interchangeably.

New Territory New Troubles

Sometimes you have to step out in order to find out what God has planned for your life. That means leaving your comfort zone and familiar surroundings. We so often believe the lie that if we are afraid of moving forward, it must not be God's plan. So we don't take necessary action steps and remain stuck. Therefore, we never find out our true potential and what we are capable of accomplishing. Lifestyle changes such as a new career, location, marriage, divorce, are often filled with mixed emotions. Stepping out into the unknown can be exhilarating, intimidating and frightening. Fear is a giant you will face as you move into that new place with Him. Whatever God calls you to do, obey Him even when you are afraid! As you enter into new area in your work or church someone might feel threatened by you. Jealousy is another giant you will encounter on your journey.

Genesis 26 is a beautiful story of how God renewed His covenant promises with Isaac, Abraham's son, and the obstacles he overcame to receive them. Isaac settled in Negev, near Beer Lahai Roi, after Abraham's death. Negev means "the well of the Living One who sees me." He was probably living a comfortable lifestyle when famine struck their region. It is interesting to note that God compelled Isaac to move to Gerar through the circumstances of famine. God will use natural situations that cause us to shift so that we are in alignment with Him.

Due to these severe conditions, Isaac must have been thinking about moving to Egypt because God appears to him and tells him not to move there. Perhaps Isaac's friends were relocating to Egypt because of the bountiful natural resources. But God told him to settle in the land of Gerar. God's instructions to move there were quite challenging for Isaac. He was going to have to leave his comfort zone and move into unfamiliar region.

As this story unfolds, we see that Isaac was afraid of being killed by the men in this region because they wanted to seize his beautiful wife, Rebekah. He lied about his relationship with Rebekah to protect himself, and said that she was his sister. Now before you are quick to judge him about his decision to lie, it's important to understand the environment he was entering. Isaac had every reason to be afraid because the Philistines were intimidating and known to be fierce in battle. Self-preservation and fear can cause us to react in ways that we normally would not.

The Challenge of Transition

Have you ever experienced fear or conflict as a result of following God's instructions to move to a new place or to act upon something? My family and I moved to Chesapeake, VA in 1999 following the Lord's instructions. He spoke to us through a dream, and through scripture, prophecy, and a series of circumstances to confirm He was indeed guiding us to leave our home in Manassas.

I think what caught my husband TP's attention was how quickly our home sold. At a time when the real estate market was sluggish and homes sat on the market for over a year, our home sold in five days. The amazing thing about this situation was that we didn't even list it with an agent. We just stuck a little "For

Sale By Owner” sign in our front yard. I truly believe the Lord compelled the buyers to come down our quiet road, as we lived off the beaten path.

TP retired from the military after serving 21 years in the Army. We moved from Northern Virginia even though TP had no job, or the promise of one. This was a huge leap of faith for us! We trusted that God was leading us because of all the supernatural ways He spoke to us. However, three hurricanes later with floodwaters rising around our new home, as well as verbal attacks by church leadership, my confidence began to waver.

Even with my love for God and desire to please Him, it was difficult for my family during this transition. We had moved four times in the previous six years, each time leaving behind our homes, cars, and more importantly precious friends. It often took us six months to a year to adjust to a new place.

One night we were all sitting around the kitchen table sharing how we missed our old home and friends. My youngest, who was eight years old at the time said, “Why did we even come to this God- forsaken place?” I was beginning to ask myself that same question! I remember turning to TP and asking him, “Did we miss God concerning this move?” He looked at me with his gentle eyes and said, “Chandra, you didn’t miss God. But you need to remember what the Lord said to us concerning this move.” He was right.

When resistance or setbacks come, we begin to wonder if we have accurately heard from God. This is the enemy’s plan to trick us into doubting God’s word, which then leads to unbelief and giving up. It is important to remember what God has said to you. No matter what the enemy throws your way stand firm on His word.

Clogged Wells

Digging wells in the East gave title to vacant lands. Therefore, Isaac owned by inheritance all the land surrounding the wells dug under his father’s direction. Gerar was located on the edge of a desert, so water was as precious as gold. It was a dangerous thing to stop up someone’s well. In fact, it was an act of war and was one of the most serious crimes in the land. The Philistines attempted to defeat Isaac

by stopping up his wells. Can you imagine the fear that gripped him and the amount of stress he was under? Water was Isaac's livelihood. Without it, he and his family could not survive.

When the enemy attacks us, we must stand on God's truth: His word! Have you noticed that when people are jealous of you, they do hurtful and crazy things? They will gossip and slander you in order to destroy your reputation. They may try to shut down your ministry, get you fired from a job, or even break up a special relationship. The extreme action would be to get rid of you, even if that means murder.

Just as the Philistines stopped up Isaac's wells by filling them with dirt and stones, I believe the enemy attempts to fill us with stones of hurt and offenses in order to hinder the work of God in our lives.

Let's look at the difference between envy and jealousy. Envy is an unhappy or angry feeling caused by a desire of not having what others have. On the other hand, jealousy is a reaction to a threat of losing something. You fear losing a relationship, position or recognition you already have. You become distrustful, watchful and suspicious.

Envy is a two-person situation whereas jealousy is a three-person situation. Both jealousy and envy often lead to feelings of anger, resentment, and bitterness. Since they are so closely related, I will be using jealousy and envy interchangeably.

Envy's Fire

David spent much of his young life running from a jealous king who sought to kill him. Yet, God also used this time of intense adversity to prepare him to rule over the nation of Israel.

In 1 Samuel 18, David had defeated Goliath and the towns of Israel came out to celebrate his victory singing, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands." King Saul became very angry by this song that credited David with killing more people than he did.

The original Hebrew word for the anger Saul had towards David is "charah." It means to burn and glow with anger. Charah is that moment when a person

explodes with anger before any sense of control takes over. The next day an evil spirit came forcefully upon Saul, and from that moment on he kept a jealous eye on David. I think this serves as a warning to all of us. We must be quick to repent of jealousy in our hearts because it opens the door to an unclean spirit.

Scripture says that King Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him and had left Saul. Isn't that interesting? The favor of God was upon David and it was apparent for all to see. The very people who are saying negative things about you are often the ones threatened by the presence of God within you. They are afraid of your talents, gifts, and God's favor upon your life.

Since fear and insecurity are often the roots of jealousy, we need God's love as an antidote to fight off this evil. Scripture says God is love, and that perfect love casts out fear. Therefore, His presence is wherever Love abounds.

The Spirit of God is more powerful than anything we may encounter, including jealousy! God's counter-attack for jealousy is found in Luke 6:27-28: *"Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you."* If there is a positive side to envy-motivated attack it's that it keeps us humble and dependent upon God. Isn't that where we need to be, leaning into Jesus' arms?

God's Favor

Each time King Saul sent his men to capture David, they entered the presence of God. The Spirit of God would literally fall upon them and they would prophesy. This happened three times before King Saul decided to take matters into his own hands (1 Samuel 19:19-24). The point to drive home here is that the presence and power of God canceled out the enemy's plans! Sometimes God's favor doesn't look the way it is perceived.

During this difficult time, David fled for his life and stayed with the Prophet Samuel. God provided a safe place for David and a safe relationship with a Godly man. Ultimately, God is our safe place and our hiding place, but God knows we need Him with "skin on" at times. So the Father is faithful to give us safe relationships during our times of testing.

Could it be that those who are jealous of you feel insecure and threatened by the gifts and talents God has given you? They may perceive you as a threat wanting to usurp their position or authority, but in reality you are only looking for a place to belong. Whatever their motive, they will attempt to make your life miserable in hopes that you will move on. However, it is important to wait on God's leading so He will have a place to bring you. Sometimes this is the "the wilderness place."

It is very painful when you find yourself in this situation. It's difficult not to move forward on emotion and refrain from striking back. We must not take our defense into our own hands but instead wait and move on the leading of the Holy Spirit. Ask Jesus how you should respond. Now if your life is in danger, that is not what I'm talking about here, and of course you should seek outside help immediately!

Sometimes what God puts inside your heart may be too large for where you are planted now. He is unable to bring it to birth in that environment because there are no midwives there to support you. Instead, there are abortionists wanting to kill the work of God in you. Therefore, God's timing is very important! We see this in David's life. Although he was anointed King when he was about 17 years of age, it was many years later before God placed him on the throne as King of Israel.

Wilderness of Preparation

Many people make the mistake of stepping out too soon. They are excited because they have received the call to preach, teach, or minister, start a new business. Even though we are called to a ministry or a certain profession, we may not be ready for it at that moment.

There is specific training and schooling required before entering into certain career fields. The years of training required to become a doctor is considerably longer and more in-depth than someone who wants to be a mechanic. It's not that one profession is better than the other. Obviously both professions are needed in our society. It's just that these two professions are extremely diverse and require different training.

Depending on God's call for your life, there may be a period of time between the revelation and fulfillment of your dream. Those in-between years can feel like a wasteland, but hold invaluable experiences essential in producing the anointing. There are life lessons He is teaching you along the way. Character is built through tough times when the soul is strengthened. There are no short cuts to maturity. Some things you can only learn through personal experience.

These desert seasons in your life are often lonely. These are dry times when you don't "feel" the tangible presence of God. But He is still there, because His word says He will never leave you nor forsake you.

God's Seasons

Others may misunderstand you as God sets you apart for His training. This will cause you to feel isolated. But in this hidden place, our Father is wooing you into a precious relationship. Father desires to pour out His extravagant love on you in the secret place. He is guiding you to feel His heartbeat, recognize His voice and know His ways. He is showing you His goodness and the benefits of following Him. These times of your life are invaluable seasons of preparation. It is the place where God transforms you into the person who can live your dream.

Years ago when my children were young, the Lord would whisper to me, "I'm teaching you to hear my voice." I was learning to hear and obey Him in my everyday life experiences where no one noticed except my Father in heaven.

Another reason we are jealous of others is because we are not trusting God for His provision and His timing. We see someone in the harvest season of their lives where God is promoting them and bringing fulfillment of His promises. But that does not mean He isn't going to bring about His fulfillment in your life. You just may be in another season such as plowing or sowing seed.

Waiting for the Promise

Abram was about 75 years old when God promised to bring him a son and make him into a great nation. After years of waiting for that son, Abram and his wife Sarai began to follow their own reasoning instead of God's leading. They

became weary waiting for God's promise to come to pass and took matters into their own hands. Sarai decided to help God by giving her maidservant Hagar to Abram. Sarai reasoned that surely this was how God would bring them a child. She didn't realize God had his own plan. Due to Sarai's bad decision, Hagar became a surrogate mother when she conceived and gave birth to Ishmael. He was a son as God had spoken, but he was not the child of the promise. Later, Sarai became jealous of Hagar's ability to give Abram a son.

Doesn't that sound familiar? I think all of us have tried to help God with some aspects of our lives. Reasoning, however, removes us from a position of faith. According to Romans 8:6-8, reasoning belongs to the mind of the flesh and doesn't produce good fruit: *"Now the mind of the flesh (which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit) is death (death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter). But the mind of the Holy Spirit is life and (soul) peace..."* (AMP)

God is not obligated to bless the work we have initiated in our own strength. We so often choose to make our own decisions apart from God. When that occurs, there are often negative consequences that follow.

Impact of Name

During bible times, names had so much more meaning to people than they do today. Names were given to describe a person's character or a circumstance at birth. Twenty-four years later when Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared and confirmed His promise with him. During this time, the Lord changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. God was preparing them for their destiny to rule. In essence, God was declaring what He was about to do in their lives. One of the ways He prepared them was to change their names. *He was calling those things that are not as though they were.*

A woman's worth in biblical society depended on her ability to have children. Certainly, Sarai had suffered ridicule and shame in her inability to have children. So when God changed her name to Sarah, He was giving her an extreme makeover! Sarah means the "Princess" or the "Queen." Each time Sarah heard her name called out she heard, "You are a beautiful, highly-favored daughter of the King because

you are a Princess! You are a Queen!" Major transformation was occurring in her life and her self-image as God prepared her for her promotion of a co-leadership role with Abraham, "the Father of Many Nations."

God brought forth the Promise Child in the fullness of His timing when Sarah gave birth to Isaac, whose name means "laughter." When we conceive and birth God's dreams, it brings us much joy, laughter, and fulfillment.

However, that which is sown in the flesh must be reaped, regardless of who we are in Christ. The consequences of Abraham and Sarah's self-seeking methods are still wreaking international havoc in the world today many generations later. Similarly, there has been much devastation done to the body of Christ due to the carnal thoughts and purposes by which churches and ministries operate.

Polluted Wells

Jesus says in John 7:37, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, out from his inmost being springs and rivers of living water shall flow (continuously)."* Our hearts and souls are like wells. When painful attacks come into our lives, the enemy will attempt to fill our hearts with bitterness, resentment, hurt, anger and hatred in order to stop up our well.

Satan knows that rivers of living water flow from our inmost being. He will fill our souls with debris so there is no longer a source through which we can receive life. This is one of his key strategies to defeat us, because the Holy Spirit must have pure vessels through which to flow in order to bring salvation and freedom to others.

Is the river of God flowing freely from your spirit, or has the enemy clogged your well? It is our responsibility, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to unclog the wells of our souls so that fresh water can flow again from our spirits. As long as we harbor these sins, we are polluted and will never rise to the potential we have in Christ in fulfilling our destinies.

In Tommy Tenny's book, *The God Chasers*, he writes this about an old well: As the ministry workers began to dig out the debris, they found old machinery, discarded furniture, and mounds of old trash among high strands of overgrown

weeds and rushes. They encountered something else in the well too: hundreds of cobras that had to be removed. The following morning, they found that the water in the well had begun to bubble up and flow so strongly it had created a stream overnight!

What a word picture! It takes hard work to unstop a natural well filled with earth and debris. Likewise, it takes work and effort to cooperate with the Lord as He cleanses us. *But, His grace is sufficient for you.*

Along with the healing process, we need deliverance of the enemy's poison in our souls. When we allow God to remove the things that are not of Him, the Holy Spirit will bubble up like a stream and flow freely to touch and heal others.

We are tri-part beings according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23: *"May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* We are a spirit, have a soul, and live in a body. Our bodies are the earth suits we wear as we journey through this land.

I believe when we accept Jesus into our hearts, the Holy Spirit immediately comes in and joins with our spirit. This is where we are born again. But we still have to deal with the realm of our soul that consists of our thoughts, will and emotions.

James 3:14-17 says, *"But if you have bitter jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to Truth. This (superficial) wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual (animal), even devilish (demoniacal). For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices..."* (AMP)

God's tells us in 1 Peter 2:1: *"So be done (get rid) with every trace of wickedness (depravity, malignity) and all deceit and insincerity (pretense, hypocrisy) and grudges (envy, jealousy) and slander and evil speaking of every kind."* (AMP)

Ouch that hurts!

Envy in Church

If Jesus and his disciples experienced rejection from jealous religious leaders, why are we so surprised when we experience the same sufferings as Christ? We find in Mark 11:28 that Jesus was accused by the religious men of his day: *“By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority to do them?”*

If you are following Jesus, and signs and wonders are following you, you will encounter this same jealous spirit. What law did the Apostles break in Acts 5:27-28 that would land them in jail? Scripture tells us that the Sadducees were jealous of the Apostles because of the crowds following them and the miracles they were performing. They were also threatened because the loss of crowds meant the loss of money in their pockets.

Over a decade ago, the Lord took me to Ezekiel 7:3 to confirm what He'd shown me about the spirit of jealousy in our churches. *“The Lord lifted me up between the earth and the heavens and brought me into visions of God in Jerusalem. He took me to the entrance of the door of the inner court which faces toward the north, where resides the seat of the idol-image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy.”*

Not only was the Lord showing me that jealousy is in our churches, but that it is seated quite comfortably. In other words, it is embraced and welcomed. Many churches are territorial and fear that someone will take their people away. They are afraid of those who walk in supernatural gifts and abilities. Instead of coming alongside the individual to help or understand them, they try to shut them down. People get jealous of you when they see you are successful in various areas of your life such as ministry, work, and family.

Faith Rooted in Jesus

For many of us, our belief is not really in Jesus but rather in the church system, meaning the denomination or tradition, the pastor, the congregation, and the fellowship. Each plays a part in leading us to Christ and our spiritual growth.

However, these things should never be used as a substitute for Jesus Himself or our personal relationship with Him.

If our faith, belief and trust are in the church, it's people and it's programs, we will eventually be filled with disillusionment, discouragement and despair. Human beings will let you down at times because it is the nature of the flesh.

Although, it is the responsibility of church leaders to train and equip its members how to hear from God many of you have been drinking the "pastor's milk" for a long time. God is calling you into a personal relationship with Him and encouraging you to go directly to Abba Father for "meat." Do we need encouragement and support? Yes, and we need extra nurturing when we accept Jesus as newborn babes, as we are discovering this new reality of Christ.

When my children were babies, I did everything for them. I gave them milk, bathed them, and changed their dirty diapers. As they grew they needed more nourishment, and milk alone was no longer suitable in that stage of development. Gradually they learned how to feed themselves, sit up, crawl and walk. I would step back in each phase as they began to exercise their new abilities, but I was always close by when they fell so I could help them get back up. Inevitably, my desire was to raise them so they could become productive citizens able to stand on their personal faith in God.

If I had raised my children the way the church is raising it's people today, I would still be spoon feeding them and changing their diapers 25 years later. By society's standards, they would be labeled severely mentally challenged. Well, what is the difference when leaders demand that believers submit to them because they are the only ones who can truly hear from God; or when they tell believers, "If you really want to serve God, you must do what I say because I'm your teacher sent by God to be over you." Instead of trying to control or manipulate the sheep, true shepherds are called to protect them and stand against anything that would harm them.

We must learn to hear from God ourselves. When the storms come in the middle of the night, your pastor cannot be there to hold your hand 24 hours a day. Yet, I know someone who can, and that is Jesus. God says He will never leave you

nor forsake you, and He will shake everything loose in and around us that is not of Him!

Will you root your faith in the shallow soil of the social Christian community, or will you allow your faith to be established in Jesus, the *rock* of your salvation? Will you continue to believe in God in spite of setbacks, duration of testing or hostile circumstances? The heart that continues to love and believe in God, in spite of all the trials of this life, will come to know the true character and nature of God. Romans 4:21 says, *"Therefore, he knows that God will perform what He has promised."*

Re-digging Wells

Genesis 26:19-25 tells us how Isaac redug the wells of his father Abraham, the ones the Philistines had filled after his father's death. Each time, the enemy came and quarreled over the wells declaring, "The water is ours!" Isaac's enemies took ownership of something that did not belong to them. Doesn't that sound like Satan's job description? *"He comes to steal, kill and destroy things that don't rightfully belong to him!"* (John 10:10)

Isaac named the first well Esek, meaning strife, because of the contention he encountered with the Philistines. The second well he named Sitnah, which means enmity or hatred. This feminine noun is a derivative of Satan, meaning opposition or accusation. Satan hates us because we are God's children. If you are passionate about Jesus and His call on your life just know that you will encounter resistance. But our God is greater!

Isaac moved away from this area of strife and hatred and dug his third well. The Philistines did not quarrel over it, so he named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish (be fruitful, grow increase) in the land." Rehoboth means avenue, a broad place, and to make room. The number three represents the Godhead and fullness. God's timing is very important and strategic. *"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son."* (Galatians 4:4)

Isaac's response to his enemies was not to quarrel back, but to move on and dig another well. Why did he not stay and fight to keep his father's wells? Although he

had every right to fight the Philistines, I believe Isaac remained quiet because God did not tell him to go to battle.

It is very important to listen to the Holy Spirit. Pray and seek the Lord as to which battles He has called you to pursue. If God tells you to be quiet, you need to yield to Him and be silent! The wisdom of heaven will often tell you to surrender your rights, which is contrary to the world's carnal way of thinking. This only means that God has a larger plan and something better for you!

If you are a woman in ministry or in business you will experience rejection. Luke 10:16 says, *"He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects Him who sent me."* If God has called you, don't worry about what others think. What matters is what God thinks about you and what you are doing. The spirit working in the institutional church will attempt to make you feel slighted and insignificant. But don't put on that cloak. Shake it off!

My husband TP and I visited a church to witness the baptism of several friends. The pastor came up to us asking what we have been up to. I responded that the Lord was truly blessing the ministry. Immediately he turned to TP and asked, "So you're in the ministry?" TP responded, "No, my wife is talking about her ministry." The pastor didn't quite know what to say, so he avoided a direct response. There was a time when this kind of incident would have insulted me. Instead, I just smiled at God. I believe He was reminding me why He called us out of the institutional church and into the market place.

Jesus told his disciples what to do when people rejected them. He instructed them to leave and shake the dust from their feet. We need to take the advice of Jesus and learn to shake off rejection and move on! It's not easy when that rejection comes from a family member or fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It's often very painful. But if we allow God to heal us, we will grow stronger and more compassionate. In the process He is faithful to provide others in our lives who will accept us and rejoice over us!

A Gift Makes Room

From there Isaac went up to Beersheba, which means seven or well of an oath. The number seven represents purification, consecration and spiritual perfection. I

believe this depicts the cleansing process God takes us through in order that we may receive our full inheritance.

What made this place different from the others? God showed up and comforted Isaac so that he would not be afraid. Then He reminded Isaac of the covenant He had made with his father Abraham and confirmed that promise.

God made sure Isaac was established so that the enemy could no longer shut him down. I believe this is what I hear the Lord saying to you. You must be like Isaac and seek God's face, and allow Him to affirm and validate you! You must trust that God is faithful and that He will meet you as you press into Him. There you will find comfort and strength.

I can hear the Father saying now, "Precious child, do not be afraid. It is my responsibility to bring to pass what I have spoken to you in the secret place. Just surrender to me, trust and cooperate with me, and watch me fulfill My word."

We see Isaac persevere through his trials and not give up. Sometimes it's a matter of outlasting your enemies! "*A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.*" (Proverbs 18:16). If you have been wrongly driven from a place, remember in God's appointed time He will establish you and make room for you at another place of His choosing.

An amazing thing happened toward the end of this story. Isaac's enemies returned after his encounter with God. I wonder how Isaac felt when he saw the commander of King Abimelech's forces approaching him? Can you hear his frustration and anger when he asked, "Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away? He sounds a little angry to me, and this time he takes a stand. Ask God for the wisdom to know when to withdraw and when to stand and fight.

I am sure the Philistines' answer stunned Isaac. "We saw clearly that the Lord was with you, so we decided to make a treaty with you so you will do us no harm"...so a peace treaty was established between Isaac and those who came against him. The Lord will prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies!

That same day, Isaac's servants dug the fourth well and exclaimed, "We have found water!" The number four symbolizes God's creative works and number of

seasons. Isaac's season had shifted, and God was establishing him in this place. Isaac named this well Shibah, which means seven and represents completion.

Though Isaac's enemies despised him, they could no longer deny that God had blessed him. Proverbs 16:7 says, *"When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."*

Just as God allowed the enemy to come against Isaac, He allows Satan to come against us. God tests us to see if we will walk with Him by faith in spite of our circumstances, even when it hurts. Whether you are falsely accused, misused, or abused, will you follow Him? God says, *"If you love me you will obey me."* God builds within us His character and nature, and conforms us into the image of Christ as He strips us of our defenses and we rely on Him. For God is our defense!

A New Season

Although the Philistines stopped up all the wells that Isaac's father had dug, it was only for a season. Eventually, Isaac reopened the wells of Abraham. The Lord is telling you that if the enemy has clogged your well and has prevented you from fulfilling your mission, it is only for a season!

I encourage you not to give up, but to continue to put your hand to what you know God has instructed you to do. God is perfecting Himself in you through all your trials and pains of rejection. I have learned that rejection is sometimes just pointing us in a new direction! God loves you with an everlasting love. His love for you does not change even though it may seem so when you are going through a difficult time.

In God's perfect timing He will give you room, an avenue, and a broad place, and you will flourish in the land. During your season of testing, He will root you deep in Him so that *" . . . you will be like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaves do not wither. Whatever he does will prosper."* (Psalms 1:3)

Over the past few years, the churches that pushed me out are now returning to me to make peace. But during that desert period, God gave me grace to deal with issues in my own heart. He was circumcising my heart and cutting away my need for man's approval. He was also purifying my motives. Only God can truly

validate what He has placed inside of us. I thank God for His faithfulness to heal my heart from the hurts of rejection and betrayal.

What has stopped up your well? Is it rejection, anger, bitterness, jealousy, pride, hate, rebellion, prejudice, disobedience, unbelief or unforgiveness? 1 John 1:9 says, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

How to Overcome Jealousy

When we experience jealousy we tend to focus on one area of a person’s life. We conveniently disregard their personal struggles. Remind yourself nobody has it all. They of may have lost a child, battled cancer, lost their job or experienced another tragedy. We also don’t consider the hard work and sacrifice it took them to achieve their success. Everyone in this world goes through painful struggles no matter what their economic status. It’s time to break free. Consider these helpful, life-changing steps to overcoming jealousy.

1. Confess

To deny the existence of a problem only makes it worse. There is something about bringing jealousy into the light that diffuses its power over you. It takes courage to admit to yourself and let alone someone else that you struggle with jealousy. *“Confess your faults one to another so that you may be healed.”* James 5:16 Your walk towards healing comes through the path of truth. In acknowledging your wrong behavior God, you are positioning yourself for restoration. That includes admitting you are holding onto grudges and offenses! Ask the Lord for Godly sorrow towards that sin. Maybe you were you are guilty of hurting or slandering someone. None of us is above harboring the spirit of jealousy toward others, and we need to guard our hearts from this toxic emotion.

Early in my marriage I struggled with jealousy as I compared myself with other women. I was very insecure with my own self-worth due to the years of being sexually abused by my Dad. Growing up watching my Dad have multiple affairs caused a deep mistrust for men. Frequently, I’d compare myself with other women and always felt less attractive. If my husband happened to glance at another

woman I felt threatened. If we are not secure with who we are as unique individuals then we will compare ourselves with anyone who appears to be more successful or beautiful.

This is why it's so important for Jesus to heal the broken areas of our hearts. If you have allowed jealousy in your own heart, I urge you to ask God to cleanse you so that He can release you from this wrong behavior. I cried out to God desperate to get rid of this toxic emotion. I thank God for healing my heart and setting me free from jealousy. He desires to remove this obstacle that would prevent you from living the life of your dreams.

It is important to forgive and bless those who have hurt you or come against you. Jesus says in Luke 6:26-27, *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you."* By doing so, you give yourself wings to fly again. Praying for those who've harmed us guards our hearts from offenses that lead to bitterness, anger and hate. Forgiveness doesn't mean that what was done to you is okay. Forgiveness lets you off the hook from carrying the pain. It sets you free to move forward and live your dream.

2. Look Inward with Love

When you feel jealous, instead of shaming yourself into hiding it, or beating yourself up for feeling it, allow it to reveal truth about yourself. Real transformation happens when you turn your focus from outward to inward. Use the feelings of jealousy to catch thoughts about your own self-worth. Make sure you focus on thoughts about you and not the other person. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine the spotlight on the source of your envy or jealousy. Start by asking yourself a few questions.

When did I start to feel jealous? What is this jealous feeling calling attention to?

What was said or how did they say it that triggered the emotion?

Why can't I have what Suzie has? What do I believe about myself that's telling me this? Is it I am not smart enough? Pretty enough? Good enough? Worthy enough?

What part of me is having trouble watching the success, confidence, popularity, beauty, wealth, etc. of my friend? What do I feel hurt about, prevented from doing, or stuck around?

My struggle with jealousy came from feeling worthless. I believed that I was

ugly and had to work hard on my personality to be liked. I never thought I was pretty enough that a good looking nice man would want me let alone that I could keep him. For years I believed the lie that I was ugly and dirty. The buried memories of the trauma reinforced that lie.

3. Journal

Write every single thought that comes to mind. Don't analyze it just put it down on paper. Reflect on your questions by journaling about them or exploring them. Here are some examples: "I'm not pretty enough to get a husband like Suzie." "I'm not smart enough to get a masters degree like Suzie." "I'm not smart enough to get that promotion like Suzie."

4. Replace with Truth

Now ask yourself and the Holy Spirit is this statement is true. If you can't prove it then it's a false belief about yourself. Look at every statement and thought you have about it and challenge it with God's truth. What does God say about you? Replace it with His truth.

5. Gratitude

Gratitude helps to prevent jealousy from stealing your joy. It opens your eyes to the blessings God has already given you. Gratefulness puts you in the mindset of generosity. You are not looking at what you don't have. Instead you're looking for opportunities to give out of what you already have such as your time, friendship, knowledge, talents, or love.

Being secure with yourself and loving who you are is a cure for jealousy. Embrace and accept who God created you to be. Celebrate who you are and know your worth. Tell jealousy to take a hike there's no room for it in your life. You are worthy of acceptance, recognition and love.

Give the Holy Spirit permission to dig up the well of your soul. Allow God to set you free so you can become a pure well through which His living water can flow to bring life, hope and healing to others. Break free from Jealousy to live the life of your dreams!