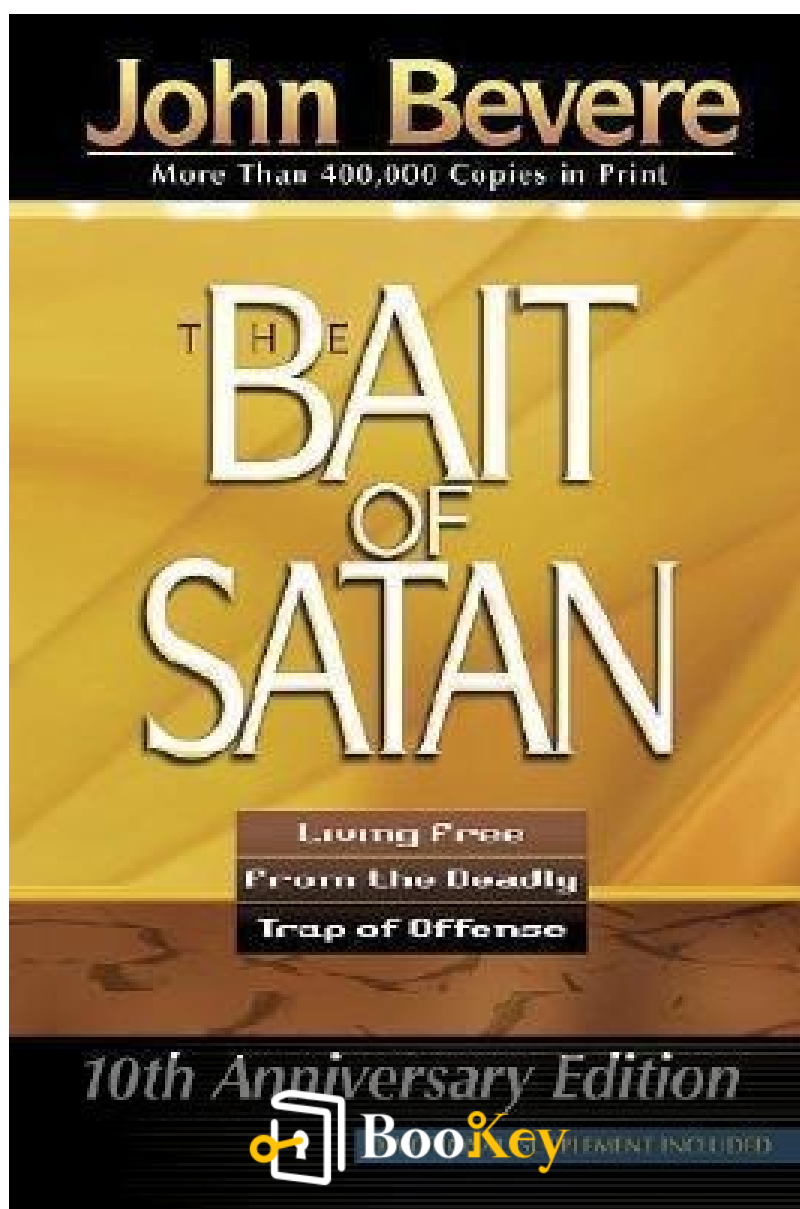


The Bait Of Satan PDF

John Bevere



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The Bait Of Satan

Escaping Offense to Live in God's Freedom and
Forgiveness

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About the book

John Bevere's "The Bait of Satan" confronts one of the most deceptive snares Satan uses to get believers out of the will of God—offense. Most people who are ensnared by the bait of Satan don't even realize it, and Bevere exposes this hidden trap with clarity, urging readers to stay alert. By delving deep into Biblical narratives and hands-on spiritual insights, Bevere enlists a compelling argument on how personal grievances can lead to broken relationships, bitterness, and spiritual stagnation. This book is an essential guide for those who aim to forgive, live free from resentment, and realize their God-given potential. Bevere's theological depth and real-life stories will challenge you to reconsider how offenses are handled in your own life and encourage you to release them in order to embrace peace and unity.

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About the author

John Bevere is an internationally renowned Christian minister, speaker, and bestselling author known for his compelling narratives and insightful biblical teachings. Co-founder of Messenger International, a ministry committed to developing discipleship materials that equip and strengthen the body of Christ, Bevere has impacted countless lives through his extensive speaking engagements and written works. His books, including the widely acclaimed "The Bait of Satan," which addresses the profound impact of offense on Christians' lives, have been translated into numerous languages, reinforcing his influence on global Christian thought. Bevere's approach combines rigorous biblical scholarship with practical, relatable insights, making complex theological concepts accessible to a broad audience. His dedication to spiritual growth and nurturing strong, resilient faith is evident in every aspect of his ministry and writings.

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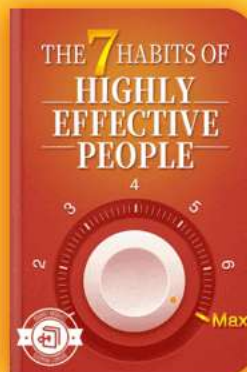
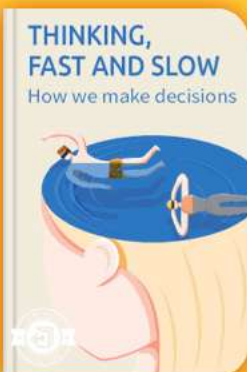


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Chapter 1 Summary : ME, OFFENDED?



Section	Summary
Introduction to Offense	Offenses are inevitable as noted in Luke 17:1; they harm relationships and hinder fulfilling one's calling.
The Nature of Offense	Offenses often arise from close relationships, causing deep feelings of betrayal, and a culture of offense and bitterness is nurtured by selfishness.
The Deceptive Trap	The Greek word "skandalon" refers to a trap that ensnares individuals, leading to unawareness of bitterness, with offended people generally viewing themselves as victims.
The Heart's True Condition	Pride hinders recognition of personal offenses, causing hardened hearts that block repentance and healing; self-awareness is crucial for overcoming these hurdles.
The Cure for Offense	Jesus advised recognizing one's spiritual condition and addressing impurities, similar to refining gold amid life's trials.
Seeing True Condition	Self-awareness and honesty are vital; blaming others maintains blindness; true repentance requires acknowledging one's faults without justifying them.
Personal Testimony	A personal story of healing from offense illustrates the power of forgiveness, showing how reconciliation can lead to spiritual freedom.

Introduction to Offense

It is inevitable that offenses will occur in life, as noted in



Luke 17:1. The trap of offense is a deceptive tool used by the enemy that harms relationships and prevents individuals from fulfilling their calling.

The Nature of Offense

- Offenses often come from those closest to us, creating a sense of betrayal similar to that expressed by David in Psalm 55.
- The closer the relationship, the more intense the offense can be, leading to serious conflicts in families and communities.
- Selfishness is prevalent in society, even among believers, leading to a culture of offense and bitterness.

The Deceptive Trap

- The Greek term for "offend" (skandalon) signifies a trap that ensnares individuals. This entrapment can lead to a lack of awareness about one's own state of bitterness.
- Offended individuals can generally be divided into two categories: those treated unjustly and those who perceive they have been treated unjustly.

The Heart's True Condition



- Pride often prevents individuals from recognizing their own offenses. This denial can lead to a hardened heart that obstructs repentance and healing.
- Acknowledging one's true condition is necessary for moving past the offense.

The Cure for Offense

- Jesus instructed the Laodicean church to recognize their true spiritual condition, which involved seeing beyond self-deception.
- The process of refining gold parallels the trials faced in life, revealing hidden impurities that need to be addressed to achieve spiritual purity.

Seeing True Condition

- Jesus emphasized the importance of self-awareness and honesty to overcome offense and bitterness.
- Blaming others only perpetuates blindness; true repentance occurs when one acknowledges their faults without external justification.



Personal Testimony

A personal account of healing from deep offense illustrates the transformative power of forgiveness. The author recounts a painful divorce and how reconciliation led to spiritual freedom, demonstrating the desired outcome of the teachings in the chapter.

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Example

Key Point: Recognizing Your Spiritual Condition is Key to Healing from Offense

Example: Imagine feeling betrayed by a friend, your emotions simmering and resentment growing. Instead of reflecting inward, you point fingers, claiming they are entirely to blame. But true healing begins when you bravely confront how your pride might be clouding your judgment. By choosing to let go of your self-righteous attitude and acknowledging your own faults, you open the door to forgiveness and restoration, allowing peace to reign in your heart.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The concept of offense as a trap affecting relationships and personal growth is highlighted.

Critical Interpretation: The chapter emphasizes that offense, particularly rooted in close relationships, can become a significant barrier to personal fulfillment and community harmony. While John Beveré presents a clear stance on the detrimental effects of offense, it is essential to question whether the sole focus on personal responsibility adequately addresses systemic issues that can contribute to feelings of offense in broader societal contexts. Critics might argue that this perspective can overlook external factors like social injustice or cultural dynamics that shape individual experiences. As stated in works such as "The Body Keeps the Score" by Bessel van der Kolk, understanding trauma's role in interpersonal conflicts can expand this discussion beyond personal accountability to include collective healing.



Chapter 2 Summary : MASSIVE OFFENSE

Section	Summary
Introduction to Offense and Transformation	Jesus warns that many will be offended and betray one another in the end times, leading to a decline in love; those who endure will be saved.
Definition of Love	Distinction between *agape* (unconditional love) and *phileo* (conditional love among friends), emphasizing God's instilled love in believers.
Faith in God's Love	John Bevere shares a personal experience illustrating the importance of faith in divine love and the principle of sowing love for eventual harvest.
Expectations and Offense	Highlights how unmet expectations can lead to disappointment, offense, and protective walls that hinder love and vulnerability.
Strongholds of Offense	Offense creates strongholds that distort understanding of God and others, hindering spiritual growth and leading to deception.
False Prophets and Deception	Jesus warns about false prophets that lead astray the offended, appearing godly but lacking genuine transformative faith.
Cycle of Offense, Betrayal, and Hatred	Explains how offense can lead to betrayal and hatred, damaging covenant relationships in Christian communities.
Call to Repentance and Trust in God	Bevere encourages breaking free from offense by embracing God's love and Christ's humility and forgiveness, trusting God is vital.
Conclusion	The chapter urges readers to recognize the destructiveness of offense and seek genuine love and trust in God for spiritual growth.

Summary of Chapter 2: The Bait of Satan

Introduction to Offense and Transformation

In this chapter, Jesus discusses the signs of the end times, emphasizing that **many** will be offended and will betray



each other, leading to a decline in love due to rampant lawlessness. He highlights that those who endure will be saved.

Definition of Love

The chapter distinguishes between two types of love: *agape* (unconditional love) and *phileo* (conditional love among friends). *Agape* is portrayed as the love that God instills in believers, which persists even when unreciprocated, contrasting with ours that may falter when not returned.

Faith in God's Love

John Bevere shares a personal experience of striving to show love to someone who responded with negativity. Through God's guidance, he learns the importance of faith in divine love and the spiritual principle that sowing love will eventually lead to a harvest of love, even if not immediately evident.

Expectations and Offense



The chapter highlights how expectations can lead to disappointment and offense, which then erects protective walls. These walls create isolation, preventing both love and vulnerability, ultimately resulting in a stagnant, unfulfilled life.

Strongholds of Offense

Offense leads to strongholds—frameworks of thought that distort one's understanding of God and others. These strongholds hinder spiritual growth and can breed deception, as one's bitterness taints their perception of the truth.

False Prophets and Deception

Jesus warns that false prophets will arise to lead astray the offended whose love has cooled. Such false prophets often have the appearance of godliness but lack the transformative power of genuine faith.

Cycle of Offense, Betrayal, and Hatred

The narrative explains that offense can spiral into betrayal and ultimately hatred, breaking covenant relationships among



believers. The prevalence of such actions in Christian communities illustrates a deep-seated issue of cold love and self-preservation.

Call to Repentance and Trust in God

Bevere urges believers to break free from offense and self-seeking tendencies by embracing God's love and living by Christ's examples of humility and forgiveness. He asserts that trusting in God and resisting the temptation to be offended is crucial to achieving victory over such spiritual battles.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the chapter serves as a poignant reminder of the destructive nature of offense, urging readers to seek genuine love and trust in God to foster true spiritual growth and community among believers.



Chapter 3 Summary : HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO ME?



Section	Summary
Genuine Mistreatment and Offense	Distinguishes between individuals genuinely wronged and those who feel wronged without justification, focusing on genuinely mistreated people through Joseph's story.
Joseph's Early Life and Betrayal	Joseph, Jacob's favored son, faced jealousy from his brothers, leading to their conspiracy to kill him, ultimately selling him into slavery.
Joseph's Struggles as a Slave and in Prison	Joseph endured hardships as a slave and wrongful imprisonment, facing betrayal and despair while upholding his integrity.
Choosing Response Over Offense	Joseph had the choice to embrace or reject bitterness and resentment, emphasizing faith in God's plan amid adversity.
God's Sovereignty in Joseph's Journey	No individual can obstruct God's will; Joseph's hardships served a divine purpose despite his brothers' actions.
Prison as a Time of Opportunity	While in prison, Joseph utilized his gifts by interpreting dreams, eventually leading to his summons by Pharaoh and rise to power.
Reconciliation and Blessing	Joseph forgave his brothers for their betrayal, demonstrating a transformative understanding of God's redemptive plan.
Conclusion: Avoiding Offense for God's Purpose	Encourages avoidance of offense to align with God's purpose and highlights Joseph's story as a testament to faith and healing from evil actions.

Summary of Chapter 3: The Bait of Satan

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Genuine Mistreatment and Offense

The chapter begins by categorizing people who feel offended into two groups: those genuinely mistreated and those who believe they have been but have not. The focus of this chapter is on individuals who have been genuinely wronged, using Joseph's story as a pivotal example.

Joseph's Early Life and Betrayal

Joseph was the favored son of Jacob, which incited deep jealousy among his older brothers. God blessed Joseph with prophetic dreams indicating his future leadership, but these dreams were met with animosity rather than support. His brothers conspired to kill him but instead sold him into slavery, stripping him of his identity, inheritance, and ties to

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Chapter 4 Summary : MY FATHER, MY FATHER!

Betrayal by Leaders

In this chapter, the author explores the pain of betrayal, focusing on the relationship between King Saul and David. While Joseph faced betrayal from his brothers, David experiences a deeper hurt from Saul, who he considered a father figure and leader. David's initial acceptance and favor in Saul's court turn sour when jealousy drives Saul to pursue him relentlessly, leaving David feeling lost and rejected.

The Love-Hate Relationship

The narrative highlights how Saul initially welcomed David into his palace, yet rapidly devolved into hostility. David experiences the highs of success, friendship, and royal favor, only for them to be shattered by Saul's jealousy, illustrating the volatile nature of relationships with authority figures. David's internal conflict is profound as he grapples with the abandonment by the man meant to guide and mentor him.



The Call for Father Figures

The chapter emphasizes the societal need for mentors and father figures who nurture rather than oppose. Many individuals in the church—especially the younger generation—yearn for leaders who will guide and support them. The author critiques contemporary leaders who prioritize their goals over their people, resulting in a loss of trust and connection.

David's Response to Saul's Pursuit

David's response to Saul's attempts on his life epitomizes loyalty and restraint. Despite numerous opportunities to kill Saul, David refrains, believing it is wrong to harm God's anointed. He chooses to trust God's timing and judgment, demonstrating a heart aligned with divine principles.

Lessons on Humility and Forgiveness

Through personal anecdotes, the author reflects on overcoming bitterness and the temptation to seek revenge. He describes spiritual growth through humility and the



importance of forgiveness—not only for others' sake but for one's own freedom from offense. Ultimately, the chapter concludes with the reminder that God will avenge His servants in His way and time, and encourages readers to refrain from seeking personal vengeance, emphasizing the importance of a righteous heart in adversity.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The complex relationship dynamics between David and Saul illustrate the deeper implications of betrayal.

Critical Interpretation: In analyzing the interactions of David and Saul, the chapter reveals that betrayal isn't just a personal vendetta but a reflection of deeper psychological and emotional fractures in leader-follower relationships. While the text emphasizes loyalty and the virtues of forgiveness, one might question whether the author's portrayal overly simplifies the multifaceted nature of betrayal by suggesting that spiritual principles alone can mend such deep wounds. Betrayal can lead not only to spiritual growth but can also contribute to significant emotional and psychological consequences. This perspective aligns with broader scholarship in psychology and leadership studies that underscore the need for critical reflections on authority and the complex realities of mentorship (e.g., "Leadership and Betrayal: Navigating the Tensions" by K. B. Storr, 2021). Consequently, readers should consider that Bevere's conclusions may not wholly encapsulate the varied experiences of those who undergo similar



betrayals in their lives.

Chapter 5 Summary : HOW SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ARE BORN

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 5 - THE BAIT OF SATAN

David's Loyalty and Test of Character

David demonstrated unwavering loyalty towards Saul, the anointed king, despite being mistreated and pursued. He spared Saul's life when he had the chance, believing that it was up to God to establish his future, not through violence or revenge. This test reflected whether David possessed the noble heart of a shepherd or the insecurity of Saul.

God's Justice vs. Personal Revenge

Romans 12:19 emphasizes that vengeance belongs to God, contrasting with Saul's actions of personal revenge against David and others. David's refusal to retaliate against Saul showcases the importance of obedience to God's will and



trusting His judgment.

Serving Under Corrupt Leadership

The chapter discusses why God may place individuals under corrupt leaders, using Samuel's experience under the corrupt priest Eli as an example. Samuel focused on serving God rather than judging Eli, understanding that God's plans are sovereign.

Challenges of Church Attendance

Many people leave churches upon encountering leadership flaws, treating churches as personal cafeterias instead of places where God plants them. Staying put during conflicts is important for spiritual growth, which requires patience and resilience rather than seeking immediate comfort.

The Dangers of Critical Attitudes

The author shares a personal story of becoming critical of a pastor due to personal offense, leading to discontent and a temporary departure from his church. Upon returning, he realized that obedience to God and enduring challenges were



crucial for personal spiritual growth.

The Importance of Being Planted

Psalm 92:13 highlights that flourishing comes from being planted in the right place. Constantly moving from place to place weakens one's spiritual foundation and prevents maturity. Strong roots develop through enduring adversity.

Offense and Spiritual Growth

The chapter emphasizes how unresolved offense can stunt spiritual growth, using biblical examples like Cain and Abel to illustrate that a grudge can hinder one's relationship with God. Offended individuals often become spiritually unfruitful and isolated.

Isolated Christians and Consequences

Those who isolate themselves risk becoming unteachable and developing a persecution complex, believing everyone is against them. True community and confronting one's weaknesses are essential for spiritual health.



Conclusion

Acquiring offense keeps individuals from recognizing their flaws, leading to blame shifting and isolation. Addressing offenses with God's help can lead to healing, renewed relationships, and spiritual growth.

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Chapter 6 Summary : HIDING FROM REALITY

Summary of Chapter 6: The Importance of God's Leading in Relationships

Introduction to Leaving a Church

- It's common for individuals to question when to leave a church or ministry team and seek insight about their situation.
- The emphasis is placed on understanding that if God sent you to a church, you should not leave until He tells you to do so.

Responding to Situations

- Departing out of offense or criticism is not aligned with God's plans; true guidance comes from being led by the Spirit.
- The distinction between spiritual maturity is made with the



Greek terms *teknon* (immature children) and *huios* (mature sons). Mature Christians are characterized by their responsiveness to the Spirit.

Spiritual Growth Through Trials

- Spiritual growth arises not merely from time or knowledge but through obedience in the face of adversity.
- Biblical references underscore that maturity comes through suffering and learning obedience, much like Jesus did.

Self-Preservation and Offenses

- People often harbor offenses as a form of self-preservation, hindering their character development and avoiding personal responsibility.
- A notable scenario illustrates that when someone leaves a church with anger, they carry that resentment into future

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Chapter 7 Summary : THE SURE FOUNDATION

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 7: THE FOUNDATION OF REVEALED TRUTH

Understanding Stability in Faith

- The foundation of belief is critical; those who act hastily lack stability and can easily be swayed by trials.
- Jesus questioned His disciples about His identity, revealing that many relied on others' opinions instead of seeking personal understanding.

Simon Peter's Revelation

- Peter declared Jesus as the Christ through divine revelation, highlighting the importance of personal hunger for God's truth.
- The revealed knowledge he received was foundational and unshakeable, unlike mere hearsay or intellectual



understanding.

The Importance of the Illuminated Word

- Listening for God's voice is essential when receiving teaching; it's vital to seek heart-level understanding rather than just head knowledge.
- The "illuminated Word" helps one mature spiritually and forms a firm foundation, paralleling the parable of houses built on rock versus sand.

Decisions Based on Divine Revelation

- Important life choices require the revealed Word; without it, decisions are founded on unstable ground, leading to potential conflicts.
- A personal anecdote illustrates the consequences of making decisions absent of God's revelation, especially in marriage, emphasizing the necessity of divine confirmation.

The Role of Trials in Testing Foundation

- Trials reveal one's spiritual condition and foundation; those built on revealed truth withstand adversity.



- Jesus's challenge to His disciples during difficult teachings shows the depth of commitment required to remain rooted in faith.

Responding to Pressure

- How one reacts under pressure reflects their true spiritual condition; real stability comes from being rooted in God's revealed Word.

The Call to Seek Individual Revelation

- Believers are encouraged to seek personal revelation rather than relying on consensus or others' experiences to build their lives and ministries.
- A warning is given against superficial faith that appears strong until tested by life's storms.

CONCLUSION

- The chapter concludes with a reminder that true strength lies in being founded on the solid rock of God's revealed truth, allowing believers to weather life's storms.



Chapter 8 Summary : ALL THAT CAN BE SHAKEN WILL BE SHAKEN

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 8: THE Bait of Satan

Introduction to Shaking

- The chapter starts with a reference to Hebrews 12:26-27, discussing God's promise to shake the earth and heaven, indicating the removal of the shakable to reveal that which cannot be shaken.

Simon Peter's Trials

- Reflects on Simon Peter's steadfastness amid offenses when others left Jesus.
- Highlights the pivotal moment during the Last Supper when Jesus reveals that He will be betrayed.

Disciples' Reaction



- The disciples are shocked and begin to argue about which of them is the greatest instead of showing concern for Jesus.

Jesus' Response

- Jesus explains that true greatness is found in servitude, contrasting the world's view of authority.

Purpose of Sifting

- Peter's confidence is rooted in pride, which Jesus warns will lead to his sifting by Satan.
- Jesus prays not for Peter's escape from trial but that his faith remains intact.

Purposes of Shaking

1. Closer to foundation
2. Removal of what is dead
3. Harvest of the ripe
4. Awakening
5. Unifying

Self-Confidence vs. True Strength



- Peter's self-confidence leads to his denial of Jesus when faced with minor challenges, contrasting his boldness in the garden.

Comparison of Judas and Peter

- Judas and Peter both deny Jesus but differ in the depth of their relationship and revelation of who Jesus is.
- Judas lacked a genuine foundation in Christ, resulting in despair and suicide after betrayal.

Offense Toward God

- Many believers serve God for personal benefits, risking offense when disappointments arise.
- True faith is rooted in understanding God's character and trusting Him regardless of circumstances.

God's Character and Trust

- Emphasizes the importance of understanding God's nature as entirely good and trustworthy.
- Recognizing His character allows believers to remain



steadfast in trials without becoming offended.

Grace for the Humble

- Peter, after being shaken, receives God's grace rooted in humility.
- The chapter concludes with a reflection on a young man's trials and his eventual realization of the importance of reliance on God's grace rather than self-confidence.

Conclusion

- Trials reveal hidden weaknesses and call for a foundation built on faith in God rather than self. True strength lies in dependence on God's grace, not human ability.



Chapter 9 Summary : THE ROCK OF OFFENSE

Summary of Chapter 9: The Bait of Satan

Introduction to Belief and Obedience

The chapter begins with a biblical reference emphasizing that belief in Jesus Christ is interlinked with obedience. The modern interpretation of "believe" has become diluted, often reducing it to mere acknowledgment of Jesus' existence. However, true belief involves a commitment to obey God's word, distinguishing true believers from those who are disobedient.

The Nature of True Obedience

Obedience stems from a genuine love for Jesus, rather than a love for doctrine or religious laws. The Israelites, who rejected Jesus, preferred their interpretations of the law over establishing a loving relationship with God. Their legalistic



mindset made Jesus a "stone of stumbling."

Jesus and Offense

The chapter highlights the multifaceted nature of Jesus' ministry, demonstrating that His truthful teachings often offended religious leaders and even His own family and friends. Jesus never compromised His message to avoid offense, which ultimately alienated many, including those closest to Him.

Offenses by Jesus and Its Consequences

1.

Jesus Offending Religious Leaders

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- Jesus confronted the Pharisees, exposing their hypocrisy and prioritizing truth over their acceptance.

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Chapter 10 Summary : LEST WE OFFEND THEM

**Summary of Chapter 10 from "The Bait of Satan"
by John Bevere**

Introduction

The chapter discusses the balance between exercising freedom and serving others, emphasizing the importance of not causing offense.

Jesus' Position on Freedom and Offense

- Jesus and His disciples return to Capernaum, where Peter is questioned about paying the temple tax.
- Jesus asserts His exemption from the tax as the Son of God but chooses to pay it to avoid causing offense.

Understanding True Freedom



- Jesus exemplifies freedom by using it to serve rather than assert rights.
- True liberty is portrayed as a privilege meant for serving others rather than for self-indulgence.

The Attitude of Servants vs. Slaves

- A servant willingly serves and goes the extra mile, while a slave feels obligated and does the minimum.
- Christians should serve joyfully and selflessly, reflecting Jesus' heart.

Liberty and Responsibility in the Faith Community

- Paul talks about the potential of knowledge leading to pride if it causes weaker believers to stumble.
- Christians are reminded that the core of the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, not mere freedoms.

Laying Down Rights for Others

- Jesus emphasized the importance of humility and warned against causing others to sin, encouraging sacrificial love



over personal rights.

- Offending weaker believers goes against the call to serve and love one another.

Practical Examples and Personal Reflection

- The author shares a personal ministry experience where asserting personal rights led to offense, demonstrating the need for sensitivity to others.

- Believers are encouraged to align their actions with the goal of edifying others and contributing positively to the community.

The Edification Test

- Paul urges believers to seek peace and edification over personal gain, asking them to reflect on their motives.

- The concept of living for the benefit of others is highlighted, with a call to avoid causing offense to anyone, including different cultural and religious groups.

Conclusion

The chapter encourages readers to use their freedom in Christ



for the benefit of others rather than for selfish interests,
promoting a spirit of servitude and community.

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Example

Key Point: Freedom carries the weight of responsibility toward others.

Example: Imagine hosting a gathering where you decide to serve a dish that you love but that you know a close friend detests. By prioritizing your enjoyment over their feelings, you inadvertently create an uncomfortable atmosphere. This scenario illustrates how your freedom to choose what to serve, while valid, comes with the responsibility to consider others' preferences, reflecting the balance between exercising your liberty and maintaining harmony within your community.



Chapter 11 Summary : FORGIVENESS: YOU DON'T GIVE— YOU DON'T GET



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 11: FORGIVENESS AND UNFORGIVENESS

Consequences of Unforgiveness

The chapter emphasizes the severe consequences of not forgiving others, rooted in Jesus' teachings from Mark 11:24-26 and other gospel verses. Jesus directly states that our forgiveness from God is contingent on our willingness to forgive others.



Cultural Attitudes and Authority

There is a pervasive distrust of authority in society, which begins in childhood when promises made by authority figures (like parents) are not followed through. This fosters a belief that words often lack sincerity, leading individuals to take promises lightly in their adult lives. However, Jesus' words must be taken seriously, as He embodies perfect truth and integrity.

The Importance of Forgiveness

Real-life examples illustrate the casual nature of promises in everyday conversations, highlighting a culture where commitments are often not sincere. In contrast, God's forgiveness and the call to forgive others are presented with utmost seriousness.

Biblical Examples and Teachings

Jesus teaches repeatedly about forgiveness, emphasizing its importance. He uses parables (e.g., The Unforgiving Servant) to illustrate that the debt we owe God is astronomical



compared to the trivial offenses we experience from others. Yet, those who have received grace from God are expected to extend that grace to others.

Forgiveness and Spiritual Well-Being

The chapter shares testimonies of individuals plagued by unforgiveness, which can lead to spiritual and mental anguish. The need for healing from emotional wounds ties back to the necessity of forgiveness. Without it, individuals may be unable to receive from God, resulting in spiritual stagnation.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

The parable illustrates that a servant who has been forgiven a monumental debt fails to forgive a small offense done to him. Consequently, his unforgiving attitude leads to dire repercussions, akin to God's judgment on believers who do not forgive others. This comparison makes clear that offenses against God far exceed those we experience from fellow humans.

Lessons for Believers

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Believers are cautioned against the torment that accompanies unforgiveness, portrayed as a choice with serious spiritual implications. Jesus emphasizes that ongoing unforgiveness can jeopardize one's relationship with God and hinder spiritual growth.

Final Thoughts

The message concludes with a call to serious reflection on one's attitudes towards forgiveness. It urges believers to understand the vital importance of forgiving others, not only for spiritual health but as a reflection of the grace they have received from God.

The chapter ultimately presents forgiveness as both a necessary discipline for emotional release and a fundamental expectation for those who follow Christ.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The consequences of unforgiveness are severe and integral to spiritual and emotional wellness.

Critical Interpretation: While John Bevere's perspective on forgiveness in 'The Bait of Satan' emphasizes its critical importance, one must question whether such a stringent interpretation aligns with modern understandings of mental health and personal experience. Attributing spiritual stagnation solely to unforgiveness may overlook the complexities of individual circumstances and psychological wellbeing. Psychological research indicates that factors such as trauma and emotional resilience significantly impact one's ability to forgive (see studies on PTSD and forgiveness in journals like 'Psychological Bulletin'). This suggests that while forgiveness is important, it may not always be a straightforward solution to spiritual and emotional struggles.



Chapter 12 Summary : REVENGE: THE TRAP

Summary of Chapter 12: The Bait Of Satan by John Bevere

Introduction to Unforgiveness

Romans 12:17 emphasizes the importance of not repaying evil with evil. Holding onto offenses is likened to a debt that one expects to be paid, often leading individuals to seek justice through personal vengeance instead of allowing divine judgment.

The Nature of Human Justice

Unforgiveness leads to desires for revenge, setting individuals in the role of judges over others. Romans 12:19 reminds believers that vengeance belongs to God. God, as the ultimate Judge, will repay wrongs according to His righteousness, regardless of personal transgressions against



us.

Comparing Offenses

When comparing personal grievances to our wrongdoings against God, there is no justification for maintaining a grudge. Forgiveness should not be contingent upon the offender's acknowledgment of guilt; rather, it should be a reflection of the mercy we have received from Christ.

Understanding Grudges in the New Covenant

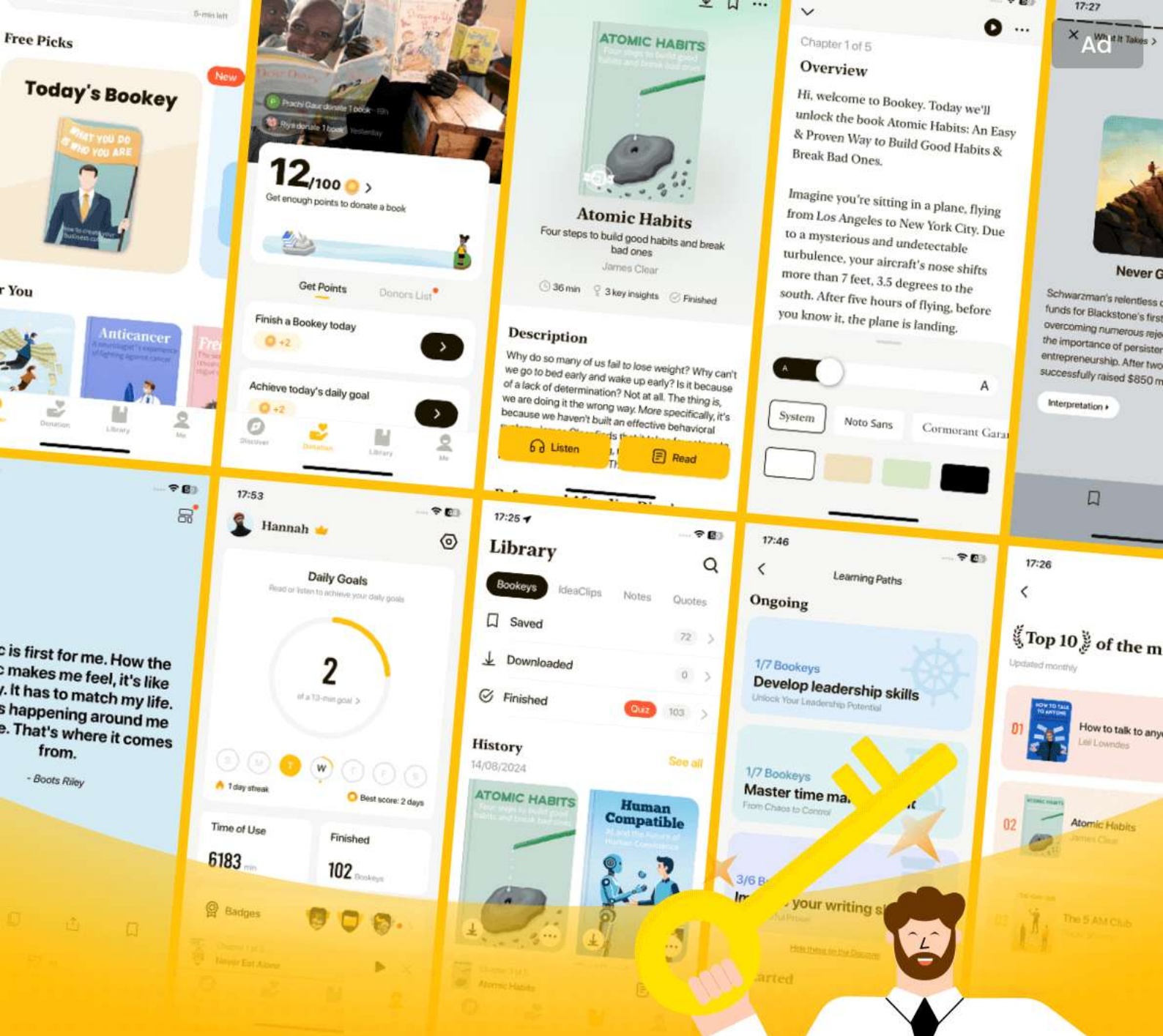
Under the Old Testament law, retaliation for offenses was permitted. However, Jesus, in Matthew 5:38-42, calls His followers to forsake this mindset, reaffirming that no gray areas exist in the realm of forgiveness. Our response to offenses should be devoid of the desire for personal retribution.

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Chapter 13 Summary : ESCAPING THE TRAP

Summary of Chapter 13: The Bait of Satan

The Exercise of Forgiveness

The chapter begins by emphasizing the effort required to maintain a conscience free from offense, likening it to physical exercise. Just as physical training prepares our bodies to avoid injury, cultivating our hearts allows us to handle offenses without lasting damage.

Personal Testimony of Offense

The author recounts a personal experience of enduring significant offense from a ministry colleague over a year and a half. Despite external appearances, he struggled with deep hurt, which he initially denied. This denial led to spiritual turmoil and misunderstanding of his struggles as merely resistance to his calling.



Acknowledgment of Hurt

A crucial turning point occurred when he prayed for insight into his state of hurt. Acknowledging his pain allowed him to seek God's help and begin the journey toward healing through fasting, which brought sensitivity to God's direction.

Combatting Relapses

Even after experiencing forgiveness, the author faced relapses where old hurt resurfaced. Through prayer and obedience to God's guidance, he was instructed to pray for the person who offended him, transforming his prayers from obligation to heartfelt intercession. This period of disciplined prayer led to deeper healing.

Restoration through Confrontation

After some time, God prompted the author to confront the colleague to resolve lingering discomfort. This led to a moment of humility, reconciliation, and ultimately a restored relationship, demonstrating growth and maturity in love.



Growth through Hardships

The narrative transitions into a broader principle: spiritual growth often occurs through hardship and overcoming trials. These experiences contribute to maturity, shaping a person to align more closely with Christ. The author cites biblical figures like Jesus, Peter, and Paul, who all embraced suffering as a path to obedience and growth.

The Importance of Perspective

The chapter concludes with an encouragement to focus on the eventual glory that comes from perseverance, rather than the pain of offense. The author emphasizes that love must mature through challenges, and the ultimate goal is to help others rather than assert one's own correctness.

Conclusion

The chapter illustrates the importance of exercising forgiveness and confronting offenses as essential practices for spiritual maturity. Growth frequently arises through hardship, and the journey toward healing involves recognizing one's pain, seeking God's assistance, and actively choosing love.



Chapter 14 Summary : OBJECTIVE: RECONCILIATION

Summary of Chapter 14: The Bait of Satan

Overview of Anger and Offense

The chapter begins by quoting Matthew 5:21-24, where Jesus expands on the seriousness of anger and offense. He emphasizes that it's not just the act of murder that is judged, but also the feelings of anger and hatred in our hearts. Holding onto anger can lead to severe consequences, including judgment and hell.

The Importance of Reconciliation

Jesus instructs that reconciliation should take precedence over worship. If you remember that someone has something against you, prioritize making amends, highlighting the need to act out of love for the other person. True reconciliatory efforts should transcend our own pride or perceptions of



justice.

Understanding Offense

The chapter discusses various scenarios where offense can arise, noting that misunderstandings often lead to conflict. It stresses that one's intentions may be misinterpreted and that genuinely addressing conflicts requires humility and a willingness to apologize, regardless of who is at fault.

Approaching Those We've Offended

It is crucial to maintain a peaceful attitude when approaching someone we have hurt. Instead of defending ourselves when confronted, we should listen, acknowledge their feelings, and seek to promote reconciliation through humility.

Handling Offenses from Others

When someone offends us, we should follow a process of private reconciliation, rather than confronting in anger. The goal is to restore the relationship, mirroring how God seeks reconciliation with humanity. This approach emphasizes love and understanding over judgment.



Maintaining Peace in Relationships

The chapter concludes by emphasizing the necessity to approach relationships with an attitude of humility and a commitment to maintaining peace. It encourages readers to exhaust all efforts for reconciliation while adhering to truth, rather than seeking superficial peace.

Key Takeaways

- Love and humility are essential in resolving conflicts and promoting understanding.
- Being a peacemaker involves confronting issues directly while fostering genuine reconciliation.
- True love, as described in 1 Corinthians 13, drives away offense and lays down one's life for others.
- Ultimately, this chapter teaches that God's enduring love is foundational to navigating the challenges of offense and reconciliation.



Example

Key Point: Reconciliation is essential to maintaining healthy relationships and spiritual well-being.

Example: Imagine having a falling out with a friend over a misunderstanding. You feel wronged and choose to ignore their calls, allowing anger to build. Eventually, you recognize that holding onto this offense is eating away at your peace. Instead, you decide to reach out and express how their actions affected you while also listening to their side. Through humility and love, you're able to clear the air, restoring not only your friendship but also your sense of harmony. This scenario illustrates how prioritizing reconciliation can transform conflict into an opportunity for growth and understanding.



Critical Thinking

Key Point:The Seriousness of Anger and Offense

Critical Interpretation:The chapter asserts that harboring anger and offense invites severe spiritual consequences, which suggests a rigid moral framework.

Key Point:Reconciliation Over Worship

Critical Interpretation:Prioritizing reconciliation even above worship implies that interpersonal relationships hold critical value but may overlook other forms of spiritual expression.

Key Point:Misinterpretation of Intentions

Critical Interpretation:Highlighting the commonality of misunderstandings as sources of offense encourages humility, yet it may oversimplify the complexities of human interactions.

Key Point:Approach to Offenses

Critical Interpretation:The recommended approach to resolving offenses promotes humility, yet some readers might find this stance unrealistic or impractical in the face of serious grievances.



Key Point:Attitude of Humility in Relationships

Critical Interpretation:While the emphasis on humility and peace fosters positive interactions, it may inadvertently suggest passivity in the face of ongoing conflict.

Key Point:Love as a Foundation for Reconciliation

Critical Interpretation:Stating that true love drives away offense could imply a moral absolutism that doesn't account for diverse interpretations of love and relational dynamics.

Ad



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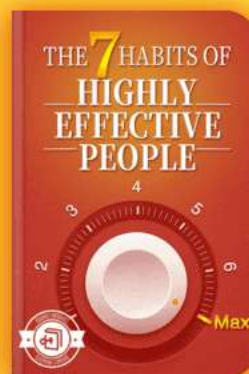
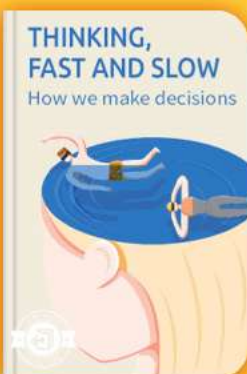


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Chapter 1 | Quotes From Pages 10-16

- 1.It is impossible that no offenses should come.”
—Luke 17:1
- 2.Only those you care about can hurt you. You expect more from them—after all, you’ve given more of yourself to them. The higher the expectations, the greater the fall.
- 3.Pride keeps you from dealing with truth. It distorts your vision. You never change when you think everything is fine.
- 4.God refines with afflictions, trials, and tribulations, the heat of which separates impurities... from the character of God in our lives.
- 5.See your true condition. He always does it in such a way that it seems separate from us. This brings conviction, not condemnation.
- 6.An offended Christian is one who takes in life but because



of fear, cannot release it.

Chapter 2 | Quotes From Pages 17-25

- 1.Many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.
- 2.The love of many will grow cold.
- 3.An offended brother is harder to win than a strong city.
- 4.If more Christians recognized this, they wouldn't give up and become offended.
- 5.When we filter everything through past hurts, rejections, and experiences, we find it impossible to believe God.
- 6.It doesn't matter how up-to-date you are in new revelations... If you are offended and in unforgiveness and refuse to repent of this sin, you have not come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 7.The closer the relation, the more severe the betrayal.
- 8.When Jesus was wronged, He did not wrong in return but committed His soul to God.

Chapter 3 | Quotes From Pages 26-35

- 1.But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God



meant it for good.” —Genesis 50:19-20

2. Absolutely no man, woman, child, or devil can ever get you out of the will of God! No one but God holds your destiny.

3. If you stay free from offense you will stay in God’s will. If you become offended you will be taken captive by the enemy to fulfill his own purpose and will.

4. The dream or vision will probably happen differently from how you think it will, but His Word and His promises will not fail.





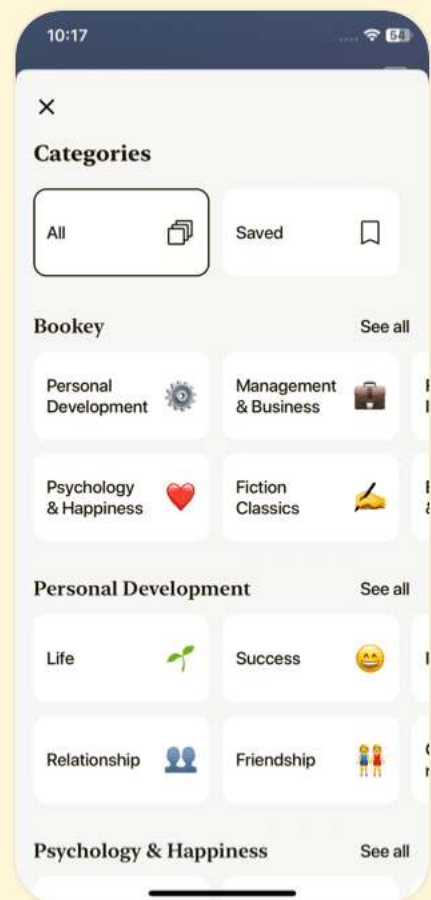
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Chapter 4 | Quotes From Pages 36-46

1. My father... know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it.
2. I have seen this cry in countless men and women in the body of Christ. Most of them are young and with a strong call of God on their lives. They cry out for a father, a man to disciple, love, support, and encourage them.
3. David's cry to Saul was, 'My father, my father!' To put it plainly, he was crying, 'See my heart! Be a father to me. I need a leader to train me, not to destroy me!' Even while Saul was trying to kill him, David's heart still burned with hope.
4. David would not kill Saul even though Saul had murdered innocent people and wanted to murder David as well. David would not avenge himself, but he left it in the hands of God.
5. Even though David was rejected by the one who should have fathered him, he remained loyal even after Saul's



death.

6.IT IS RIGHTEOUS FOR GOD TO AVENGE HIS
SERVANTS. IT IS UNRIGHTEOUS FOR GOD'S
SERVANTS TO AVENGE THEMSELVES.

Chapter 5 | Quotes From Pages 47-56

- 1.The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.
- 2.Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.
- 3.Let's face it: Jesus is the only perfect pastor.
- 4.Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.
- 5.Great peace have they which love [or delight in] thy law: and nothing shall offend them.
- 6.Offended people react to the situation and do things that appear right even though they are not inspired by God.

Chapter 6 | Quotes From Pages 56-64

- 1.When God does instruct you to leave, you will go



out with peace, no matter what the condition of the ministry.

2. Almost every time the word son is used in the New Testament, it comes from the two Greek words: teknon and huios.
3. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.
4. It is wrong for him to stay immature. It is not God's will that we remain babies.
5. Truth must be allowed to have its way in our lives if we are going to grow and mature.
6. The way you leave a church or a relationship is the way you will enter into your next church or relationship.





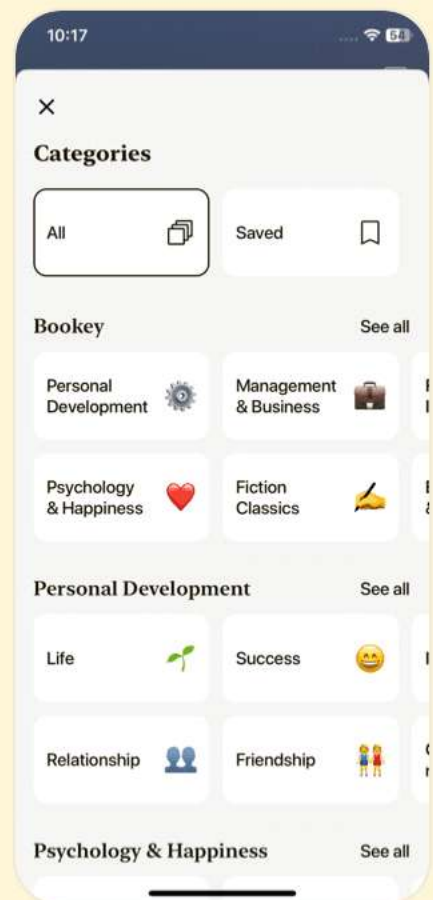
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Chapter 7 | Quotes From Pages 65-75

1. Whoever believes will not act hastily.
2. Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
3. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things.
4. You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
5. The revealed Word of God is the solid rock on which we are to build our lives and ministries.
6. Trials and tests locate a person.

Chapter 8 | Quotes From Pages 76-88

1. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." —Luke 22:32
2. The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and



those who exercise authority over them are called
'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he
who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and
he who governs as he who serves." —Luke 22:25-26

3.Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he
may sift you as wheat." —Luke 22:31

4.We are to be rooted and grounded in love." —Ephesians
3:16-18

5.God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." —1
Peter 5:5

Chapter 9 | Quotes From Pages 89-101

1.Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect,
precious, and he who believes on Him will by no
means be put to shame.

2.Today the meaning of the word believe has been weakened.
In the eyes of most it has become a mere acknowledgment
of a certain fact. To many it has nothing to do with
obedience.

3.It is not difficult to obey when you know the character and



love of the one to whom you are submitting.

4.The law had risen above relationship in their eyes. They rejected what was freely given to them. They would rather have earned it.

5.Jesus would not be controlled by others. He would speak truth even if it meant confrontation and ultimately offense.

6.Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.

7.If you desire the approval of men, God's anointing cannot fall upon you.

8.If we compromise what God tells us in order to please family members, we will lose the fresh oil in our lives, and we will hinder them from being set free.





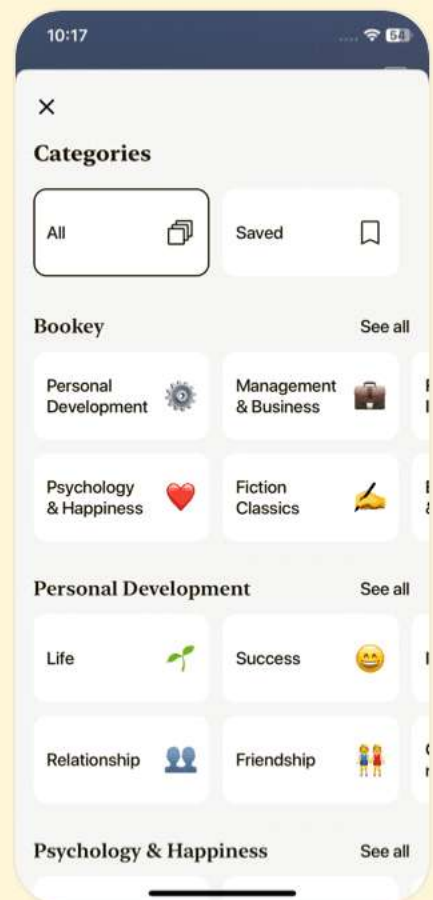
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Chapter 10 | Quotes From Pages 102-110

1. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.
2. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.
3. whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
4. For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
5. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Chapter 11 | Quotes From Pages 111-122

1. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.
2. I wonder how many Christians would want God to forgive



them in the same way they have forgiven those who have offended them.

3. A person who cannot forgive has forgotten the great debt for which they were forgiven.

4. Jesus blew away what Peter considered generous: 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'

5. The unforgiving servant is turned over to torture.

6. God the Father will do this to any believer who refuses to forgive from the heart—no matter how great the hurt or offense.

7. Forgiveness is usually denied to other people, but sometimes it is denied to oneself.

Chapter 12 | Quotes From Pages 123-132

1. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

2. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord.



3. When we seek to correct the wrong done to us, we set ourselves up as judges.

4. Bitterness is unfulfilled revenge.

5. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.





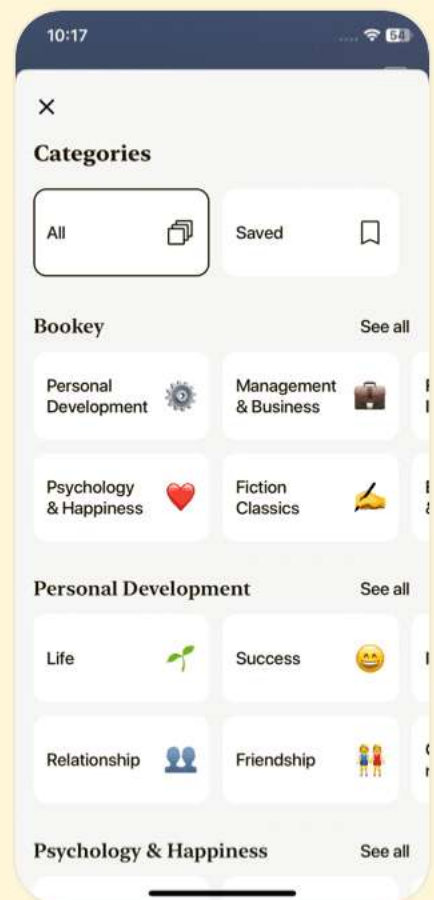
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Chapter 13 | Quotes From Pages 133-140

1. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.
2. It takes effort to stay free from offense.
3. The first step to healing and freedom is to recognize you are hurt.
4. Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?
5. You need to go to him, John,” my wife encouraged me.
“No, I don’t,” I assured her. “I am healed now.” But I sensed that the Holy Spirit did not bear witness with what I had just said. So I asked the Lord if I needed to go to him.
He said yes.
6. It is easy to love those who can do no wrong in our eyes.
That’s honeymoon love. It is another thing to love someone when we can see their faults, especially when we’ve been the victim of them.



7. We grow in the tough times, not the easy times.
8. When I first met that man, he could do no wrong in my eyes. I saw no faults in him. I loved him because I thought he was perfect. But when I was hurt, it was hard to love him.
9. Remember that when we lose our life for the sake of Jesus, we will find His life.

Chapter 14 | Quotes From Pages 141-148

1. What you are in your heart is how you really are!
2. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
3. The goodness of God leads you to repentance.
4. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
5. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.



6.The love of God is the key to freedom from the baited trap of offense.

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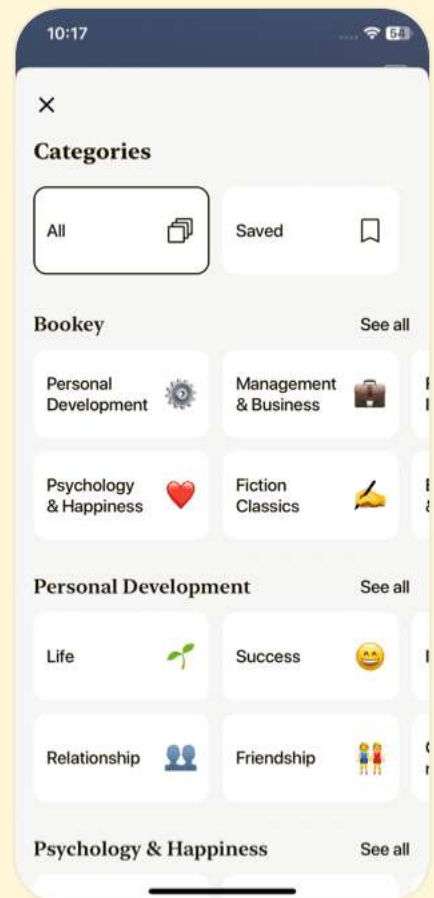
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The Bait Of Satan Questions

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Chapter 1 | ME, OFFENDED?| Q&A

1.Question

What is the deceptive trap that the author describes in relation to offense?

Answer:The deceptive trap is the offense itself, which serves as a tool for the devil to bring people into captivity. The Greek word for 'offend' is 'skandalon,' referring to a trap that ensnares believers. Offenses cause wounds that hinder people from fulfilling their potential and can often lead to bitterness, strife, and a skewed perception of their own righteousness.

2.Question

How should we view offenses when they happen to us?

Answer:We should recognize that offenses are inevitable in life and are often a reflection of our relationships with those we care about. Instead of being shocked or feeling uniquely

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wronged, we must be prepared and armed for these offenses, knowing that our response to them will determine our future.

3.Question

What role does pride play in our understanding of offense and hurt?

Answer:Pride distorts our vision and can keep us from admitting our true condition. It blinds us to the offenses we carry and causes us to view ourselves as innocent victims, justifying our bitterness and unforgiveness. Until we confront and repent of our pride, we remain trapped in our offense.

4.Question

How does the refining process of gold relate to our spiritual condition?

Answer:The process of refining gold—grinding it into powder, mixing it with flux, and subjecting it to intense heat—mirrors how God purifies our hearts through trials and afflictions. Just as the impurities in gold surface under heat, our hidden sins and offenses reveal themselves during challenging times, which provides an opportunity for



repentance and healing.

5.Question

What is the significance of 'buying God's gold' as mentioned in Revelation?

Answer:'Buying God's gold' symbolizes seeking spiritual purity and integrity. It emphasizes the need to seek God's wisdom and truth in order to see our true condition, similar to how pure gold is refined to remove impurities. By doing so, we can address our offenses and heal.

6.Question

How can we begin to see our true condition when dealing with offense?

Answer:We begin to see our true condition by recognizing our tendency to blame others and defend our positions. Jesus encourages us to 'anoint our eyes with eye salve' so we can gain spiritual insight into our own hearts. This revelation of truth brings freedom from offense and allows for genuine repentance.

7.Question

What is the outcome of holding onto offenses according to

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the author?

Answer:Holding onto offenses leads to a hardened heart, bitterness, and an inability to experience true life and freedom. It ensnares us in a cycle of pain and disconnection from God and others, ultimately preventing us from fulfilling our purposes in life.

8.Question

Can you provide an example of personal transformation related to forgiveness mentioned in the chapter?

Answer:One example is shared by a woman who, after her husband left her, struggled with hurt and bitterness for years. Through reading 'The Bait of Satan,' she felt led to approach her ex-husband to ask for forgiveness for holding onto her offense. This act of humility and repentance led to her healing and a newfound freedom from the emotional bondage she had experienced.

Chapter 2 | MASSIVE OFFENSE| Q&A

1.Question

What does the concept of 'agape' love mean in the context



of offense and betrayal among Christians?

Answer: Agape love refers to God's unconditional love that is not dependent on circumstances or whether it is reciprocated. In the context of offense and betrayal among Christians, it highlights the expectation that believers should love others freely, even when faced with rejection or criticism. This type of love allows Christians to transcend personal hurt and maintain their commitment to divine love, which fosters forgiveness and discourages offense.

2.Question

How can understanding one's expectations of others help in preventing offense?

Answer: By recognizing that setting high expectations for others can lead to disappointment and potential offenses, individuals can shift their mindset to appreciate any act of kindness as a blessing rather than a given. This shift minimizes the risk of feeling offended when others fail to meet these expectations, encouraging a more gracious



interaction with fellow believers.

3.Question

How does unforgiveness lead to deception among Christians?

Answer:Unforgiveness can create a distorted perception of God's character, as individuals filter their understanding of the divine through their past hurts and relational conflicts. This distortion can lead to a superficial grasp of Scripture, where knowledge lacks the transformative power of God's love. Consequently, believers may become hypocritical, embodying a form of godliness that denies the actual power of change and redemption, ultimately resulting in deception.

4.Question

What does it mean for a person to become 'offended,' and how does this affect their relationships?

Answer:An offended person typically builds emotional barriers to protect their heart from perceived threats. This self-preservation can alienate them from others and breed bitterness, which affects their relationships negatively.



Instead of fostering open communication and love, they may withdraw, leading to a cycle of isolation and potentially causing harm to their connections with others.

5.Question

In what ways does the metaphor of 'two seas' illustrate the consequences of holding onto grudges or offenses?

Answer:The Sea of Galilee is vibrant and gives life as it both receives and releases water, symbolizing the flow of God's love through giving. In contrast, the Dead Sea only retains water and lacks life, representing individuals who hoard hurt and refuse to forgive. This metaphor emphasizes that retaining offenses leads to spiritual stagnation and emptiness, while freely giving love fosters flourishing and community.

6.Question

How does one cultivate faith in God's love to overcome feelings of offense?

Answer:Cultivating faith in God's love involves recognizing and trusting in His character and promises, despite personal experiences of hurt. It requires an intentional shift toward



actively sowing love into relationships, understanding that responses may vary but that God's justice and love will eventually yield a spiritual harvest of true connection and reconciliation.

7.Question

Why does the author emphasize the importance of recognizing genuine love in community among believers?

Answer: The author underscores that genuine love, characterized by agape, is essential for maintaining unity and harmony within the Christian community. When love is cold and self-seeking behaviors take precedence, relationships fracture, leading to offense and conflict. Understanding and embodying true love as defined by Christ enables Christians to support one another and foster a nurturing environment reflective of God's kingdom.

Chapter 3 | HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO ME?| Q&A

1.Question

What can we learn from Joseph's response to being mistreated by his brothers?



Answer: Joseph chose not to hold onto offense despite being deeply wronged by his own flesh and blood. Instead of seeking revenge or becoming bitter, he trusted in God's plan for his life, knowing that ultimately only God determines his destiny. This shows us that our reactions to mistreatment can either lead us closer to God or push us away from His purpose.

2.Question

How did Joseph maintain hope despite his dire circumstances?

Answer: Joseph's hope lay in his unwavering belief in God's promises. Even when he faced imprisonment and betrayal, he did not lose sight of the dreams that were given to him by God. This faith allowed him to endure hardships without becoming offended.

3.Question

What does Joseph's story teach us about God's control over our lives?



Answer: Joseph's story illustrates that no one can derail God's plan for us. Even the betrayal he faced was part of God's larger purpose to elevate him and ultimately save his family. This affirms that while we may face trials, God is sovereign and uses our experiences for good.

4.Question

Why is it crucial to avoid offense when faced with injustices?

Answer: Avoiding offense is essential because becoming bitter can take us out of God's will. When we focus on our hurts and assign blame, we hinder ourselves from receiving God's blessings and fulfilling our purpose. Staying free from offense allows us to remain in alignment with God's plan.

5.Question

How can we apply the lessons from Joseph's life to our own experiences of hurt?

Answer: We can apply these lessons by refraining from blaming others for our struggles and instead looking to God for understanding and strength. We should focus on loving



those who have wronged us and trust that our obedience will lead to God's fulfillment of His promises in our lives.

6.Question

What is the significance of Joseph's ability to forgive his brothers?

Answer:Joseph's ability to forgive is significant as it reflects a powerful demonstration of grace and love. It illustrates that true strength lies in the capacity to let go of bitterness and extend mercy, which ultimately frees both us and others from the chains of past hurts.

7.Question

How can the story of Joseph encourage us during our own times of suffering?

Answer:Joseph's journey encourages us to trust that our suffering has a purpose and that God is with us even in our darkest moments. His story reassures us that we are never abandoned and that God can transform our trials into triumphs.

8.Question

What does the phrase 'no man, woman, child, or devil can



ever get you out of the will of God' imply?

Answer: This phrase emphasizes that external circumstances or actions of others cannot dictate our destiny in God. It reassures us that as long as we remain faithful and connected to God, He alone guides our paths and ensures our fulfillment.

9.Question

In what way is Joseph's eventual rise to power a reflection of God's divine timing?

Answer: Joseph's rise to power, following years of suffering and waiting, illustrates that God's timing is perfect. It reveals that God's plans often unfold gradually and in ways we may not understand, reinforcing the importance of patience and trust during trials.

10.Question

What steps can we take to ensure we remain in God's will during challenging times?

Answer: To remain in God's will during challenging times, we must cultivate a heart of forgiveness, seek God's guidance



through prayer, focus on His promises, reject offense, and serve others, knowing that our trials may be preparing us for greater purposes.

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Chapter 4 | MY FATHER, MY FATHER!| Q&A

1.Question

What is the theme of betrayal and rejection in the chapter?

Answer:The chapter explores the profound pain of betrayal, focusing on the relationship between David and Saul. David experienced rejection not only from his brothers but also from a father-figure, King Saul, emphasizing that betrayal from leaders or mentors can be more painful than that from peers. This theme resonates with many who feel abandoned or attacked by those they trusted.

2.Question

How does the example of David and Saul illustrate the struggle with leadership and authority?

Answer:David's relationship with Saul depicts the struggle faced when a leader turns against someone they once mentored. It highlights the anguish of being hunted by a mentor and the internal conflict of staying loyal in the face of



betrayal. It questions the integrity of leadership when leaders prioritize their own insecurities over nurturing those they lead.

3.Question

What can we learn about handling offense and seeking revenge from David's response to Saul?

Answer:David's refusal to kill Saul, despite having the opportunity and justifications, teaches that true strength lies in not avenging oneself. He chose to trust God for justice rather than taking matters into his own hands, illustrating that humility and patience in the face of offense ultimately lead to spiritual freedom.

4.Question

How does this chapter relate to the concept of fatherhood and mentorship in spiritual and personal growth?

Answer:The chapter stresses the importance of father figures in the lives of young people. It reveals a societal issue where leaders fail to nurture and guide those they are meant to support. This absence leads to a desperate need for heartfelt



mentorship that positively influences growth, challenging current leaders to reflect on their role.

5.Question

What is the significance of David mourning Saul's death despite Saul's attempts on his life?

Answer:David's grief over Saul's death shows a heart free from offense. It emphasizes that true righteousness comes from love and grief for others, even those who have wronged us. David's action reveals his character, reflecting a commitment to honor God's anointed, reinforcing the idea that loyalty transcends personal pain.

6.Question

How does the chapter challenge leaders in regard to their responsibilities toward those they lead?

Answer:The chapter challenges leaders to prioritize the well-being of those they lead over personal ambitions or goals. It criticizes the obsession with success that leads to harming others and urges a return to mentorship that uplifts and nurtures rather than undermines the people within their



care.

7.Question

What role does humility play in resolving conflict according to John Bevere's experiences shared in this chapter?

Answer: Humility is presented as a crucial factor in resolving conflicts. John Bevere's experience shows that by humbling oneself and seeking forgiveness, relationships can be restored. This action not only aids personal healing but also aligns with God's will, emphasizing that pride and self-justification hinder reconciliation.

8.Question

In what ways does the chapter suggest God works in the lives of those who are unjustly treated?

Answer: The chapter suggests that God permits trials and injustices as part of His divine plan for growth. Just as He used the mistreatment of David to forge his character, He is involved in the process of refining and preparing His servants to fulfill their destiny. Trusting in God's timing and methods becomes crucial.



9.Question

What lesson can be drawn from the idea that God avenges His servants, but they should not seek vengeance themselves?

Answer:The lesson emphasizes reliance on God's justice rather than personal vengeance. It asserts that seeking revenge can lead to moral corruption, while leaving judgment to God preserves one's integrity and spiritual health.

10.Question

How does this chapter evoke a call for accountability and mentorship within the Christian community?

Answer:The chapter invokes a need for accountability and mentorship by highlighting the void left when leaders fail in these roles. It calls for a revival of fatherly leadership that genuinely nurtures, encourages, and develops individuals in faith, creating a healthier spiritual community.

Chapter 5 | HOW SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ARE BORN| Q&A

1.Question

What lesson does David teach us about responding to



mistreatment by those in authority?

Answer: David exemplifies loyalty and integrity even in the face of betrayal. Rather than seeking revenge against King Saul, who was actively trying to kill him, David chooses to honor Saul as God's anointed. This teaches us that we are called to respect authority, even when it is misused. Instead of retaliating or seeking personal justice, we should trust God's timing and judgment.

2.Question

How can we reconcile the existence of corrupt leaders with our faith in God?

Answer: God places us under authority for a purpose, even if that authority is flawed. Just as Samuel served under the corrupt priest Eli without seeking to judge or expose him, we are reminded that our role is to minister and follow God's lead, knowing that God is capable of dealing with those in error. This perspective helps us avoid the trap of offense and criticism.



3.Question

What are the dangers of leaving a church community in response to offense?

Answer: Leaving a church due to offense often leads to a pattern of isolation and spiritual instability. Each departure diminishes our root system, making it easier to flee from the next challenge. This behavior can result in spiritual barrenness, where we miss out on the growth and maturity that God seeks to develop within us through adversity.

4.Question

What does it mean to be 'planted' in the house of the Lord according to Psalm 92:13?

Answer: To be 'planted' means to commit ourselves fully to our church community, enduring trials and growing through them. Those who are rooted in God's house will flourish spiritually, producing fruit despite adversity, as their roots deepen and draw strength from their faith.

5.Question

How does the concept of being offended relate to personal spiritual growth?



Answer:Being easily offended can blind us to our own character flaws, leading to spiritual stagnation. When we choose to dwell on offenses, we miss the opportunity for growth and maturity that comes through experiencing and overcoming conflict. A person who focuses on God's word and embraces challenges is better equipped to flourish spiritually.

6.Question

What can we learn from the story of Cain and Abel about the consequences of offense?

Answer:Cain's response to rejection from God due to his offering highlights how offense can lead to destructive behavior, including jealousy and violence. Cain allowed his anger at God to fester, resulting in tragic consequences. This serves as a warning to us about the dangers of internalizing offense and allowing it to dictate our actions towards others.

7.Question

Why is it important to confront our character flaws instead of blaming others?



Answer: Confronting our character flaws allows for personal growth and healing. When we shift blame onto others, we fail to take responsibility for our actions and miss the opportunity for God to refine us. Acknowledging our imperfections fosters humility and creates a path for reconciliation and spiritual maturity.

8.Question

What steps can we take to avoid becoming 'spiritual vagabonds' or 'fugitives'?

Answer: To avoid being spiritual vagabonds, we must stay rooted in our community, choosing to work through conflicts instead of escaping. This involves seeking reconciliation, staying engaged through adversity, and cultivating a heart of forgiveness, which enables us to flourish as God intends.

9.Question

How can we foster a deeper connection with God amid challenges within our church community?

Answer: We can foster a deeper connection with God by embracing adversity as a tool for growth. Instead of fleeing



challenges, we should seek God through them, praying for insight, understanding, and the strength to respond with love and grace, which will deepen our faith and enrich our community.

10.Question

What is the ultimate purpose of God placing us under authority, even corrupt leaders?

Answer: The ultimate purpose is to test our hearts and refine our character. Through such trials, God desires to prepare us for greater responsibilities and establish us in His righteousness, teaching us how to remain faithful and obedient, regardless of the circumstances surrounding us.

Chapter 6 | HIDING FROM REALITY| Q&A

1.Question

What should guide your decision to leave a church or ministry?

Answer: Your departure should be based on the Spirit's leading, not the circumstances or behavior of others. If God sent you to that church, stay until



He releases you.

2.Question

How can one distinguish between a 'teknon' and a 'huios' in their spiritual journey?

Answer:A 'teknon' is an immature child of God, recognized by the fact of birth but lacking maturity and character resemblance to the Father. A 'huios' is a mature son characterized by displaying the nature of God and being led by the Spirit.

3.Question

What is the significance of obedience in spiritual growth according to the text?

Answer:Spiritual growth is directly tied to obedience. It is not about how long one has been a Christian or how much they know but about how well they obey God in difficult times.

4.Question

How does harboring offense affect future relationships?

Answer:Harboring offense leads to a critical and resentful mindset, which poisons future relationships. A person who



leaves with resentment will carry that negativity into new situations, making it difficult to establish healthy bonds.

5.Question

What lesson does the story of the wise man at the town's border convey?

Answer:The story illustrates that how you perceive your past relationships and experiences will shape how you approach new ones. If you focus on the negative, you will likely repeat those experiences.

6.Question

In what way can self-preservation hinder spiritual growth?

Answer:Self-preservation often leads to avoidance of necessary confrontations with one's own faults and sins, preventing true character development and maturity.

7.Question

What does Jesus' statement about forgiveness in John 20:23 reveal about personal relationships?

Answer:It reveals that retaining offenses or sins of others can hinder our own healing and relational well-being.



Forgiveness is critical to moving forward in relationships.

8.Question

What is the relationship between character formation and suffering as described in the text?

Answer:Suffering and facing difficult situations are seen as essential for character formation. Just as Jesus learned obedience through suffering, we too mature through experiencing and overcoming challenges.

9.Question

How does pride affect the healing process after experiencing hurt?

Answer:Pride inhibits the desire for reconciliation and peace. It often prevents individuals from seeking healing and makes them resistant to extending forgiveness.

10.Question

What does the phrase 'What we learn in the presence of God cannot be learned in the presence of men' imply?

Answer:This implies that genuine spiritual insight and growth come from personal encounters with God rather than solely through human relationships or teachings.



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Chapter 7 | THE SURE FOUNDATION| Q&A

1.Question

What does it mean to act hastily, according to the text?

Answer:Acting hastily indicates a lack of stability and foundation in one's beliefs. It suggests that a person may be easily swayed by external pressures or challenges, similar to how a house built on sand cannot withstand storms.

2.Question

How did Simon Peter demonstrate a deeper understanding of Jesus compared to the other disciples?

Answer:Simon Peter was the only disciple who could personally affirm Jesus as 'the Christ, the Son of the living God,' which stemmed from a revelation given by God. This indicates his deep hunger for knowing God personally rather than relying solely on others' opinions.

3.Question

What is the significance of the revealed Word of God in a believer's life according to Bevere?

Answer:The revealed Word of God serves as a foundation for



a believer's faith and actions. It provides stability during trials and a sense of direction and purpose in life, unlike mere head knowledge which can be easily influenced by emotions or circumstances.

4.Question

Why is emotionalism or hype insufficient for a solid foundation in faith?

Answer:Emotionalism or hype leads to a superficial understanding of faith which can crumble under pressure. True faith is grounded in the revealed Word of God that stands firm when faced with life's storms.

5.Question

What lesson can we learn from the story of the secretary and her relationship?

Answer:The encounter illustrates the importance of individual revelation from God when making significant life decisions, such as marriage. Each person must seek God's confirmation personally, as relying solely on others' prophecies can lead to instability and uncertainty.



6.Question

How did Bevere's experience in his marriage relate to the themes of revelation and stability?

Answer:Bevere's commitment to his marriage, despite severe challenges, was anchored in his understanding that God had ordained their union. This foundational belief helped them navigate difficulties, emphasizing the role of God's revealed Word as a source of strength in marriage.

7.Question

What does the comparison of the two houses (one built on sand and the other on rock) exemplify?

Answer:This parable exemplifies the difference between transient belief based on external stimuli and a firm faith rooted in divine revelation. Only the house built on the rock, symbolizing the revealed Word, withstands storms which represent life's trials.

8.Question

What should a believer do when faced with decisions about relationships, work, or church involvement?

Answer:A believer should seek God's revealed Word for



guidance in their decisions to ensure they are built on a solid foundation rather than the shifting sands of personal opinion or external pressure.

9.Question

What did Peter's reaction under pressure reveal about his spiritual state?

Answer: Peter's ability to affirm his faith in Jesus amidst confusion and pressure indicated that he was rooted in a deep understanding of who Jesus was. This resilience contrasted with those who left when faced with challenging teachings.

10.Question

How does the text encourage individuals to respond to trials and tests in their faith?

Answer: The text encourages individuals to see trials as opportunities to reveal their true spiritual condition. It underscores the importance of building a faith that is based on the revealed Word, providing strength to endure and grow through difficulties.

Chapter 8 | ALL THAT CAN BE SHAKEN WILL BE SHAKEN| Q&A



1.Question

What is the significance of being ‘shaken’ in one’s faith according to Hebrews 12:26-27?

Answer: The significance of being 'shaken' in faith is that it is a divine process used by God to remove the unstable aspects of our lives—those built on pride and self-confidence—so that what remains is rooted in true faith and character formed through Christ.

This process aims to strengthen believers by aligning them more closely to God's unshakeable foundation.

2.Question

How did Simon Peter react to Jesus' announcement of his impending betrayal?

Answer: Simon Peter's reaction was characterized by confusion and pride. While the other disciples questioned who would betray Jesus, Peter likely felt compelled to assert his own loyalty instead of properly focusing on Jesus' revelation of betrayal, which reflects a tendency towards self-reliance rather than submission.



3.Question

What does Jesus teach His disciples about greatness and service?

Answer: Jesus teaches that true greatness in the kingdom of God is found in humility and service, stating that the one who is greatest among them is the one who serves, contrasting the typical worldly notion of authority and dominance.

4.Question

What is the purpose of God allowing trials and 'sifting' in a believer's life?

Answer: The purpose of God allowing trials and 'sifting' is multi-faceted: to bring individuals closer to their foundational beliefs, to remove that which is dead, to harvest what is ripe, to awaken them to their true condition, and to unify them in faith, ultimately leading to inner transformation and reliance on His strength.

5.Question

How does the story of Judas and Peter contrast in terms of their responses to their sins?



Answer: The contrast between Judas and Peter lies in their responses to their betrayals: Peter, although he denied Jesus, ultimately repented and returned to faith, rooted in his relationship with Christ; whereas Judas, despite feeling remorse, did not seek forgiveness or restoration, leading to his tragic end. This highlights the vital role of genuine repentance and relationship with God.

6.Question

What can we learn about offense and disappointment in our relationship with God?

Answer: We learn that offense and disappointment can arise when we serve God with a mindset focused on what He can provide for us rather than for who He is. A strong foundation in faith, rooted in trust and love for God, allows individuals to navigate trials without losing hope or becoming embittered.

7.Question

What does it mean to be 'rooted and grounded in love'?

Answer: To be 'rooted and grounded in love' means to build



one's faith on the unwavering truth of God's love, which fosters trust in His character. This foundation enables believers to withstand life's challenges and not be easily swayed by circumstances.

8.Question

How did Simon Peter's trials ultimately strengthen him for his purpose?

Answer: Simon Peter's trials led to his humbling and the elimination of his self-confidence, making him receptive to God's grace. This transformation prepared him to confidently lead the early church, as he learned to rely not on his own strength, but on God's purpose for his life.

9.Question

What is the critical lesson about self-confidence highlighted in the chapter?

Answer: The critical lesson is that self-confidence can lead to spiritual downfall; true strength comes from humility and reliance on God's grace rather than one's accomplishments or status.



10.Question

How can understanding God's character prevent us from taking offense?

Answer: Understanding God's character as loving and good enables us to trust His intentions, leading to a deeper faith that withstands offense. Recognizing that He works for our good allows us to remain anchored even through disappointments.

Chapter 9 | THE ROCK OF OFFENSE| Q&A

1.Question

What does it truly mean to 'believe' according to 1 Peter 2:6-8?

Answer: In the context of 1 Peter 2:6-8, to 'believe' is not merely to acknowledge the existence of God or Jesus. It means to embody obedience to His teachings and commands. True belief is represented as fundamentally linked to obedience; thus, one could argue that 'to obey' means to truly believe in the essence of Christ.



2.Question

How does the love for Jesus affect our ability to obey Him?

Answer:When we understand and know the character and love of Jesus, obedience becomes easier. The relationship is rooted in love—not merely following principles or rules, but a genuine love for Jesus. Without this love, we run the risk of offense and stumbling.

3.Question

Why did the Israelites reject Jesus as the chief cornerstone?

Answer:The Israelites rejected Jesus because they prioritized their interpretations of the Law over the personal relationship God desired with them. They were comfortable wielding the Law to control others and preferred earned righteousness to the free gift of grace.

4.Question

What was Jesus' attitude towards those who were offended by His teachings?

Answer:Jesus did not compromise His message for the sake



of avoiding offense. He understood that truth might cause discomfort and was willing to confront those who opposed Him, even if it meant causing offense.

5.Question

What lesson can leaders take from Jesus' approach to confrontation and offense?

Answer: Leaders should focus on fulfilling God's will rather than the expectations of people. Being afraid of offending others might lead to compromising the truth, which ultimately affects their authority and anointing.

6.Question

What can we learn from John the Baptist's moment of doubt regarding Jesus?

Answer: John the Baptist's questioning illustrates that even the faithful can experience doubt and offense during difficult times. Jesus' response emphasizes the importance of staying true to one's mission and not judging God's actions based on our limited understanding.

7.Question

How can believers maintain their faith when faced with



grounds for offense?

Answer:Believers can maintain their faith by focusing on the truth of God's promises and remaining steadfast in their relationship with Him, despite circumstances that may challenge their understanding.

8.Question

What is a key takeaway about the concept of offense and truth in ministry?

Answer:In ministry, preaching truth may inevitably offend some, yet the focus should be on fulfilling God's purpose rather than accommodating personal preferences. Staying true to God's call is paramount, regardless of the potential for offense.

9.Question

How does the insight about Jesus' family and their initial disbelief tie into the broader message?

Answer:Jesus' family initially doubted Him, demonstrating that even those closest to us may not understand our calling or changes in our lives. This reinforces that the pursuit of



God's will may lead to tensions, even among loved ones, but obedience remains the priority.

10.Question

What does 'dusting off the bottom of your feet' symbolize in relation to rejection?

Answer:Dusting off the feet symbolizes moving on from situations where one is not accepted or where the truth is rejected. It represents a release of the burden of others' responses and a recommitment to follow God's lead.





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Chapter 10 | LEST WE OFFEND THEM| Q&A

1.Question

What is the significance of Jesus choosing to pay the temple tax despite being exempt?

Answer: Jesus chose to pay the temple tax to illustrate the principle of not using one's liberty to offend others. Although He was the Son of God and thus free from obligation, He prioritized the spiritual well-being of others over His rights. This demonstrates that true freedom comes with a responsibility to serve and uplift others rather than asserting our own privileges.

2.Question

How does Jesus's interaction with Peter regarding the temple tax reflect His attitude towards servanthood?

Answer: In His conversation with Peter, Jesus emphasizes that true greatness lies in humility and serving others. By fulfilling the temple tax obligation, He models selflessness and the attitude of putting others before oneself, reinforcing



the message that we are called to use our freedoms in ways that promote peace and service.

3.Question

What does it mean to be a servant rather than a slave in the context of Christian liberty?

Answer:A servant chooses to serve out of love and freedom, while a slave serves out of obligation. In the Christian context, we are encouraged to embrace our liberty to serve one another lovingly, rather than using it as an excuse for selfish behavior or asserting our rights.

4.Question

What warning does Paul give regarding our liberties and their impact on others?

Answer:Paul warns that our liberty can become a stumbling block to those with weaker faith. He emphasizes that while we may have the right to certain freedoms, we must consider how our actions might affect others, urging us to use our liberty in a way that fosters edification rather than offense.

5.Question

In what way can personal liberty lead to sin according to



Paul?

Answer: Paul states that exercising our liberty without regard for those who are weaker can lead to causing them to stumble in their faith. This occurs when we disregard their conscience and rights, ultimately wounding them and going against the essence of Christ's teachings.

6.Question

Why does Jesus emphasize humility when discussing who is greatest in the kingdom?

Answer: Jesus points to humility as the key to greatness in His kingdom, teaching that true leaders must adopt the posture of a servant. In doing so, He illustrates that greatness is reflected in our willingness to serve others selflessly rather than seeking to assert our own status or rights.

7.Question

What practical example from the text illustrates the importance of not offending others with our freedoms?

Answer: An example given is when John Bevere recounted a ministry trip to Bali where he initially wanted to accept a



generous offer that would have offended the local elder. By choosing to decline the offer and instead honor the arrangements made for them, he learned the importance of considering how their actions affect the relationships and feelings of others.

8.Question

What does Romans 14:13-17 remind us about the nature of the kingdom of God?

Answer:Romans 14:13-17 reminds us that the kingdom of God is centered around righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. It emphasizes that our decisions should promote these values and focus on building up others rather than asserting our personal freedoms.

9.Question

How does Bevere suggest we might evaluate our motives when exercising liberty in Christ?

Answer:Bevere challenges us to scrutinize our motives by asking if our actions seek to edify others or simply fulfill our own desires. This self-reflection helps ensure that we use our



liberty in a way that glorifies God and serves those around us.

10.Question

What overarching message can be drawn from Chapter 10 of 'The Bait of Satan' regarding Christian conduct?

Answer:The overarching message is that true Christian conduct reflects servant leadership, where freedom and liberties are employed in ways that serve, uplift, and not offend others. It is a call to prioritize love and humility, following Christ's example of selfless service.

Chapter 11 | FORGIVENESS: YOU DON'T GIVE— YOU DON'T GET| Q&A

1.Question

What is the main message of forgiveness that Jesus conveys in Mark 11:24-26?

Answer:Jesus emphasizes that true forgiveness is essential for receiving God's forgiveness. He clearly states that if we do not forgive others their offenses, we will not be forgiven by our Father in heaven.

2.Question

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How does the author illustrate the impact of unforgiveness through childhood experiences?

Answer: The author describes a scenario where a child repeatedly disregards a parent's threats of punishment, leading to a belief that authority figures do not mean what they say. This creates a pervasive attitude of disbelief in commitments and promises, affecting relationships throughout adulthood.

3.Question

What dramatic example does the author give to demonstrate the weight of unforgiveness?

Answer: The story of a minister in the Philippines who saw his mother-in-law burning in hell due to her refusal to forgive a relative demonstrates that unforgiveness can have eternal consequences, highlighting its severity.

4.Question

How does the parable of the unforgiving servant illustrate the Christian approach to forgiveness?

Answer: In the parable, a servant forgiven a massive,



unpayable debt fails to forgive a fellow servant a small debt. This illustrates that our offenses against God are far greater than any wrong done to us, and we must forgive others just as God forgives us.

5.Question

What connection does the author make between unforgiveness and personal suffering?

Answer:The author links unforgiveness to physical and mental ailments, suggesting that holding onto bitterness can lead to suffering and even disease, emphasizing the importance of forgiving others for our well-being.

6.Question

How is forgiveness related to spiritual growth according to the text?

Answer:The text suggests that forgiving others is crucial for experiencing God's presence and spiritual growth. Holding onto unforgiveness restricts one from receiving God's blessings and presence in their life.

7.Question

What does Jesus imply about the limits of forgiveness



based on Peter's question and Jesus' response?

Answer: Jesus implies that forgiveness should be limitless and unconditional, as he tells Peter to forgive not just seven times but seventy times seven, indicating an infinite willingness to forgive.

8.Question

How does the author warn against the dangers of harboring unforgiveness?

Answer: The author warns that believers who refuse to forgive may face severe consequences from God, including being turned over to torment and potentially losing their salvation by being entangled in sin.

9.Question

What call to action does the author present regarding how believers should practice forgiveness?

Answer: Believers are encouraged to reflect on the severity of their own offenses against God and to unconditionally forgive others, seeing it as a commandment from Christ, rather than a choice.



10.Question

How can understanding the reality of hell and God's forgiveness motivate an individual to forgive?

Answer: Recognizing the dire fate from which God has saved us underscores the importance of forgiveness; the love that saved us should compel us to extend forgiveness to others, as a reflection of God's grace towards us.

Chapter 12 | REVENGE: THE TRAP| Q&A

1.Question

What does it mean to hold onto an offense of unforgiveness?

Answer: Holding onto an offense is like keeping a debt against someone who has wronged you. You believe they owe you something—an acknowledgement, an apology, or compensation for your hurt, and until you receive that, you feel entitled to carry that bitterness within you.

2.Question

How does the concept of forgiveness relate to justice?

Answer: Forgiveness means relinquishing the desire for



personal justice or vengeance. The Scriptures tell us that vengeance belongs to the Lord, and by forgiving, we trust God to enact justice in His own way and timing, rather than attempting to judge or take matters into our own hands.

3.Question

Why is it important to compare the wrongs done to us with the forgiveness we've received?

Answer:Comparing our offenses with the forgiveness we've received from Jesus highlights the vastness of God's mercy. In realizing how much we have been forgiven, we can more easily release the smaller debts others owe us and avoid living in bitterness.

4.Question

What are the consequences of nursing a grudge or offense?

Answer:Nursing a grudge allows roots of bitterness to grow, leading to anger, resentment, and discord in our lives. This not only harms our mental and emotional health but can also defile our relationships and disconnect us from God's grace



and mercy.

5.Question

How can we ensure we have truly forgiven someone?

Answer: True forgiveness involves releasing the desire for them to make amends or admit wrongdoing. If you find yourself waiting for someone to apologize before you can move on, it may indicate you have not fully forgiven them.

6.Question

What role does humility play in the process of forgiveness?

Answer: Humility allows us to examine our own hearts honestly and admit when we are holding onto offenses. It helps us seek to understand others rather than judging them, drawing us closer to the heart of God and enabling true reconciliation.

7.Question

What is the significance of the story of David and Absalom in relation to bitterness and offenses?

Answer: The story illustrates how harboring offenses can lead to ruin. Absalom's unforgiving attitude toward his father and



his desire for revenge led to his own downfall, echoing the reality that unresolved bitterness not only harms others but ultimately destroys ourselves.

8.Question

How can we pursue peace and prevent bitterness from taking root in our lives?

Answer:We can pursue peace by releasing offenses quickly, engaging in open conversations, seeking reconciliation, and allowing the Holy Spirit to search our hearts for any unresolved issues. We should also remain rooted in God's love, focusing on forgiveness as He forgives us.

9.Question

What practical steps can be taken to let go of bitterness?

Answer:Practical steps include confessing feelings of hurt to God, praying for those who have wronged you, actively seeking to bless them instead of holding onto anger, and surrounding yourself with supportive community that encourages healing and grace.

10.Question

How does understanding our own faults influence our



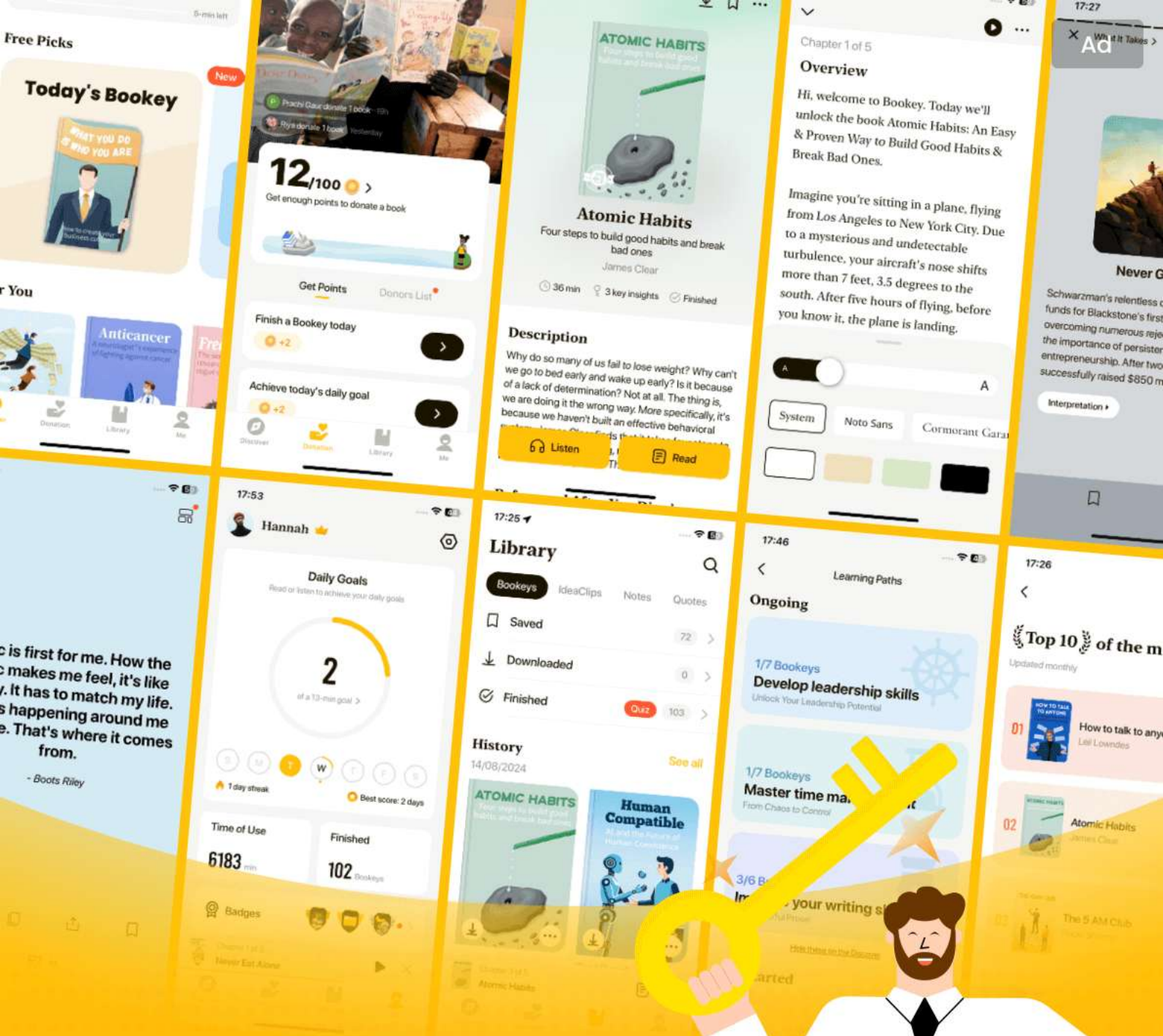
ability to forgive others?

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Chapter 13 | ESCAPING THE TRAP| Q&A

1.Question

What does Paul mean by ‘exercise’ in the context of maintaining a clear conscience towards God and men?

Answer:Paul likens the effort needed to maintain a clear conscience to exercising our bodies. Just as regular physical exercise strengthens our bodies and protects us from injuries, exercising spiritually prepares our hearts to handle offenses without being harmed emotionally or spiritually.

2.Question

How did the author realize he was actually hurt after trying to suppress his feelings?

Answer:The author realized he was hurt during a moment of prayer when he asked God about his emotional state. God responded emphatically, affirming that he was indeed hurt, prompting him to confront and address his feelings of offense.

3.Question

What is the significance of recognizing one’s hurt



according to the author?

Answer: Recognizing one's hurt is crucial as it is the first step towards healing and freedom. It prepares the individual to seek God's help and to be open to divine correction, which is essential for spiritual growth.

4.Question

What role does fasting play in the author's healing process?

Answer: Fasting served as a means to become more sensitive to the voice of God and to focus on seeking His guidance and grace, thus facilitating spiritual healing and clarity.

5.Question

How did the author change his prayers for the person who offended him?

Answer: Initially, the author's prayers were routine and lacking in passion. Through guidance from God, he transformed his prayers into heartfelt requests, seeking blessings and deeper revelations for the man who had wronged him, reflecting true forgiveness.



6.Question

What does it mean to mature through hardships according to the author?

Answer:Maturing through hardships means growing stronger and more compassionate through trials and challenges. The author emphasizes that facing difficult situations fosters obedience and a deeper relationship with God, ultimately leading to personal growth.

7.Question

What is the relationship between suffering and rejoicing as highlighted by Peter?

Answer:Peter suggests that the extent of suffering we endure correlates with the extent of our rejoicing. When we share in Christ's sufferings, we should also anticipate and rejoice in the glory that will be revealed, highlighting a cycle of suffering leading to spiritual fulfillment.

8.Question

How does the author define maturity in a Christian context?

Answer:Maturity in a Christian context is the ability to



respond to offenses and hardships with love and forgiveness rather than bitterness. It involves exercising one's heart through spiritual practices so that one can endure challenges without being spiritually injured.

9.Question

What lesson does the author share regarding helping others compared to being right?

Answer: The author emphasizes that it is more important to assist a struggling brother or sister in faith than to prove one's own correctness. This underscores the principle of selflessness and compassion in Christian relationships.

10.Question

How can one stay free from offense according to the text?

Answer: To stay free from offense, one must continuously 'exercise' their heart through spiritual practices such as prayer, forgiveness, and seeking God's help, which strengthens their ability to handle offenses without falling back into bitterness.

**Chapter 14 | OBJECTIVE: RECONCILIATION|
Q&A**



1.Question

What does Jesus mean when He says that being angry with a brother puts one in danger of judgment?

Answer:Jesus emphasizes that anger, when harbored without cause, is akin to murder in the heart. It reflects the negative attitude and potential hatred that can develop within us, indicating the seriousness of our internal states and not just our actions.

2.Question

Why does Jesus instruct us to reconcile with someone who is offended with us?

Answer:Jesus teaches that our relationships should take precedence over rituals or offerings to God. Reconciling with the offended brother is an expression of love and obedience to God's command, helping both parties to heal and preventing hatred from taking root.

3.Question

How can we effectively approach someone we have offended?



Answer: Approach the person with humility, an open heart, and a willingness to listen. Adopt an attitude of peacemaking rather than defensiveness, actively seeking to understand their feelings and acknowledging your role in the offense without retaliation.

4.Question

What is the significance of calling someone 'Raca' or 'fool'?

Answer: These terms, used to belittle others, indicate a transition from mere anger to hatred. They call into question the heart's disposition towards others, demonstrating that such contempt may lead to serious spiritual consequences.

5.Question

What should be our attitude if someone confronts us about an offense we caused?

Answer: We should be humble, willing to listen, and ready to accept responsibility. Acknowledging our faults instead of becoming defensive promotes reconciliation and addresses the emotional wounds caused.



6.Question

What are the steps Jesus prescribes if someone does not listen when approached about their wrongdoing?

Answer:First, go directly to the person. If that fails, take one or two others as witnesses to mediate, and finally, if they still refuse to listen, involve the church in the hope of restoration, always aiming for reconciliation.

7.Question

What does it truly mean to be a 'peacemaker' according to the text?

Answer:A peacemaker actively engages in resolving conflict through love and truth, rather than avoiding confrontation for superficial peace. This involves facing issues directly to cultivate genuine reconciliation that endures.

8.Question

How does Paul describe the qualities that facilitate peace in relationships?

Answer:Paul highlights humility, gentleness, and long-suffering as essential traits for maintaining unity and peace among individuals, indicating that these attributes help



to nurture strong and loving bonds.

9.Question

What is the core message regarding forgiveness and reconciliation presented in this chapter?

Answer:The core message emphasizes that forgiveness is not contingent upon the other person's actions or responses but must come from our hearts. True reconciliation involves laying aside pride and approaching conflicts with love, aiming to restore relationships.

10.Question

How should we handle our feelings when going to someone who has wronged us?

Answer:Before approaching the offender, we need to ensure we have forgiven them in our hearts to avoid acting out of resentment or anger. This prepares us to confront them constructively rather than out of emotional pain.

11.Question

What does Romans 12:18 encourage us to do in our relationships?

Answer:Romans 12:18 encourages us to strive for peace in



our relationships, doing everything within our power to maintain harmony, but recognizing that true reconciliation sometimes requires both parties to be willing.

12.Question

What is the ultimate source of love that helps us avoid the bait of Satan?

Answer: The ultimate source of love is God's love, which is selfless, enduring, and free from offense. It empowers us to act lovingly towards others, even in the face of conflict, preventing us from being ensnared by offense.



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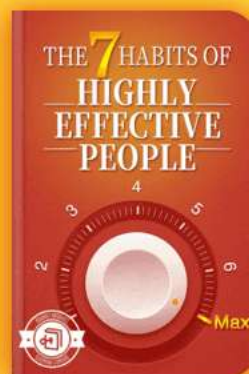
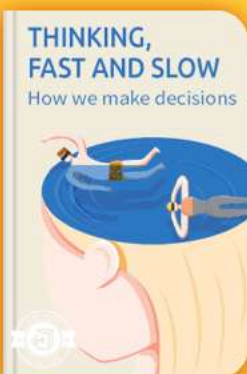


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The Bait Of Satan Quiz and Test

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Chapter 1 | ME, OFFENDED?| Quiz and Test

1. Offenses will inevitably occur in life as stated in Luke 17:1.
2. Offense primarily comes from strangers rather than those close to us.
3. Acknowledging one's own offenses can lead to healing and moving past personal bitterness.

Chapter 2 | MASSIVE OFFENSE| Quiz and Test

1. In Chapter 2, John Bevere defines agape as conditional love among friends.
2. The chapter emphasizes that offense can lead to strongholds that distort one's understanding of God and others.
3. Bevere suggests that trusting in God and avoiding offense is essential for spiritual growth.

Chapter 3 | HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO ME?| Quiz and Test

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1. Joseph was the favored son of Jacob which caused his brothers to show him support and admiration.
2. Despite being wrongfully imprisoned, Joseph chose to maintain his integrity and good character.
3. Joseph's story demonstrates that offense can align individuals with God's greater purpose in life.



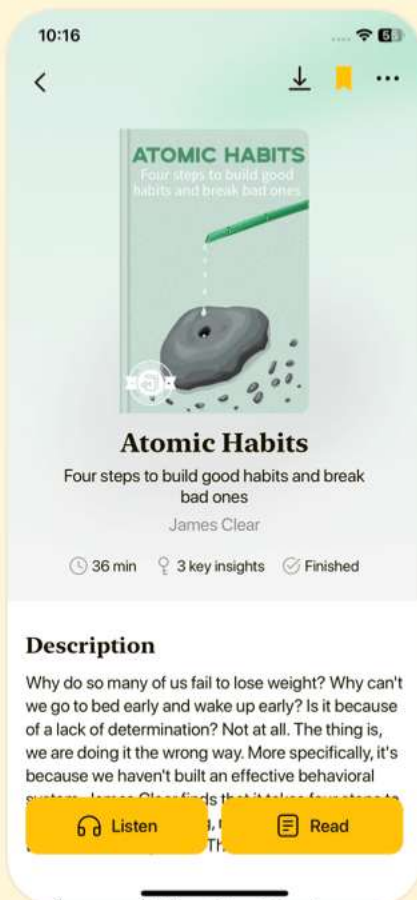


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Chapter 4 | MY FATHER, MY FATHER!| Quiz and Test

1. David felt a deeper hurt from Saul than Joseph felt from his brothers due to their close relationship.
2. The chapter portrays leadership as unimportant and unnecessary in society.
3. David chose to harm Saul during their conflicts to demonstrate his strength in battle.

Chapter 5 | HOW SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ARE BORN| Quiz and Test

1. David demonstrated unwavering loyalty towards Saul, even while being mistreated and pursued.
2. According to Romans 12:19, personal revenge is acceptable as long as it is justified.
3. Being planted in a church is essential for spiritual growth, even during conflicts.

Chapter 6 | HIDING FROM REALITY| Quiz and Test

1. Individuals should leave a church or ministry team whenever they feel like it, regardless of God's



direction.

2. Spiritual maturity is indicated by a person's ability to respond to the Spirit, distinguishing between 'teknon' and 'huios'.
3. Avoiding personal responsibilities and harboring offenses is a productive way to grow spiritually.



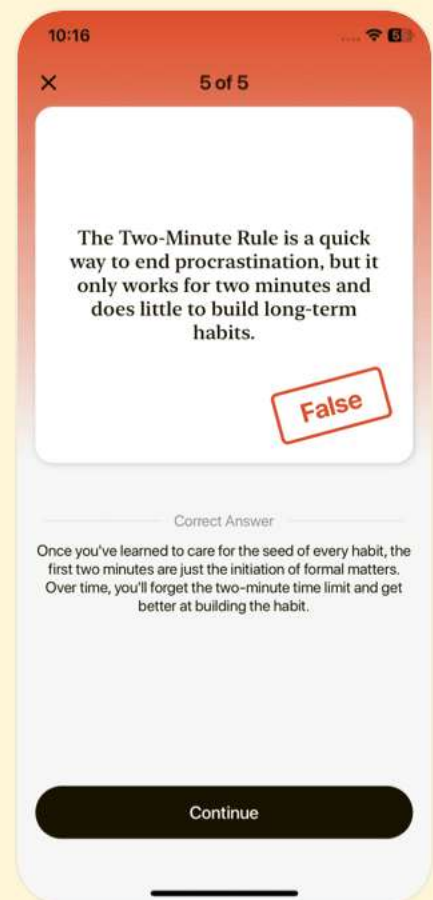
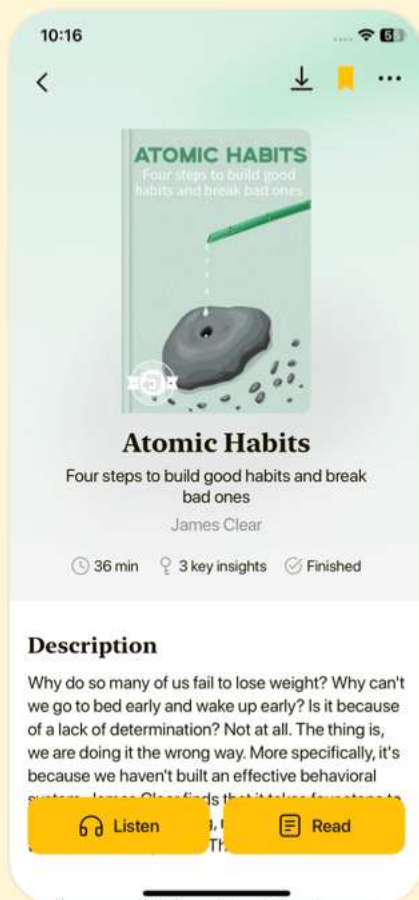


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Chapter 7 | THE SURE FOUNDATION| Quiz and Test

- 1.The foundation of belief is crucial for stability in faith, and those who act hastily are often stronger than those who seek personal understanding.
- 2.Simon Peter declared Jesus as the Christ through divine revelation, showing that personal hunger for God's truth is important.
- 3.Listening for God's voice when receiving teaching is unimportant as head knowledge suffices for spiritual maturity.

Chapter 8 | ALL THAT CAN BE SHAKEN WILL BE SHAKEN| Quiz and Test

- 1.God's promise to shake the earth and heaven indicates the removal of the shakable to reveal that which cannot be shaken.
- 2.Peter's confidence during trials was rooted in humility and dependence on God.
- 3.True faith is dependent on personal benefits and your understanding of God's character.



Chapter 9 | THE ROCK OF OFFENSE| Quiz and Test

1. True belief in Jesus Christ is solely based on acknowledgment of His existence.
2. Obedience to God should stem from a genuine love for Jesus instead of from a love for doctrine.
3. Jesus compromised His message to avoid offending His family and friends.



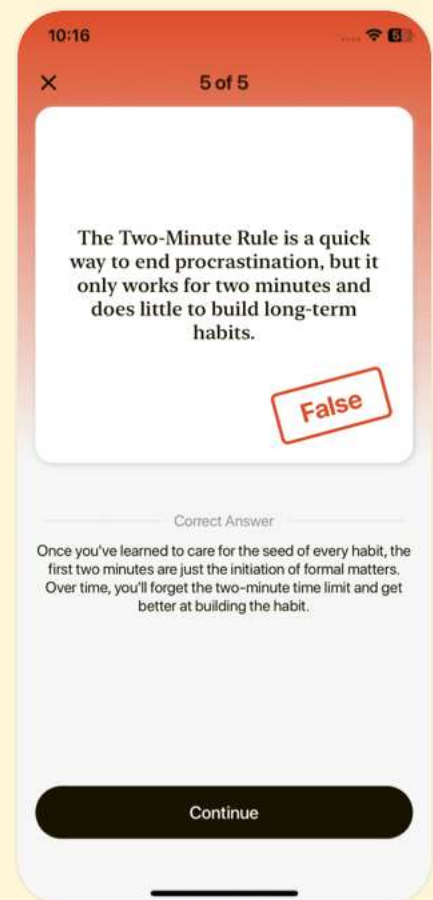
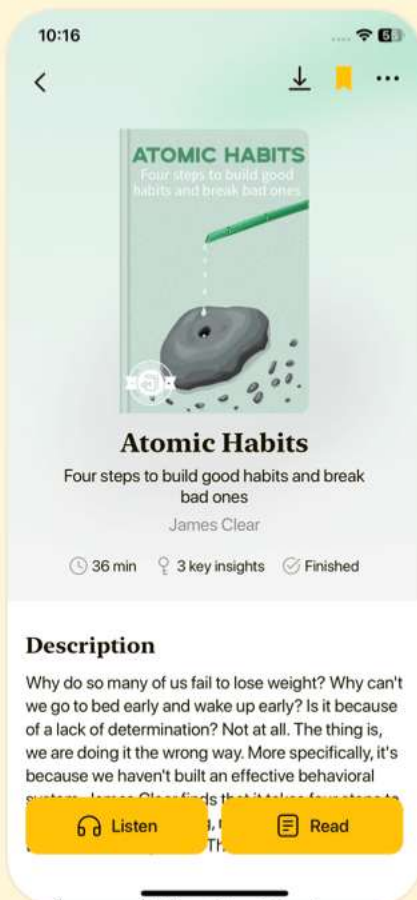


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Chapter 10 | LEST WE OFFEND THEM| Quiz and Test

1. Jesus chose to pay the temple tax to avoid causing offense, even though He was exempt as the Son of God.
2. The chapter suggests that true freedom is about asserting one's rights above all.
3. According to the chapter, Christians are encouraged to serve joyfully and selflessly, mirroring Jesus' heart.

Chapter 11 | FORGIVENESS: YOU DON'T GIVE— YOU DON'T GET| Quiz and Test

1. Jesus teaches that our forgiveness from God is contingent on our willingness to forgive others.
2. Cultural attitudes cultivated in childhood affirm that authority figures always follow through on their promises.
3. The parable of The Unforgiving Servant illustrates that all offenses we experience from others are far greater than the offenses we owe to God.

Chapter 12 | REVENGE: THE TRAP| Quiz and Test

1. The Bible teaches that holding onto offenses is



similar to holding a debt that requires payment.

2. According to Romans 12:19, believers are allowed to take vengeance into their own hands.

3. Forgiveness should depend on whether the offender acknowledges their wrongdoing.

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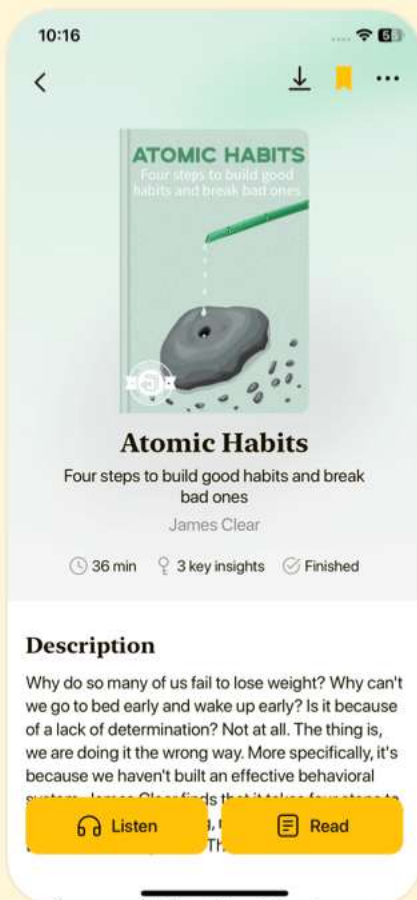


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Chapter 13 | ESCAPING THE TRAP| Quiz and Test

1. Maintaining a conscience free from offense is likened to physical exercise.
2. The author claims that confronting offenses is not necessary for spiritual growth and maturity.
3. Experiencing hardship does not contribute to spiritual growth according to the author.

Chapter 14 | OBJECTIVE: RECONCILIATION| Quiz and Test

1. The chapter teaches that it is important to prioritize reconciliation over worship when someone has something against you.
2. The chapter states that when someone offends us, we should confront them in anger to restore the relationship.
3. According to the chapter, true love drives away offense and promotes understanding in relationships.





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