

## WARM UP

Recently a friend, who is very gifted in his area of service to God, got offended. Staff changes, new rules and (in my view) an insensitive approach to the new way things were going to be done became all too much, so he quit his ministry. This is not saying my friend was right and those above him were wrong, it's just something that happened because of where everyone involved was at during that time. My friend had enough brains and guts to stay involved in the things of God **because that's what a man of God does**. Those who knew him were patient and prayed. In time the right trusted brother spoke into his life the Word of God and challenged him. He gave my friend a book to help him sort his attitude out and get back to serving God, and not wasting his gift. Today my friend is fired up to serve God again; he has signed on to the ministry team (who gladly received him) and can't wait to bring glory to God and continue blessing His people.

## BACKGROUND

*"Therefore brethren stand fast and hold the traditions, which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle."*

(2 Thessalonians 2:15)

Obedience to God is a rich life. The great thing is, obedience is something all men can do. If you trust and act on God's Word it will build faith in you and God will come through for you every time.

My friend was in a predicament, however he held fast to God's Word and God's ways. He did not abandon his Christian community or the fundamentals of his faith, yet the whole time he was in his trial he felt terrible. He had positioned his life where God could still speak to him and so he got his breakthrough.

## READ John 15:9-17

### QUESTIONS

1. Have you opened your heart fully to God to let the impact of His love and power change you forever? Discuss with the group.

2. Have you positioned your life in a strong church community where you can serve and give love, as well as receive love and learn accountability? Discuss ways in which you could be more integrated into the church community.



3. Have you learnt some key passages of Scripture that you outwork in your life and can also speak about with insight? Share one or two of these with the group.

## 7:20 IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

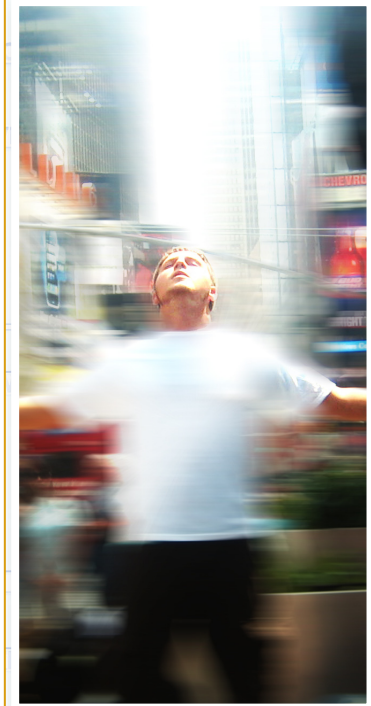
### MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will stay on course and keep my faith alive when offences or problems come my way.



## CONSIDER THIS

Do you have a "feeling" religion or do you live by faith? Your feelings are important; however they are not to lead you. You need to learn to submit them to the Holy Spirit. Living by faith is powerful. You can act and do the right things regardless of how you feel. This way of living is both challenging and exciting.



## WRAP UP

Encourage each other by sharing stories of how God has set you free and has taught you lessons of overcoming by faith.