2Thess #129

Spiritual Maturity can be easily stifled by apathy.

Please keep the Florida panhandle, Tennessee and North Carolina in prayer.

We will be doing the LORD’s Supper this Sunday.

I also will probably finish this series on Sunday as well.

Let us open in Genesis chapter 16 RF.

Negative vulnerability happens to all Bels at different points, no one is above having a lazy period now and then.

No Christian reaches SM and then sits back and puts their feet up, claiming they are done!

/The Believer who reaches super-grace but reacts to adversity and outside distractions can begin to first become stagnant in their relationship with GOD. Which can lead to emotional waves and even heading into apathy after a period of time. Even the Mature Believer can be rocked onto their heels and set into a motion of habitual reactions in the negative realm. Capacity began to manifest in this Bels life and then greater grace and blessing started to materialize. At some point the challenges and adversity increased and they become distracted, that is usually the spark of the downward spiral.\

Emotions responding in proper fashion with the mature Bel, never develop into continuous waves which lead to reaction. Responding means BD is being applied – wisdom.

/Emotions under control RESPOND in correct fashion and for a limited time. REACTION, means the Bel begins to have a point of panic or boredom and in either case, they react with human solutions and cosmic system ideology — disillusion, boredom, discouragement, self-pity, loneliness, frustration, bitterness, implacability, jealousy, are among several MA sins that the reaction gate allows into their soul.\

Negativity toward Bible doctrine is woven into the reaction stage.

It is the simple math, of one thing leading to another - because they are out of control.

Now in this chapter of Genesis chapter 16, we see Abram and Sara have already been born again and saved for nearly ten years.

They had seen God come through for them, they have had contact with GOD. They were well on their way up the spiritual ladder of maturity.

At what level…your guess is as good as mine. I have a sense Abram may have been close to a higher level of maturity at this point.

Gen 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not borne him a child, but she had an Egyptian slave woman whose name was Hagar.

/ Many years before this, God promised Abram that he would have many descendants ([Gen 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/12/2/s_12002)). At this point, they had no children. His wife Sarai, appears to be more agitated by the timing and plan of GOD then Abram. This is a REACTION – God’s plan and HIS timing are almost never what mankind desires or expects. This is difficult for Bels at any stage to fathom, yet at true maturity, you DO NOT REACT by emotional decisions.\

We know it began with Sarai because it tells us this, even so very subtly in the original text.

/[Gen 16:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/16/3/s_16003) And *so* after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, **Abram's wife Sarai took**(*lāqaḥ*)**Hagar the Egyptian**, her slave woman, and **gave** (*nāṯan*)**her to her husband Abram as his wife.**

Sarai took her own servant forcefully and delivered her to Abram, because she was the one in charge of that servant girl.\

NATH-ANN, means to deliver, or make a serious request, usually having a legal stipulation. It is written in the Hebrew Qal stem, which insinuates a legal gift or an extension of services or property you own.

LA-CACK, means to carry away, to snatch away or grab hold with force.

 REPEAT

/[Gen 16:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/16/4/s_16004) **Then he had relations with Hagar,** and she conceived; and when *Hagar* became aware that she had conceived, her mistress was insignificant in her sight.

Abram was quick to react to the new ‘gift’ from his wife – his own desire for children, coupled with other desires took over.\

Jewish history records 3 wives for Abraham – Sarah, Hagar and then Keturah.

Though many legitimate, ancient scholars made claims, that Abraham had children with one, or two other concubines throughout his life.

The two most consequential ones were Ishmael and Issaac. The beginning stage of the Arab and Israeli conflict, we see active to this very day.

Then in later years the division between Esau and Jacob ignited more problems, because Esau’s descendants settled in or around Palestine.

The Edomites very early on were predominately affiliated with the Arabic culture, not Hebrews, there was conflict between them.

In some research that I discovered, many Edomites later folded themselves into Judaism, but were never true Bels. Notice what negative volition toward the plan of GOD can ignite!?

 REPEAT

Some of the counterfeits I taught on this year were in this line of Esau – King Herod for instance. Possibly some leaders within the Sanhedrin as well.

[Gen 16:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/16/8/s_16008) He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s slave woman, from where have you come, and where are you going?” And she said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.”

[Gen 16:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/16/15/s_16015) So Hagar bore a son to Abram; and Abram named his son, to whom Hagar gave birth, Ishmael.

The name which means - GOD heard the call. Or GOD will hear.

Hagar was taken care of by GOD.

Hagar was a heathen woman, an Egyptian - yet she did not deserve what Sarah and Abraham had done to her.

GOD is a God of justice and righteousness, that is a good example.

[Gen 16:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/16/16/s_16016) Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Jump over to 2Samuel chapter eleven.

/GOD became silent for 13 years after this debacle. It isn’t until Genesis 17 that GOD appears and re-engages the conversation and continues the promises and blessings for Abraham. God did not go back on HIS word or take back blessings. We stall out the grace plan of GOD and we distort the grace plan of GOD. In the worst-case scenario, we can destroy blessings – yet it is not GOD’s doing or HIS desire.\

King David on the rooftop as seen in 2Sam 11 - was apathetic before he raped Bethsheba, he was at maturity. He had all his blessings aligned in front of him.

His reaction came from a weak area he was known for, the lust for the ladies!

Abraham and Sarah became apathetic then they became frustrated, waiting on the birth of Isaac.

They struggled with waiting on God’s timing and fully understanding the plan of God.

The fact is all BELS… at every level, can fall victim to a negative attitude toward BD, if they do not stay alert and centered in the WORD.

/2Sam 11:1 Then it happened in the spring, **at the time when kings go out *to battle,*** that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they brought destruction on the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But **David stayed in Jerusalem.**

True leadership requires sacrifice and leading by example – it is not a role of sinless perfection, but it is one of the highest responsibilities. You can not lead from behind, nor lead from a position of failure or weakness.\

The best leaders know their own weakness and remain transparent and honest even in their failures.

/[2Sa 11:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/2/s_278002) **Now at evening time David got up from his bed** and walked around on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof **he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance**.

David was falling into apathy which initiates lazy habits – lack of structure is a very slippery slope in life. This will open up lust patterns or weak areas to begin their march toward soul dominance.\

The Hebrew verb - *rā'â* (RAH-AH), is used for the way David was looking at Bathsheba – lets put it this way - the word means a full inspection, not a casual glance.

I believe we call that – checking her out!?

[2Sa 11:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/3/s_278003) So David sent *servants* and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

This is showing us David was watching her for a period of time – whereas, once he saw a naked, beautiful woman who he suspected was a married woman, he should have turned away.

Truth be told - true integrity in a man does not stand and watch, or peep in on women in any form of dress!

 REPEAT

Men are naturally stimulated visually in the area of lust, so we men of GOD - have to watch what we keep putting before our eyes!

/Psa 101:3 **I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;** I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.

Psa 119:37 **Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless,** And revive me in Your ways.\

Both men and ladies fall prey to lust of the eyes, yet men are much more inclined to stumble in this area then ladies.

Jesus actually taught specifically to his male leaders like the apostles, not to lust after women.

/Mat 5:28 But I say to you that everyone **who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery** with her in his heart.

Mat 6:22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, **if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light**,\

Everyone stumbles in these areas, but we have to be very careful of how quickly apathy leads to lust patterns exploding into your life.

Satan has really turned the lust patterns of the eyes, into a full blown, evil industry that traps Bels and Unbels, in a very tangled web of distractions and addictions as well as many personal problems.

REPEAT

/[2Sa 11:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/4/s_278004) Then **David sent messengers and had her brought**, and when she came to him, **he slept with her;** and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.

The OSN loves company, more often than not, we involve others. Or hurt others when our lust patterns take the steering wheel.\

David is not only the man here – he is the KING! This is a distorted form of rape that is often overlooked.

When someone in authority can control and manipulate others into their web of sins and evil.

The original Hebrew points to a forceful escort into David’s bedroom.

A rape by any other name.

[2Sa 11:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/5/s_278005) But the woman conceived; so she sent *word* and informed David, and said, “I am pregnant.”

Sin always brings some form of death with it – sometimes it’s a death to our own character and integrity, or a death to our spiritual momentum.

For the Unbel - they will face two deaths at the end of time, spiritual and physical.

Only Christ can free us and only turning to the justice system of God can wash us clean and help us get back on track.

/[2Sa 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/6/s_278006) Then **David sent *word* to Joab**: “**Send me Uriah the Hittite**.” So Joab sent Uriah to David.

Because of apathy which ignited lust patterns, David has now raped a woman. Involved his trusted inner circle. Now he will betray one of his closest friends even further then what he did to Bathsheba.\

Integrity and character always suffer when sin begins to gain momentum.

[2Sa 11:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/7/s_278007) When Uriah came to him, David asked about Joab’s well-being and that of the people, and the condition of the war.

Now he has to do the cover-up, which always involves lies and deception. It is usually the cover-up that causes the final fall.

[2Sa 11:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/8/s_278008) Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the king’s house, and a gift from the king was sent after him.

[2Sa 11:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/9/s_278009) But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

[2Sa 11:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/10/s_278010) Now when they informed David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?”

[2Sa 11:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/11/s_278011) And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Should I then go to my house to eat and drink and to sleep with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.”

/Many times, as part of self-induced misery and God knocking to get our attention. HE places painful lessons from people and circumstances in front of us, that shows us true humility and truth in action. Nothing is more humbling, then having a person operating in integrity and character, after you know you have mistreated them. Uriah is a shining example of a Bel with immense integrity, and operational decisions that uphold the doctrine of authority and leadership.\

All the exact opposite of how David had been handling his life at this point.

[2Sa 11:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/12/s_278012) Then David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go *back.*” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the day after.

/[2Sa 11:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/13/s_278013) Now David summoned Uriah, and **he ate and drank in his presence, and he made Uriah drunk**; and in the evening *Uriah* went out to lie on his bed with his lord’s servants, and **he *still* did not go down to his house**.

There is no greater story of a Believer walking in true integrity then Uriah. Just as there may be no greater story for the Mature Bel falling into rapid reversionism then David seen in this chapter.\

This is a true fall from grace!

All started with apathy toward BD.

[2Sa 11:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/14/s_278014) So in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.

This deception and cover-up, just keep getting more stench attached to it.

It begins to have an open sewer smell to the whole scenario. Because David is scrambling with human viewpoint and cosmic ideology to cover his sins.

Interesting that David is referenced as a man after God’s own heart…isn’t it?

Your life is not judged on one bad stretch or a handful of bad decisions.

David was a positive Bel much more often then a negative Bel – so David’s whole life needs to be studied, not just one chapter of it.

/[2Sa 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/11/15/s_278015) He had written in the letter the following: “**Station Uriah on the front line of the fiercest battle** and **pull back from him**, so that **he may be struck and killed.”**

This in our day and age, is known as a precise mafia hit on a loyal soldier.\