

OVERCOMING REJECTION

Sunday, May 12, 2024

I. WHAT IS REJECTION ...

1. Rejection is the awareness of not being _____, not being a part of, not being included, intentionally _____.
2. Rejection says I don't _____ you, I don't need you, I don't love you, I don't want to be around you, I don't welcome you.
3. It is when you feel like you don't _____ ... you just don't fit.

II. HAGAR'S EXPERIENCE WITH REJECTION ...

1. It is a dangerous thing to rush _____ of God, to try to _____ God out, or to come up with your own solutions (Genesis 16 & 21).

III. HOW TO OVERCOME REJECTION ...

1. REALIZE that _____ wants you to be stuck in the residue of rejection.

John 10:10 (NIV): ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy ...

2. REMEMBER that _____ understands rejection and He will never reject you and He will help you overcome rejection.

Isaiah 53:3 (NIV): ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind ...

Matthew 27:46 (NIV): ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV): Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

John 10:10 (NIV): ¹⁰ ... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

3. REVEAL the _____ before focusing on the fruit.

4. RECOGNIZE your part if you _____ to the rejection.

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV):

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." ⁶ "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

5. RESIST your _____.

6. RESOLVE to focus on what _____ says about you, not what others say or how you feel.

Genesis 16:7-16 (NIV):

⁷ The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. ⁹ Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." ¹¹ The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. ¹² He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers." ¹³ She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

7. RESIGN to the fact that rejection can _____.

Genesis 21:8-10 (NIV):

⁸The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

8. _____ your rejection and let Jesus heal you from it.

Genesis 21:11-21 (NIV):

¹¹The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹²But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring." ¹⁴Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob. ¹⁷God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. ²¹While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

9. RESPOND to rejection by _____ your choice to do the right thing.

10. REFUSE to hold everyone in _____ because of one or a few people's rejection.