

## “It’s not my fault” LOL

### Chapter One

How has life been treating you over the past few years? Do you enjoy your life? Do you enjoy your family? Do you enjoy going to work? Do you honor God with your finances? Are you able to pay your bills on time? Are your relationships long lasting and enjoyable? Is your home filled with peace and unity? Have you been prospering in your health?

If you are unsure of the answers to the questions above, then allow me to ask you more simply; is there anything in your life that you would like to see changed? If your answer is yes, then allow me to tell you something that you may have never realized. In order for anything around you to change, **you** must change first. Change starts in me. We reap what we sow.

Galatians 6:7 tells us that we will reap exactly what we sow. In other words, if I plant watermelon seeds, I will get a harvest of watermelons. The harvest that I am seeing in my life has come from the seeds that I have sown. I will not get a harvest based on the seeds that my boss has sown. So if I don’t like what I have been dealing with the past few years, I must change the seeds that I have been sowing.

Unfortunately too many people today think that all of the negative problems they’re facing in their life is someone else’s fault. I believe that society has taught us one of it’s favorite phrases, “it’s not my fault.” We hear this phrase in our government, in our schools, in our homes, and even in our churches...it’s not my fault.

But friends, please don’t be deceived any longer. Please don’t go one more day thinking that you have no part in the life that you are living. It’s not anyone else’s fault that I have the issues that I am struggling with right now, except for my own.

Most people go through their whole life never facing the truth about themselves; always passing the blame and making

excuses for their behavior. “I’m negative, because of how my spouse treats me.” “I’m angry, because the way our government is ran.” “I don’t have any true, life-long friends, because people are so jealous of me.” “I’m broke because the devil kept tempting me to buy things and my boss doesn’t pay me enough money.”

Tell me, what is the common denominator involving all of those issues above?

If you desire to see things change in your life, be promoted, get healed and delivered and start seeing more of God’s miracle working power, then it’s time to realize that **YOU** need to change. The first step to victory in any area of our life is to take responsibility for our own life.

Now before we go any further I want to let you know that the enemy does come to steal, kill, and destroy. And if you have been through a tragic event in your life, there is no doubt the enemy was behind that. I’m sharing with you about the negative areas in our life that we have faced year after year after year. The Bible refers to these areas as, curses.

Proverbs 26:2 tells us that, the curse does not come without a cause. In other words, there is a reason that you have been battling the same enemy of poverty or addiction or bad attitude. This is a curse that the enemy has put on us through our own poor choices. The scriptures say that God has given us the choice between living under a blessing or living under a curse. So according to what your life has been like the past few years, what have you been choosing, the blessing or the curse?

We are who we are today, because of the choices that we made yesterday. We will be who we will be tomorrow, because of the choices that we are making today. Through Jesus Christ, it’s easier than ever to live under the blessing. All we have to do is make choices that line up with God’s Word, and He will do the rest.

Now, obviously none of us can say that we are extremely overwhelmed with joy when it comes to the results we have in our

life today, so let's admit that we need to change. Let's get it all out on the table and come clean. We need to hear the truth and nothing but the truth if we're ever going to start seeing different results in our future. John 8:32 says that the truth will make us free.

Notice that when the truth comes out and I realize that I alone have been disobedient to God's Word and that I am the cause for the curses in my life, that is what will make me free. The truth may be painful to hear, painful to admit, hard to swallow, and even embarrassing at times, but it is designed to bring freedom into my life; freedom from wrong mindsets, addictions, negativity, poverty, sickness and disease.

By the way, it's not the truth about someone else that will make ME free. When I realize, through God, the truth about myself, that's when freedom begins.

The enemy doesn't want the truth to come out. The enemy wants us to continue blaming everyone else for the problems in our life, and as you know, that's how most people live today. This is why we don't see as much freedom, promotion, and healing as we should. It's much easier to point the finger at our spouse, or our boss, or even God and claim that it's all His fault. But if you want to be free, you have to take responsibility for your own actions.

## **Chapter Two**

We can see the blame game in affect, all the way back to the Garden of Eden after Adam disobeyed God and ate of the fruit that he was instructed not to touch.

Genesis 3:11-12 God asked the man, Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat? The man answered, The woman You put here gave me the fruit. Can you believe that Adam had the nerve to not only blame his wife (like many of us men do today) but Adam even pointed the finger at God, "the woman YOU put here...?"

Isn't this just like a typical guy to get caught with his hand in the cookie jar, yet still refuses to take ownership for his mistake?

How many times have we as men lost our temper or said something that we shouldn't and when it's time to sit down and talk about it with our wife, we immediately point out what she did wrong that supposedly caused us to lose our cool. But the "truth" is that no person can force any of us to do anything that we don't want to do. No person can make us say something rude, or control our emotions to the point where they are directing our actions. I am held accountable for what I feel, what I say, and what I do.

Genesis 3:13 God asked the woman, What have you done? The woman said, the snake tricked me. Since then we've been blaming our past, blaming our parents, blaming our circumstances, blaming the economy, and if we can't think of anything else then we just blame the devil. The devil made me do it. We eat junk food everyday and refuse to exercise and then in twenty years we run down to the altar and request healing for the diabetes and high blood pressure that "the devil" put on our body.

If you want to be healed today, why not admit that it's your fault and ask God to help you?

I was thinking the other day how cool it would be if my children humbled themselves to the point where they would ask me on a regular basis to tell them how they needed to change. "Daddy, what can I do to better my circumstances? How have I disobeyed? Do I need to change something in my life?"

As a Pastor, I truly love and care for every member of Solid Rock and want them to succeed and prosper the way God intended, but without a humble spirit, willing to admit fault, this desire will never reach fulfillment. It would make my life so much easier if people would just ask, "What does the Bible say about my situation? How do I need to change? What have I done to cause this negative cycle in my life? What is MY problem?" But just as children don't do that to their parent's, and church members don't

ask that of their Pastor, so do most believers rarely approach their Heavenly Father with that same humility.

God probably hears more of, “why won’t You bless me? Why does my boss put me in a bad mood? Why is the devil ruining the relationship I have with my family? Why won’t my children come to church and get their life in order?” Let me ask you what I believe God is asking us, Is there any way that you may have played a significant role in the outcome of what you’re seeing today? Is there anything that you could have done to cause this?

It seems that children love to point the finger at everyone else and never own up to the truth. I have never seen a small child say, “Okay, you got me, it’s my fault, I’m to blame.” In fact I can remember one of my five children having a major problem in this area.

Eli, from the age of three to five was constantly blaming everyone else for things that would go wrong in his life. If he was playing a video game and he “lost” or “died” on this game, he would immediately look around to see who was the closest person to him. And whoever was near, he would scream out their name and say that it’s all their fault for causing him to loose on his video game.

If Eli was brushing his teeth at night and spilled a little bit of water on his pajamas he would listen to who was around him and regardless of what room that person was in or what they were doing, somehow it was all their fault that he spilled water on his pajamas. Are you this way? Do you constantly blame whoever’s on your mind when it comes to the faults that you have in your life?

### **Chapter Three**

A few months ago a dear friend of mine called me up and asked me for some help with a situation that he was facing in his

life. I immediately began praying for God to somehow bring brokenness to his heart and bring him to a place of repentance so the healing process could begin. See, I have to admit that I need healing before I can get healed. I have to ask God to help me in order for God to help me. The truth is what sets us free.

As I left my house to meet with my friend it occurred to me that he does not attend a church, read his Bible, or have a healthy relationship with God. Hearing God’s Word brings faith to our hearts which would be what we need to humble ourselves and desire help from Almighty God. So I thought for sure that it would take months of prayer and spending time with this friend and filling him with faith to get him to the point where he could admit that he needed God and that he alone was to blame for the negative harvest he was reaping in his life.

Would you believe that the first sentence he spoke was, “I’ve really messed up. I need to change. I’ve made some poor choices in my life.” I was amazed. I thought it would take months to hear that phrase come out of his mouth. Only because most Christians who have been in church their whole life, who study God’s Word, and pray on a regular basis, can’t even bring themselves to admit that they have a problem and that it is “their fault.”

Our relationship with Christ isn’t a way to find blame and fault in everyone else and pretend like we’re perfect, it’s an open door to admit blame in ourselves and receive the help that we so need through our Savior.

Can you honestly not think of a single reason why God is not blessing you financially other than “the devil’s always been after my money?” Are you using wisdom and not buying everything you see? Do you use integrity and pay your bills on time? Do you live within your means? And most important of all, do you tithe and give faithfully?

Do we really think that God will bless us in an area of our life where we refuse to put Him first? Don’t be naive. Stop sucking

your family dry and borrowing from your friends and once and for all take responsibility for your own poor choices. You are reaping the harvest of the seeds that you have sown.

The Bible says in Malachi that we are cursed with a curse when we steal from God by not honoring Him with the first of our income. God wants to bless us, He wants us to prosper and succeed, but He is bound by His Word. God cannot bless us when we disobey Him. But, when we honor Him no matter how hard it is, nothing in Hell can prevent God from doing what He said He would do.

If you are not receiving God's favor in your life, there's something that you have to change. Any disobedience on our behalf opens the door for the enemy to curse our life. Every obedient act on our part opens the door for God's blessings and favor.

In no way shape or form am I trying to condemn anyone. We all have some area in our life where the truth needs to be revealed. Not a single one of us has arrived to our place of perfection. I just don't appreciate it when we put on a show and act like we have no idea why God isn't blessing us.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked. You will reap exactly what you plant. Friends, God will make sure that you will reap all of the blessings and favor that is owed to you based on the seeds that you plant in accordance to His Word.

Proverbs 19:3 Some people are ruined by their own stupid actions, then blame the Lord. If you don't like what you're reaping, then change what you're sowing. It's not God's fault. It's not the devil's fault. It's not your parents fault. Until we stop justifying our disobedient behavior, we will never be healed, promoted, or victorious in our life.

## Chapter Four

I love the story of the Prodigal son in Luke chapter fifteen. This young man demanded from his father that he be given his inheritance early in life. So the father gave the son his money and the young man left the country to go enjoy all of his newly given fortune.

Like most of us who choose to do what we want to do without acknowledging our Father who is the giver of wisdom, this young man made many poor choices. He hung around the wrong crowd, spent his money the wrong way, catered to the appetites of his flesh, and finally hit rock bottom.

Rock bottom is not a very fun place to be. It's a place where there's no one left to blame for our problems. Rock bottom is an area of our life where we have refused to take responsibility for too long. Rock bottom is sometimes the only place where we will look up and see that God is our only source for change. It's a place of humility where we cry out to our loving and merciful Father.

I wonder how many times God tried to speak to this young man during the course of his attempt at success without putting God first place in his life? I wonder how many times God has spoken to us about changing our ways and taking responsibility for our life? I found that God cares more about our soul than He does our circumstances. In other words, God will allow us to hit "rock bottom" if it means humbling ourselves in that particular area of our life.

This may mean that you end up in jail if that's what it takes for you to finally realize that it's your fault why you've made the choices that you've made in life. It may mean that you end up being 350 lbs overweight if that's what needs to happen for you to finally humble yourself before God and ask Him to help you change.

The prodigal son had nothing left. He lost all the money he had and evidently all the friends he had as well. He ended up in a

pigpen with the pigs, eating the slop to stay alive. I guess you can call this, “broke as a joke” and “busted and disgusted” or “rock bottom.” Luke 15:17 tells us that when he came to his senses, he said, I have sinned against God. Isn’t that beautiful? When he came to his senses he realized that he was to blame and he immediately repented.

The truth brings freedom. Freedom promotes responsibility. Responsibility leads to repentance. Repentance breeds promotion. Promotion is the result that I’m sure we all want in our walk with Almighty God.

In this story, the father represents God. When this son realized that his lot in life wasn’t his father’s fault, wasn’t his brothers fault, wasn’t his friends fault (who he chose), and wasn’t even the devils fault; that’s when He admitted blame and repented to his Father.

I don’t know why it’s so hard for us to admit fault to our Heavenly Father, when He already knows the truth anyway?

When his father saw him a far off he began to run towards his son with his arms wide open. This is the only place in the entire Bible where we see God running. God isn’t running toward the apostle Paul or the great king David. God is running toward a young man who has taken responsibility for all of the wrong choices he made and repenting for his actions. God has his arms open wide to embrace any of us who are willing to stop blaming everyone else and repent for our own poor choices.

You would think that this father would have said the classic line, “I told you so” or “I knew you were going to blow all that money.” But instead the father immediately promoted his son. He put the royal robe around his son, placed the family ring on his finger, and killed the fatted calf to celebrate the return on his son.

God already knows what’s going on in our hearts, but it’s up to us to seek the truth and admit fault so that the promotion process can begin.

If you’re ready to start the healing process in your life then ask yourself, What areas am I still blaming everyone else? What areas in my life am I making excuses for my sin? What areas am I not taking responsibility in? The answer to those questions is, the areas that you are not being promoted in. If I am not being healed or promoted or seeing success, then God must not be a part of those areas of my life.

Promotion doesn’t come from the north, south, east, or west, it comes from Almighty God. And if I have sown the seeds in His Word that breed promotion, God will make sure that promotion comes to me.

2nd Corinthians 3:18 with our faces uncovered...we are transformed from one degree of glory to another. This transformation process takes place when our faces are uncovered. If we want God to take us to the next level of glory, then we must get honest with Him and uncover our face before the Lord.

If you get offended easily, why not admit it to God no matter what the reason? Be truthful and admit that God’s Word says it is a sin to stay offended and to not forgive. Don’t go your whole lifetime thinking that it’s everyone else’s fault that you choose to get offended. Do you really think that everyone doesn’t like you and desires to constantly offend you? It’s too much pressure on the people you’re in relationship with to have to walk on eggshells trying to always tiptoe around you, afraid that you’re going to get your feelings hurt.

If you are a greedy person, admit it. Uncover your face before the Lord so He can start the promotion process. Tell God, “I’m greedy. I love money. I want more money. I’m afraid of losing my money. I don’t want to give. I don’t want to part with my money. However, I recognize from Your Word that this is wrong and I’m asking You to help me change.”

It may take twenty five years to be whole in this area of your life, or twenty five seconds of just asking God to help. Either way, God transforms us, our job is to be truthful and seek Him.

Really, if you think about it, we have the easy part. Let's not go our whole lifetime without dealing with these inner issues. Sometimes it seems like everyone around us knows what our struggle is, except for us.

### **Chapter Five**

In a book I read a few years ago, this man told about his favorite truck that he had parked in his shed out back. Out of several new and expensive vehicles he claimed that this old beat up truck was his favorite ride. Well, one day when he went to crank it up for a drive, it wouldn't crank. The funny thing was that he refused to look under the hood and see what the problem was. He told how he had neglected his so called "favorite ride" for such a long time that it was now in much worse condition than it should have been.

I believe that many of us are like that man. We have an inner issue that's been going on for quite a while and yet we refuse to go down deep and deal with it. Many times we try to just live so superficially that we even deceive ourselves into thinking that there's nothing wrong with our engine. We have neglected our own engine for such a long time that we are now in much worse condition than we should be.

Thank God we serve a Master mechanic. If there's anyone who can fix our engine, it's the manufacturer. No one knows an engine better than the One who created it. God desires to take you to the next degree of glory in your life. Are you willing to open the hood? Are you willing to look and see what's really been going on? We can either deal with it now, while there is an anointing in the room and the scriptures of faith are being read into our spirit man, or we can deal with it later. Trust me, it's much better to pay now, than to pay more, later. The longer we wait, sometimes the worse it can get.

This is a lesson that I had to learn the hard way. No one wants to admit fault. No one wants to face the truth about themselves. No one wants to say that there's nobody to blame but the man in the mirror.

Even if you can find the reason that you are the way you are, that's not an excuse to stay the way you are. When we gave our life to Christ we became a new creation. The old things have passed away. In other words, you may abuse others because you were abused, but that's no longer an excuse to continue down that path. You may battle high blood pressure because your parents and grandparents had high blood pressure, but God can heal that. We have the blood of Jesus that overpowers the blood of your natural family.

There is no excuse for us to live under a curse. We must come to the ultimate conclusion that we control our own destiny. God has great plans for our life but we get to choose whether or not we are going to walk in those plans and receive God's power in our life.

Psalms 51:6 You desire truth in my inner being; then, You will give me wisdom. James 4:8 Come close to God and He will come close to you. Notice closely how change starts with me. I have to seek the truth in order to receive the wisdom. I have to seek God in order for Him to come close to me. I always have to take a step of faith first. The greatest step of faith that you can take today is to look deep down inside your own heart and discover that you need to change.

If you lived in a house growing up where you never saw your father give your mother affection, words of affirmation, hugs and kisses, complements and gifts. That is no excuse for you to treat your wife that same way. Recognize that God's Word requires us husbands to enjoy our wife, praise her, respect her, love her... You may have found the reason that you were the way you were, but it's no excuse to stay that way. Don't allow that curse to get passed to you or to your children. Rise up and be the man God

has called you to be. Being male doesn't make you a man; taking care of your family and humbling yourself to God makes you a man.

John 4:24 Those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth. Once again we see how important the truth is in our relationship with God. Don't be condemned thinking that God is mad at you and out to get you. God wants you to be whole. He wants you to be free today. There's an incredible healing that begins when the truth comes out. There's a freedom that allows us to worship God like never before, when the truth begins to set us free.

## **Chapter Six**

Genesis chapter 32 is an awesome account in the life of Jacob. Jacob had a lot of problems in his life. He had a lot of inner issues that continued to occur from time to time. However, like many of us, Jacob had no idea that he was ultimately behind the negative circumstances he continued to find himself in.

The name Jacob, at that time meant schemer, trickster, swindler, deceiver; and that's exactly what Jacob was like. The Bible tells us that even when Jacob was born he was out to "get" his brother.

When Jacob's father became blind and near death, Jacob deceived him into giving him the first born blessing. Jacob was not the first born son so he made himself feel and smell like his brother and lied his way into stealing that blessing. Another account tells that Esau was in the wilderness starving to death and Jacob swindled the birthright out of Esau's hands for some stew. Again just being how he always was.

There was another time where Jacob was being visited by someone who he thought didn't like him, so he sent some bribes up ahead to manipulate the feelings this person supposedly had. Basically we can sum up Jacob in two words, no integrity.

The funny thing is, I don't think that Jacob even knew he was like this. He had been this way for such a long time, he had refused to look under the hood for so long, that his engine was now in much worse condition that it should have been. Jacob was a deceiver who was being deceived. I'm sure in Jacob's mind he probably blamed these curses in his life on the way he was raised. Or maybe he thought his father or brother was to blame. Maybe he didn't get enough attention from his mother, or maybe he got too much attention. Whatever the reason, he is now faced with the choice to change his ways and admit fault, or continue receiving the harvest that he had always known.

What's very interesting is that God had said early on that Jacob would do great things. God said that he would be a great leader and would be used to touch nations. But up until this point in Jacob's life, we don't see any of that come to pass.

I believe it's because he wasn't willing to face the truth about himself. He wasn't willing to take responsibility for his life. I'm sure his attitude was, It's not my fault. This is who I am, this is who I've always been, my name even declares that I'm a deceiver.

Well, one day out of the clear blue Jacob decided to get honest with himself. Maybe he started to feel conviction like never before. Maybe he heard a sermon like this one on the radio and realized he needed God in a new way. Maybe someone who loved him spoke the truth to him in a way where he was able to receive it. Or maybe he got caught in the act and there was no denying that he was the culprit. Regardless of how it happened, he finally decided to get honest.

Jacob sent his family away; he sent his employees away; and he went down by the brook to get alone with God. You might say, Jacob went down to the altar to seek the truth about himself. It is, of course, the truth that sets us free. This is where Jacob opened the hood and took a good look inside his engine. I can imagine that Jacob began to mumble on the way to the brook, things like, "I

don't want to be this way anymore. I need help. I want to change. I need God.”

The Bible says that the angel of the Lord appeared before Jacob and they started wrestling. This wasn't a quick 30 minute fight, this was an all night event. This match lasted from night until day break.

However, the bible isn't clear on why they began to wrestle. It just says that Jacob got to the brook, the angel appeared, and they started fighting. I believe I know why. I think that I can understand why this fight broke out. I'm sure that you men can relate to this.

Have you ever been at a place where you just start to realize the truth about an area of your life and are seeing that you could be the one to blame for your current situation? Or have you ever got caught red handed and had to admit that it's your fault? But then to make matters worse, someone who you love, respect, and admire, is the one who catches you. Or a person who you desire respect from, speaks the truth to you about the same area that you're dealing with in your own life. And when all of this comes at you, your first instinct is to get defensive, put up walls, and even attack.

I believe this is what happened to Jacob. He was already starting to deal with his own heart when the angel, God's representative, appears before him. It probably made Jacob so embarrassed and defensive, that his first action was based on rage and pain and he began to attack.

After wrestling all night long, the angel was just about to leave when Jacob grabbed hold of him as hard as he could and yelled out, "I'm not letting you go until you bless me." At least that's how it was translated into our English language.

When I allow my imagination to take over I can see tears flowing out of Jacob's eyes and I can hear him crying out, "I need Your help. I can't live like this anymore. I've tried everything. I don't know what else to do. Help me to change. I can't live

without You in my life. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. It's ALL MY FAULT!"

Genesis 32:27 The angel asked him, What is your name? And in shock of realization, he whispered, Jacob [schemer, trickster, swindler]! It was at this point that Jacob finally realized what was going on. "In shock of realization..." Jacob realized that all of these negative events in his life wasn't his brothers fault or his father's fault. This was such a huge shock that when the truth came out, all he could do was whisper it.

Jacob couldn't even say it out loud. When the angel asked him his name, it hit him like a tone of bricks. "I've been a schemer, and trickster, and a swindler, my whole lifetime. It really has been my fault.

Like I told you earlier, the truth can be very painful. We don't always want to hear the truth, but it's the only thing that's going to set us free. We don't want to hear that God cannot bless my relationship if it's based on adultery and lies. We don't want someone to tell us that we are the cause for our divorce, or poverty, or constant sickness. We don't like to admit that if we've had five jobs in five years, we could be the problem.

It's so much easier to think of all the reasons that the other person is at fault or why the government is to blame for our problems. But if I want promotion in my life, it starts with me.

Do you know why I can fall in love with our God every single day, all over again? It's because when we get honest and stop making excuses for our actions, that's when God changes us. Genesis 32:28 the angel said, your name will no longer be called Jacob [schemer, trickster, swindler] but Israel, prince of God. And the angel declared a blessing on Jacob there.

God was saying, "Jacob, you took responsibility and got honest so now it's My turn to give you the harvest of those humble seeds. I'm going to change you, promote you, and take you to a whole new level in your life. It's time for Me to help you fulfill the



destiny that I originally planned out for your life.” And that’s exactly what God did.

### **Chapter Seven**

Are you willing to humble yourself before the Lord and get to that altar for an alteration to occur in your life? Do you even want to see change? Can you admit that the reason you’re not being transformed to that next degree of glory is because you haven’t uncovered your face before the Lord? Are you still trying to fix the people around you? Are you trying to control all of the circumstances that you’re facing today instead of trying to control yourself and your own actions?

I’ve discovered that no matter how much I try, I cannot change a single person in my life. I can’t make my friends do what’s right. I can’t make my church do what I think God wants them to do. I can’t manipulate the weather. I can’t control the traffic. I can’t change the government. I can’t even undo all the hurts that I’ve faced from my past. But there’s one thing that I can always change no matter what situation I’m facing. There is one person who I can always control in any and every circumstance. There is one thing that I know has the ability to grow and be promoted and changed...it’s me. I can always examine my own life and ask God, “what do I need to do to change so that my harvest will get better?”

It may even help for you to find someone who you love and trust and ask them. I have a few people in my life, my wife, and a few friends, who I know love me and respect me enough to tell me the truth in love. I can ask them anytime, “am I being the best Pastor? Was I at fault in this situation? What could I have done to have an even better outcome in this situation? Am I being the best husband, father, friend...”

Ephesians 6:13-14 tells us that we are to put on the whole armor of God, but it specifically says to tighten the belt of truth. I believe that it’s because this belt tends to get loose from time to time. This in fact may be the only belt that we’ve had that’s gotten loose. Just kidding.

On a regular basis we need to tighten this belt of truth. How do we do that? We simply ask the manufacturer of our heart to tell us the truth. “If I’m treating people bad, God show me. If I’m not spending enough time with my children, tell me. If I need to give more in the offering, spend more time in prayer, forgive quicker, eat less, exercise more, serve with more enthusiasm, or affirm my wife more often, please God reveal this truth to me.”

Ronald Reagan said something once that shocked the world. He said, “Communism is an evil empire.” The shocking part wasn’t the fact of what he said, it was the fact that he said it. Everyone in the world knew it was true, yet they were astounded that someone spoke it out loud.

We have to not only be willing to seek the truth, hear the truth, and accept the truth, but we must also be humble enough to ask God for help on a regular basis.

### **Chapter Eight**

I heard a story about a father and his young son who were working together on a piece of property that was just recently purchased. They were in the process of cleaning it up and getting it all leveled out and the father asked his son to move a very large boulder that was toward the back of the property near the ditch. The father said, “son, can you do whatever it takes to get that boulder over in the ditch? Use all of your might and any means necessary.”

So the obedient young man pushed and pushed but the boulder didn’t move an inch. He tied a rope around the large rock

and tied the other end to his mini four wheeler, but still no luck. Last, he shoved a long piece of strong wood underneath to somehow move the rock from it's present position, but once again the rock didn't budge.

Finally after exhausting all of his resources he yelled out to his father, "Dad, can you please come and give me a hand with this big boulder?" His dad ran over to him, and together they pushed the rock into the ditch using barely any effort at all.

When it was all said and done the son hung his head and apologized. "Why in the world are you apologizing," said the father? "Because I had to ask you for help and I wanted to do it all by myself," replied the young man. The dad sat his young son down and with compassion and conviction he said, "I asked you to do whatever it takes and use all your strength to move this rock, and sometimes, using all your strength means asking your Father for help."

James 1:5 if any man lacks wisdom, ask God Who loves to help and gives freely without an unkind word and faultfinding.

God desires to help you. Not just when you are in need but anytime we ask. And the great thing about our God, is when we ask him for help with the problems that we have in life, He doesn't give us His wisdom grudgingly or reminding us of our faults. Why would God need to point out our faults after we have already admitted our faults? God loves to help and He gives freely.

"God, here is what I believe is my problem. This is something that I've faced for years and I've discovered that I am the common denominator when this issue arises in my life. I need Your wisdom. I need Your help."

James 5:16 Confess your faults and pray so that you may be healed. This scripture brings me all the way back to the process of sowing and reaping. Every seed that we sow, whether good or bad, will reap a harvest of the same. If I sow a seed of confession, and if I pray, then that starts the process of healing in that area of my life. There is always something that I can do to reap the harvest

that I want. In fact, when we confess our faults it cleans the corrosion around our engine and actually makes our immune system much healthier and stronger.

It's time to realize the truth. It's time to stop using the phrase, "it's not my fault." It's time to get down to the altar and humble yourself before God on your knees and take responsibility for your life.

The seed of this message that was sown into the lives at Solid Rock Ministries, reaped a harvest of the largest altar call our church has ever seen. This started the promotion process in one third of our congregation down at the altar. I pray that this has been a seed that will reap a very beneficial harvest in your life as well.

Remember, the enemy doesn't want the truth to come out. The enemy doesn't want you to get alone with God and face the truth about yourself. The enemy will tell you, "nothing's going to change, it won't help, it's definitely not your fault." But he tells us these lies because he doesn't want us to be free.

God desires more than anything else for us to prosper in our life and this cannot happen in the areas where we refuse to take responsibility and continue to point the finger at everyone else. But if we can do like the prodigal son and "come to our senses," and sincerely repent, then we can be promoted just like he was. And if we will get alone with God and be willing to realize the truth about ourselves like Jacob, then God will take us to the next level as well and we will go on to do the great things God originally laid out for our life, just like Jacob. Remember, the truth is what will set you free.