

MASTER RESET

A 40 - Day Journey



Freedom

Transforming orphan mindsets to the default settings of The Son of God

NIGEL BROWN

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FOREWORD

This book is a gift to the body of Christ and especially to those whom desire to come to maturity in Christ. The theme throughout is “How to live by the Spirit and not by the soul” and “How to live as a son of God and not as an orphan”. The insights are practical but profound, as Nigel taps into the wisdom that comes from the eternal realm of the Spirit of God. This is not just a good read, but should be used to inspire you to study the Word. Dig in and allow the Word to become flesh in your life.

Peter Snyman
Spiritual Father



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40-DAY MASTER RESET

Freedom

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I am so excited about this fourth instalment in the Master Reset series. As I explained in the first book of this series, ‘master reset’ is a term used in I.T. (Information Technology) that refers to the restoration of an electronic device (i.e. a smartphone, tablet, laptop, etc.) to its original default settings. A default setting is the way a device was originally configured to operate, by its creator or manufacturer. It is the original state that the device was in, when it left the factory. A master reset process removes all settings, applications and data that were added by the user. A few years ago, I had some issues with my iPhone, to the point where it was inoperable. I thought I needed to buy a new phone, but I first decided to take my phone to the iStore to have a master reset (or hard reset) done. After the master reset was done, to my surprise, my phone worked perfectly. They also updated my phone’s software to the latest operating system. I genuinely felt like I had a new phone.

I related this master reset concept to what the Apostle Paul called the “...*renewing of your mind*...” (Romans 12:2). All followers of Christ are required to go through a process of mind renewal, or as I call it, a master reset. When you became born again your spirit was immediately activated and renewed. Our souls, however, still have the operating system of the kingdom of darkness (that we were rescued from) and therefore requires transformation (Colossians 1:13; Romans 12:2). Since Jesus Christ is our Master, we need to allow Him to reset our souls (mind, will and heart) to His way of interpreting reality, and to His way of doing things.

As you know, the theme of this book is ‘Freedom’. Jesus said: “*Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” (John 8:35-36) What Jesus said here, applies to every believer. Christ has set all His followers free from the powers of darkness and placed us into His Kingdom (Colossians 1:13). This is in essence



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the Gospel. When I was meditating on this, a deep sense of gratitude stirred up in my heart towards God. At the same time, however, I also felt great tension in my heart, because there are so many believers who are living in bondage. The following thought came to mind: What's the point of having the status of being free, but on a practical level, you live like a prisoner? There's something wrong with that picture. There are few things more tragic than being free but functionally and practically living a life of bondage.

The reality that you experience in life, is not necessarily a reflection of the truth, but of what you believe. So, even though you are actually free, if you believe you are bound, you will experience bondage. Functionally speaking, you will be no different from someone who is actually bound. A.M. Marcus is the author of a short fictional children's story, that is analogous to this dilemma. This story is titled: *'The Elephant and the Rope'*. Just to give context - the elephant in this story was part of a circus. Here's an excerpt:

'As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope, tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not. He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," the trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free." The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds, but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.'

We (as believers) are like that elephant. In the short story, it was revealed that when the elephant was very young, it was tied down with a rope that was strong enough to hold it down. Similarly, due to our souls being influenced by the kingdom of darkness, we as immature believers were bound in many areas of our lives. When the elephant became an adult, it was tied down with



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that very same rope that kept it bound when it was young. The reason for this was because the elephant became conditioned to believing that it could not break free. The truth is - the adult elephant had the power to easily break free from that rope. In the same way, some of you have been believers for quite a number of years, but you are still struggling with some of the same struggles that you had at the beginning of your walk with God. Like the elephant, you have been conditioned to think that you will never overcome those struggles. You have pretty much accepted that struggle as something that you will never overcome. The good news is, as you surrender every part of your life to Christ's Lordship, He empowers you with His grace to break free from those chains that are keeping you in bondage.

The first step to experiencing complete freedom in Christ is to master your soul. Your soul needs a master reset. You don't get mastery over your soul through sheer willpower, but through surrender. You are to surrender every area of your life to the Lordship of Christ. The Apostle James said: *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7) The Lord spoke to Israel (His people) through the prophet Hosea: *"my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4:6a) The knowledge that Israel lacked was the truth. God imparts revelation knowledge to us through His sent ones (Romans 10:15). This revelation knowledge brings with it the impartation of grace, to conform us to His image and likeness (Romans 8:29). The Apostle Peter said: *"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord."* (2 Peter 1:2) This impartation of grace that you will receive, will empower you to break free from the chains that have held you captive for so long. You are a son of God. It's not God's will for His sons to be in bondage. When I say you are a son of God, I'm referring to both male and female. Regardless of your gender, if you are in Christ, you are a son of God. Why? The Apostle Paul taught the Galatians: ***"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, **there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**"*** (Galatians 3:26-28 NKJV) The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians: *"Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we*



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know Him in this way no longer.” (2 Corinthians 5:16 NASB)

We are spirits, and in Christ, we are all sons of God, regardless of race, gender, economic status or anything else that distinguishes us in the flesh (or from a human perspective). I want you to keep this understanding in mind, when throughout this 40-day journey, I refer to God’s people as sons of God, or when I refer to ‘the mindset of a son’, I’m not only referring to male believers. I’m referring to God’s people as spiritual beings, and this includes both male and female believers. Female believers are also sons of God in the spirit.

In this 40-day journey I share revelations that the Lord has imparted directly to me through meditation on His Word (by doing ancient Hebrew and Greek word studies), and through the gifts of Christ to His Body (Ephesians 4:11-13). In recent years, one of the key people who the Lord has used, to unlock great mysteries of the Kingdom of God, is Dr. Sam Soleyn. He is the apostolic oversight of our spiritual family, and we affectionately call him ‘Papa Sam’. The online bible study tools that I used for Hebrew and Greek word studies are: biblehub.com, studylight.org and hebrewwordpics.com. I generally quote the New International Version of the Bible (N.I.V) in this writing, unless I specify another version.

The first half of this journey (Day 1-20), will focus on what we as sons of God are free from. The second half will focus on what we as sons of God are free to be and to do. I believe the Lord will use this resource as a tool, to empower you to destroy the works of the enemy in your life, and in your sphere of influence. These revelations are but a drop in the ocean of God’s infinite wisdom, that are available to His sons. They are seeds of truth that the Lord will impart to you. The Lord will cause these seeds to bear fruit in you and through you. God is not satisfied with us being sons by identity, but we continue to live like orphans in our daily lives. Our Heavenly Father wants our lives to practically demonstrate our status as sons of God. It is therefore my passionate desire for you to functionally live out your identity in Christ. In other words, my passion is to see you functionally transition from being entrapped in the culture of the orphan, to being set free to embody the culture of the Son of God. God



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instructed me to develop this resource, to play a role in fulfilling His purpose of accurately revealing Himself through you. Enjoy your journey.

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GUIDELINES FOR THE MASTER RESET JOURNEY

1. Write your reflections of the daily thoughts and questions in a journal. What you'll be writing is for your eyes only, so I encourage you to be completely honest and transparent.
2. Summarise your daily discoveries by answering these two questions:
 - In one sentence, what was your main discovery today?
 - What physical symbol did you choose as a trigger, to remind you of today's main discovery? (The physical symbol you choose, should be what's relevant to you.)

Let me give you an example:

"Today I discovered that I need to face the truth and not live in denial.
My physical symbol is a mirror, because mirrors don't lie."

3. This journey or process can also be done with a group of people. If you are open to this, I would recommend that you create an online chat group (or another online chat group) of up to 5 people, who are fully engaged and committed to the process. Feedback is critically important, in order for this process to be effective in a group dynamic, and is also great for accountability. Feedback time is up to each group's discretion. It can be given at a set time if the group chooses so, or at any time of day that suits a group member. The feedback of each group member, should only be a summary of their main discovery for the day (in one sentence), and their physical symbol (as depicted in the earlier example I gave).
4. At the end of this 40-day journey, you will have forty memory triggering symbols of specific discoveries you made during this journey.



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DAY 1

Free from the world

“For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.” - Colossians 1:13 (NLT)

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world.” - 1 John 2:15-16

According to the Strong's Concordance, the original Greek word that's translated as 'world', is '*kosmos*' (Strong's number G2889). HELPS Word Studies defines '*kosmos*' as "*an ordered system*". Thayer's Greek Lexicon gives eight definitions of the word '*kosmos*'. Since there are many meanings of the word '*kosmos*' or 'world', the context in which this word is used, determines its meaning. If someone says: "I have travelled the world." - we undoubtedly understand that that person is referring to countries (or geography). If you say: "Teenagers live in their own world." - we know you are not referring to geography. 'World' in this context, refers to being consumed by your own thoughts, and being totally



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detached from people around you (and your environment).

The word 'world' can also refer to people. The Apostle John said: *"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16) It's clear that John was not referring to creation, geography or a state of mind, in his use of the word 'world'. He was specifically referring to people in John 3:16. The use of the word 'whoever' in this verse, proves that John was referring to people. Later, however, in one of his letters, the Apostle John said: *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love for the Father is not in them."* (1 John 2:15) 'World' in this context, does not refer to people. If it referred to people, then the Apostle John would be contradicting himself. Let's replace the word 'world', with 'people', in 1 John 2:15: *"Do not love people or anything in people. If anyone loves people, the love for the Father is not in them."* As you can clearly see, this sounds ridiculous. God loves people, and He expects His sons to love people as well. In fact, Jesus said, *"Love your neighbour as you love yourself"* (Mark 12:31); *"...love your enemies..."* (Matthew 5:44) and *"...Love one another. As I have loved you..."* (John 13:34).

The specific definition of 'kosmos' (in Thayer's Greek Lexicon) that's applicable to the context of 1 John 2:15-16, is: *"the aggregate of things earthly"*. In other words, the 'kosmos' (as it is applied to 1 John 2:15-16) is the collection of everything that opposes God's nature and character in the earth. In essence, the 'kosmos' is a compendium of systems that are in opposition to God's ways and thoughts. Let's replace the word 'world' in 1 John 2:15-16, with its applicable definition in this context: *"Do not love the systems that oppose God's ways and thoughts or anything in these systems that oppose God's ways and thoughts. If anyone loves these systems that oppose God's ways and thoughts, the love for the Father is not in them. For everything in these systems that oppose God's ways and thoughts - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father, but from the systems that oppose God's ways and thoughts."*

The foundation of this 'kosmos' is deception, and its ruler is Satan. A byname



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of Satan is the Greek word: *'Kosmokratōr'*, which means world ruler (G2888 - Strong's Concordance). The Apostle Paul used this word in his letter to the Ephesians: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against **the rulers** of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Ephesians 6:12 KJV) Satan is also referred to as *'the prince of this world'*, *'the prince of the power of the air'* and *'the god of this world'* (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11; Ephesians 2:2 and 2 Corinthians 4:4).

There are three parts to a human being - spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). You are a spirit; you have a soul and you live in your body. Dr Sam Soleyn says it so beautifully: *"Your body is not who you are; your body is where you are."* Our bodies are the earth suits of our spirits. Our spirits are born out of the person of God. God created human beings to be His image and likeness on the earth (Genesis 1:26). This means that God designed human beings to be His sons, who are led by His Spirit (Luke 3:38; Romans 8:14). So, whatever your vocation or calling is, that is merely the context in which you put the nature of God on display.

Since the fall of Adam, human beings have had the inclination to live by the dictates of their souls, as opposed to their spirits. When Adam ate the fruit that God forbade him to eat, the spirit of Adam separated from the Spirit of God. This was in fulfilment of the Word of the Lord to Adam: *"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it, you will certainly die."* (Genesis 2:17) The 'you' that the Lord was referring to, when He said *"you will certainly die"* - was Adam's spirit. Adam's death, according to the Word of the Lord, was not physical, but spiritual. This is obvious, because the Biblical account shows that Adam didn't physically die after he sinned. He lived to a ripe old age of 930 years old (Genesis 5:5). The Biblical definition of death is 'separation'. That's why, referring to physical death, the Apostle James said: *"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."* (James 2:26)

So, when Adam sinned, he died spiritually. His spirit separated from the Spirit of



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God and became dormant. As a result, Adam could no longer live by the Spirit anymore. He could only, by default, live by the dictates of his soul. In other words, since Adam declared independence from God (by his disobedience), he downgraded from being a son of God, to becoming an orphan. Consequently, instead of focusing on representing God his Father (as a son of God), Adam's focus shifted to the primary focus of the orphan - survival. His main goal became securing his provision and protection.

The mentality of the orphan is to view others either as a threat to their existence, or as a key to their supply of provision and protection. In light of this inclination of human beings to be led by their souls (due to the fall of Adam), Satan specifically crafted the 'kosmos' (or the systems that oppose God on the earth), to take full advantage of this inclination. His intention is to prevent the emergence of the fully mature corporate son of God, because the mature sons of God are called to destroy the works of the devil (John 10:10; 1 John 3:8).

To a certain degree, the fairy tale authored by the Brothers Grimm called, 'Hansel and Gretel', is a good analogy of the relationship between Satan, the 'kosmos' and human beings. In this fairy tale, an older brother and younger sister were young children abandoned and lost in a forest. After days of wandering in the forest, they discovered a large house built of gingerbread, cakes and sweets. Hungry and exhausted, Hansel and Gretel began eating the rooftop of the house. At that point, a very old woman opened the door of the house and emerged from inside the house. She lured Hansel and Gretel inside the house by promising them soft beds and delicious food. Since they were famished and tired, the old lady's invitation was irresistible. They accepted her invitation and entered her house without knowing that the old woman was actually a cannibalistic witch. The witch specifically built the gingerbread house to bait children, by appealing to their desire for sweet treats. Her intention was to fatten the children, with the ultimate goal of killing them and eating them/ In the end, Hansel and Gretel outwitted the witch, escaped her clutches and returned home safely.

The wicked witch in this fairy tale can be compared with Satan. The gingerbread



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house represents the 'kosmos', and Hansel and Gretel are symbolic of humanity. Just as the wicked witch built the gingerbread house to entrap children by appealing to their desire for sweet treats; Satan crafted this 'kosmos' to enslave and destroy humanity's representation of God, by appealing to the desires of their soul. Satan's ultimate goal for designing and crafting this system, is his desire to be worshipped. This desire was put on display in his third temptation of Jesus: *'Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*' (Matthew 4:8-9) The 'kosmos' is the alternative to the Kingdom of God. There's no such thing as neutral territory. If you are not in the Kingdom of God, you are (by implication) captive to the systems that oppose God (the 'kosmos'). In the fairy tale, Hansel and Gretel escaped by outwitting the witch. On the contrary, people who are led by their souls, have absolutely no chance of escaping the schemes and wrath of Satan. The only way for humanity to escape the entrapment of the 'kosmos' and the wrath of Satan, is to be rescued by God. This is exactly what Jesus came to do. In today's key Scripture, the Apostle Paul teaches us that we (sons of God) were rescued from the Kingdom of darkness (which is a synonym for the 'kosmos' or the systems that oppose God) and placed into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13).

When we became born again, our spirits reconnected with the Spirit of God and we became sons of God (Romans 8:16). Even though we are born of the Spirit, our souls still need to be transformed. Our souls still functioned according to the kingdom of darkness and have to be reconfigured and upgraded to the new operating system of the Kingdom of God. This reconfiguration or master reset (as I call it) must happen, in order for us to functionally live as sons of God on earth. If not, then we may have the identity of sons of God, but functionally, we'll live in the culture of orphans. Functionally, we'll live as if we don't have a Father. This is not what our Father wants for us. Our Father wants us to exactly represent His nature and character (Hebrews 1:3). However, this cannot happen if we love the world and the things of the world (1 John 2:15-16).

We are to put to death the following three key sinful desires, if we are to live



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permanently free from the influence of the 'kosmos':

1. The cravings of the sinful nature (the lust of the flesh).
2. Our vision for our lives that's independent from God (the lust of the eyes).
3. The ability to fulfil our vision in our own strength or '*by the sweat of our brow*' (the pride of life).

I am so grateful to our Heavenly Father, that through Christ, we have been set free from the kingdom of darkness. In baptism, we were buried with Christ, which is a sign to the enemy that he no longer has a legal right over us (Colossians 2:12). This is the Gospel. We are free from Satan! We are free from deception! We are free from the world!

- Has your perspective changed with regards to your freedom from the world? If so, how has it changed?
- What will you do differently from today onwards?



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Master Reset Journey



DAY 2

Free from ungodly fear

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” - 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

The culture that we live in today is predominantly influenced by western thought. Western thought has its origins in ancient Greco-Roman ideology. The Bible on the other hand, is based on God’s thoughts, which is very different from western thought. There are key differences between western and biblical perspectives pertaining to what fear is.

Western perspective:

- Fear is an abstract idea; in other words, it’s something that cannot be seen, touched or evidenced.
- It’s a negative concept.
- It’s an emotion.

Biblical perspective:

- Fear is concrete (it is something that is physically evidenced).



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- Fear is neutral, and depending on the spirit behind it, can either be negative or positive.
- Fear is an action.

From the western perspective, fear is simply defined as ‘being afraid’. The biblical perspective requires a bit more context to understand. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. In order to know the functional meaning of Hebrew words, an understanding of the ancient Hebraic context in which those words were used, is required. In its ancient form, each of the twenty-two letters in the Hebrew Aleph-Bet was represented by a pictograph (i.e. a picture). The ancient Hebrew people put two or more letters together to form word pictures, which communicated specific ideas and concepts. The pictures could also signify a person, a place or a thing. Hebrew is read from right to left.

The Hebrew word for fear is ‘*Yirah*’ and consists of four Hebrew letters (‘*yod*’, ‘*resh*’, ‘*aleph*’ and ‘*hey*’). Three of the four letters (‘*resh*’, ‘*aleph*’ and ‘*hey*’) form the root Hebrew word for fear (‘*rah*’), which is translated into English as - “*to see or to perceive*”. The fourth letter in the Hebrew word for fear (‘*yod*’) means ‘*an action*’. Taking this into consideration, the functional definition of fear for the ancient Hebrews was: “*An action done in response to a perception.*”

From the biblical perspective, there are two types of fear: godly fear and ungodly fear. The writer to the Hebrews encourages us to serve God with godly fear: “*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*” (Hebrews 12:28 NKJV) The key factor that determines whether your fear is godly or ungodly, is what your perception is rooted in. If your perception is rooted in God’s version of reality, you will experience the fear of the Lord. I go into greater detail about this on [Day 21](#). If your perception is rooted in anything other than God’s version of reality, you will experience ungodly fear.

Fear (godly or ungodly) is a spirit. A spirit cannot be seen with natural eyes, however, its effect can be seen. The Greek Word for spirit is ‘*pneuma*’, which also means ‘*wind*’ (G4151 - Strong’s Concordance). Naturally speaking, we can’t



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see the wind, but we can see the effect of the wind. In the same way, the effect of the spirit of fear can be seen in a person's attitude, emotions, behaviour and actions. Jesus said it this way: *"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"* (Matthew 6:22-23) In other words, if your perception is healthy (i.e. in alignment with God's version of reality), then the spirit of the fear of the Lord will dwell in you, and you'll experience the freedom of living in God's revelation. If your perception is unhealthy (i.e. not in alignment with God's version of reality), you are opening the door of your heart to the spirit of ungodly fear, that will entrap you in ignorance and bondage.

Ungodly fear fuels the desires of the sinful nature and is the operating system of the 'kosmos' (see [Day 1](#)). The Apostle Paul said: *"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God."* (Galatians 5:19-21 NLT) King Solomon gives a similar list of evil actions that are detestable in the sight of the Lord: *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."* (Proverbs 6:16-19) The sinful nature is rooted in ungodly fear and as a result, produces this evil fruit. This is the nature of the orphan. The orphan's mentality is rooted in ungodly fear.

There are many examples in the Bible of powerful men and women of God who functioned from an orphan mentality, which produced catastrophic results in their own lives and in the lives of others. One such person is King David. God testified of him as being *"...a man after My own heart..."* (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22). He was Israel's greatest king; however, he experienced many struggles that were rooted in ungodly fear. There were periods in his life when he operated from



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an orphan mentality. As the Apostle Paul taught us, sexual immorality is one of the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19). David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba was one of his greatest sins (2 Samuel 11:2-5). Adultery is rooted in the ungodly fear of missing out on an opportunity to satisfy one's lust. David's adultery took place when he was the king of Israel. The Scriptures state that this affair specifically occurred when David chose to remain at Jerusalem, in a season when kings go out to battle (2 Samuel 11:1). He sent Joab to lead his troops on the battlefield. God's grace for that season of David's life was to enable him to thrive on the battlefield. The grace of God will only empower His will and purpose. God withholds His grace if we choose to go against His will.

Elijah for example, in the context of famine, was instructed by God to go to a specific brook where he could drink water, and where God would send the ravens to supply him with food (1 Kings 17:3-4). If Elijah disobeyed God and he remained where he was, he would have died of hunger and thirst. Food and water in this example of Elijah represented the grace of God. The grace of God empowers obedience to God, not disobedience. Elijah obeyed God and experienced God's grace (1 Kings 16:5-6). If Elijah disobeyed God's instructions, and God still provided food and water for him at the place that he remained; this would've meant that God empowered his disobedience! This goes against the nature of God.

Back to David's example. Since David had an unrepentant heart at the time and wasn't at the place where God wanted him to be, he was living outside the grace of God. Consequently, David needed to sustain himself by his own strength, because he was not in the will of God. He was supposed to be on the battlefield, but he remained at home. As king, David became accustomed to getting what he wanted, when he wanted it. When he saw Bathsheba bathing (from his balcony), he had no resistance in him against the lust of his flesh, because he lacked God's grace. I think it's important to mention here that David could have repented at any time in this process. God's grace is always available to a person who's willing to repent. Repentance wasn't on David's radar and as a result, he was driven by an ungodly fear of missing out on the opportunity to have sexual relations with a very attractive married woman. He inevitably



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yielded to temptation.

Bathsheba was the wife of one of David's mighty men - Uriah, the Hittite (1 Chronicles 11:26-41). David's mighty men were fiercely loyal to him and overcame many battles with him (1 Chronicles 12:18-21). They were also willing to make great sacrifices for David (2 Samuel 23:15-17). The fact that Uriah was one of David's mighty men reveals how devious and wicked David's heart was at that time. After he slept with Bathsheba, he tried to cover it up by encouraging Uriah to sleep with Bathsheba. This was so that when it became apparent that Bathsheba was pregnant, Uriah would think she was carrying his child. Uriah's respect and loyalty to his fellow soldiers were so strong, that he refused to experience pleasure while they were fighting on the battlefield (2 Samuel 11:11). When David saw that he could not influence Uriah to sleep with Bathsheba, he (David) intentionally had him killed, in the frontlines of battle (2 Samuel 11:14-17). David's orphan mentality, fuelled by ungodly fear, produced disobedience to God's will, which resulted in adultery, deception, murder and the death of his child (2 Samuel 12:14; 18). David committed almost all of the detestable acts that King Solomon listed in Proverbs 6:16-19.

One of the key lessons that this account teaches us, is that if we are wilfully disobedient to God, we won't be able to resist the enemy's schemes. It's our submission to God that allows God to rise up on our behalf against the enemy and cause him (the enemy) to flee from us. The Apostle James said it this way: *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7)

The 'spirit of fear' referred to in today's key passage of Scripture, is an ungodly fear. It refers to a fear that's not rooted in God's version of reality. This kind of fear refers to cowardice and timidity (G1167 - Strong's Concordance). The Apostle Paul revealed to Timothy (and by implication, to us) that if we have this ungodly spirit of fear, then the source of it is not God. In other words, it didn't come from God. What God gave us, is His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). His Spirit imparts into us His power, His love, His self-control and produces other godly fruit in our lives (2 Timothy 1:7; Galatians 5:22-23). The good news is that, through the sacrifice of



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Jesus on the cross, we've been set free from ungodly fear. Nevertheless, in order to stay free from ungodly fear, we need to continuously guard our hearts and submit to the rule of His Spirit, moment by moment (Proverbs 4:23; Galatians 5:16).

- Has your perspective changed with regards to your freedom from ungodly fear? If so, how has it changed?
- What will you do differently from today onwards?



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DAY 3

Free from lawlessness

"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."
- Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)

Until recent years I've always believed that lawlessness is the absence of law. My understanding was - if you are not law abiding, then you are lawless. Lawlessness, however, is being a law unto yourself. It's doing what is right in your own eyes. Lawlessness is the default operating system of the orphan mindset. It's elevating your personal standards above God's standards. It's pretty much the opposite of what King Solomon encouraged us to do. King Solomon said: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5-6) In this passage of Scripture, King Solomon encourages us to depend wholeheartedly on the Lord. The opposite of this Scripture would sound something like this: 'Trust in yourself with all your heart and fully rely on your own understanding. In all your ways, do what seems right in your own eyes. Depend solely on your own ability, and you will be successful.'



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To stay free from the spirit of lawlessness, we need to constantly remind ourselves of the superiority of God's ways over our ways. The Apostle Paul said: *"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."* (1 Corinthians 1:25) God said it this way, through the prophet Isaiah: *"As the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:9)

We should live with the awareness of our own limitations and thank God for giving us His Spirit. The Spirit of God empowers us with His grace to fulfil His will and purpose. Disconnected from His grace, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Through Christ, however, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). Many followers of Christ want what the Lord desires to manifest in their lives. The problem is, they want to achieve God's will in their own way. We must not only submit to what God wants us to do; we must also submit to how God wants to fulfil His will through us.

Most believers are not lawless with regards to what God wants them to do. Most believers are lawless with regards to how they go about fulfilling His will. We want to fulfil God's will on our terms and in our own way. Why? God's ways often seem laborious and the long way round. We instinctively want to take the shortest route. God doesn't only know what He is doing; He knows exactly why He chose to do it His way. God does things the way He does things in order to ensure that His people are resourced and protected on their way to fulfilling His purposes. This principle was beautifully illustrated by the route that God chose to lead the Israelites toward the Promised Land. Moses records this account in the book of Exodus: *'When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."*' (Exodus 13:17 NLT)

A few years ago, I read an article about a phenomenon called 'spatial disorientation'. Spatial disorientation is experienced by pilots who, while flying



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an aircraft at night, or through dark storm clouds, are unable to see the horizon or the ground. Their perception of direction becomes unreliable and does not agree with reality. They may think they are flying straight and level, when in fact the aircraft may be descending. It's for this reason that pilots are trained to trust their cockpit instruments, more than their own senses or perception of direction. Occasionally, pilots have flown into the ground or into the sea, because they trusted in what they felt was right, rather than trusting the aircraft's instruments. Similarly, when we allow our souls to lead our lives, instead of the Holy Spirit, we place our lives and the lives of others in danger. The way of the soul may seem right to us, but it is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12). God's way of doing things doesn't make sense to our souls, but we should trust Him anyway. He knows the end from the beginning, so whatever He instructs us to do, is based on His eternal wisdom and purposes (Isaiah 46:10).

You are a spirit; you have a soul and you live in a body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). You and I need to come to a place where our souls blindly follow the lead of our spirit. As sons of God, our spirits are in communion with the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). The Holy Spirit does not speak directly with your soul. The Holy Spirit communes with your spirit, and your spirit transmits the information that it received from the Holy Spirit, to your soul. Your soul in turn filters and translates the wisdom that it received from your spirit and projects it through your body. At this point, the wisdom that you received from the Holy Spirit is practically fleshed out in your daily life. In other words, the Word becomes visible and tangible in your life (John 1:14).

The Word fleshed out practically in your daily life, is what it means to be led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14). This is how we overcome the temptation to do what's right in our own eyes and live a life that's in alignment with His divine order (Galatians 5:16). This is when His ways become our ways and His thoughts become our thoughts (1 Corinthians 2:16).

- Has your perspective changed with regards to your freedom from lawlessness? If so, how has it changed?
- What will you do differently from today onwards?



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nigel Brown has functioned in leadership and pastoral ministry for over two decades. During this time, he has raised up leaders and volunteer leadership teams in various areas of ministry.

Nigel and his wife (as a couple) have mentored married and unmarried couples. He has helped many people discover their life's purpose and vision, and set them on the path to fleshing it out. He is a life coach, mentor, pastor, an author of 4 books, a leadership developer, cultural architect, change manager, mediator, trainer, facilitator and a public speaker.



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Nigel is a life long learner, always seeking to sharpen his skills and character by reading and allowing his mentors to speak into his life. He does this with the goal of accurately representing Christ, and to better serve others - starting with his family.

Nigel is married to Zuléne and they are proud parents of two children - Caleb and Daniel. Nigel's greatest calling in life is to be a faithful Christlike husband to Zuléne, and a loving father to his children.

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NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

It is my hope that this 40-day journey was meaningful and life-transforming to you. I would love to hear your feedback about the effect of this process on your life.

Please send your feedback to: feedback@masterreset.co.za



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