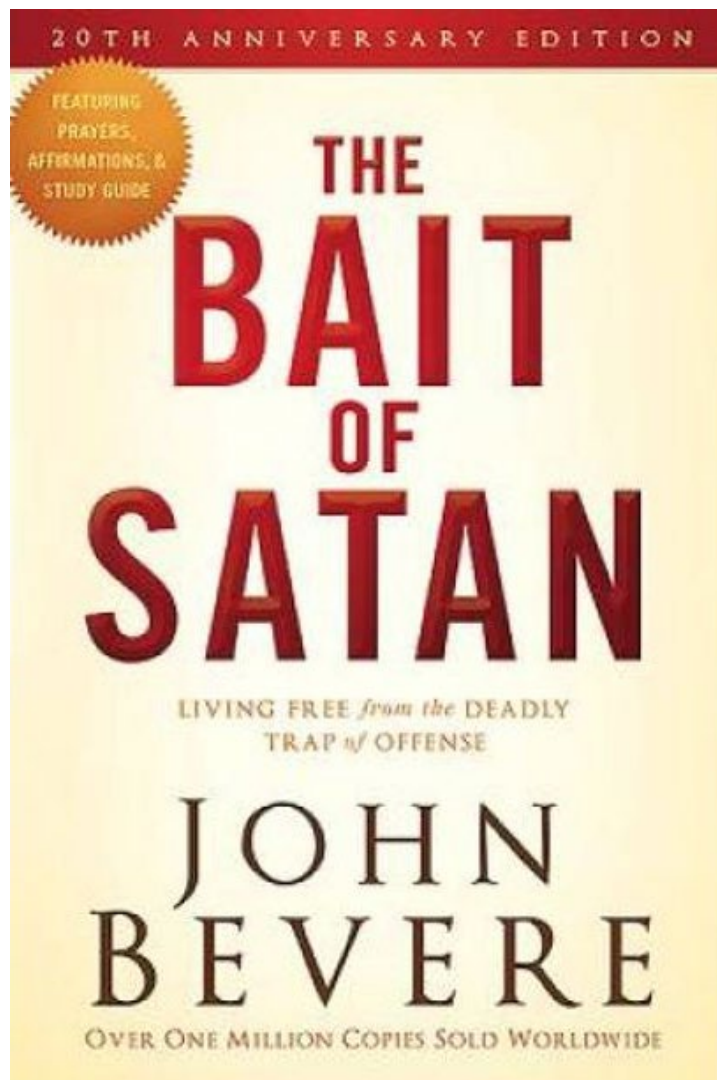


The Bait Of Satan Book Review



MOB Book Review/Summary

| TITLE | AUTHOR |
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| <i>THE BAIT OF SATAN</i> – Living Free from the Deadly Trap of Offense | John Bevere |

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| Book Overview | In paraphrase, Luke 17:1 basically states it is impossible for us not to encounter being offended. For the sheer sake of being human with our own minds, volition and perceptions, we are going to say and do things that are injurious to one another. This book focuses on the scriptural approach to dealing with this dynamic and how to achieve victory and eliminate anxiety and separation from each other and ultimately GOD. |
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| CHAPTER | SUMMARY (HIGHLIGHTS/NOTES) |
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| Introduction (Page 1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trap: ✓ In order for a trap to be successful, two things must be present; 1) It must be hidden and 2) It must be baited. ✓ Satan incorporates both of these strategies to ensnare us. ✓ The enemy is not as blatant as we believe. He is subtle, shrewd and enticing. ✓ Offense is one of the enemies biggest traps and weapons against the Body of Christ. ✓ Being offended in unto itself, not harmful...how we respond to it is. ✓ Offended people produce much fruit such as hurt, anger, outrage, jealousy, resentment, strife, bitterness, hatred, envy and justification. ✓ Consequences: ✓ Insults, attacks, wounding, division, separation, broken relationships, betrayal and backsliding ✓ Often those who are offended are oblivious to their condition because of their focus on the wrong that was done to them. They are in denial. ✓ Freedom from offense is essential for the spiritual success of every believer. ✓ Knowledge has increased due to technology. However, there is a genuine lack of God's love...1 Cor. 8:1 |
| Prayer (Page 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Father, in the Name of Jesus, I ask that You would reveal by Your Spirit, Your Word to me as I read this book. Expose any hidden areas of my heart that have hindered me from knowing You and serving You more effectively. I welcome the conviction of the Holy Spirit and ask for Your grace to carry out what You desire of me. May I come to know You more intimately as a result of hearing Your voice through reading this book.</i> |
| Declarations (Pg. 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>I refuse to be trapped when the enemy's bait of offense tries to ensnare me in its grip by filling me heart with bitterness, jealousy or envy.</i> ✓ <i>Satan, you are the enemy of my soul and I refuse to allow you to ensnare me in your hidden and baited trap of offense against my brothers and sisters in Christ.</i> |

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| Chapter 1 (Page 5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Most believers have been injured by fellow believers...church hurt. ✓ 2 Tim 3:2..A society where we love ourselves, our desires, more than all else... ✓ Psalm 55: 12-14 ✓ ¹² <i>For it is not an enemy who taunts me— Then I could bear it; Nor is it one who has hated me who insolently exalts himself against me— Then I could hide from him.</i> ¹³ <i>But it is you, a man my equal and my counsel, My companion and my familiar friend;</i> ¹⁴ <i>We who had sweet fellowship together, Who walked to the house of God in company.</i> ✓ It is often those that we sit and sing along with or even those that are delivering the sermon! ✓ Some of the most vicious instances of offense are marriages. ✓ Family related offenses are often difficult to heal due to familial ties...ONLY THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT CAN REALLY HURT YOU! You expect more from them. ✓ Even more impactful, it is those that we sleep with. ✓ Selfishness reigns in our society...me generation! (2 Timothy 3:2). Paul was not referring to unbelievers in this passage! Those that are hurt, bitter, angry often don't realize they have fallen into satan's trap! |
| Deceptive Trap (Page 6) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>The greek word for offense in "skand-alon"</i> ✓ Offense is a trap of the enemy to bring our spirits into captivity, often unknowingly. ✓ Spewing out bitter waters ...they believe they are right even when they are not. ✓ 2 categories: 1)Those who have been treated unjustly, and 2)Those who "believe" they have been treated unjustly. ✓ For "2, they believe with all their heart that they have been treated badly or |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | wronged. Often their conclusions are drawn from inaccurate information, or their information is accurate, but their conclusion(s) is distorted. Either way, they hurt and their understanding is darkened. They judge by assumption, appearance and hearsay. |
| The Heart's True Condition (Page 7) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pride is a key the enemy uses to keep the offended blinded to the true condition of their heart. ✓ Pride causes us to view ourselves as victims rather than overcomers... ✓ Pride distorts your vision ...you never change when you think everything is fine and/or you are Good, cool with things, etc. when you are not. ✓ Pride keeps you from repentance (2 Timothy 2:24-26) ✓ Attitude: I was mistreated and misjudged. Therefore, I am justified in my behavior of withholding forgiveness to these individuals. ✓ Just because you are mistreated, you do not have permission from God to hold onto your unforgiveness. ✓ Although your heart condition may be obscured or hidden from you, it is not hidden from God. |
| The Cure (Page 8) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The church of Laodicea – (Rev. 3:14-20)...they had mistaken their financial strength for spiritual strength. Pride hid their true condition. ✓ Buying God's Gold – Refined in the fire (rev, 3:14-20), Pg. 22: pure gold is tender, pliable and flexible. ✓ Hebrews 3:13 states that our hearts are hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. If we do not deal with the spirit of offense, it will produce more fruits of sin, bitterness, resentment and anger. This, in turn, removes spiritual sensitivity and we are hindered in our ability to hear God's voice clearly. Our accuracy is darkened which now makes us more susceptible to deception. ✓ Process of Refinement - |
| Declarations (Pg. 10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>I refuse to be trapped when the enemy's bait of offense tries to ensnare me in its grip by filling me heart with bitterness, jealousy or envy.</i> ✓ <i>Satam, you are the enemy of my soul and I refuse to allow you to ensnare me in your hidden and baited trap of offense against my brothers and sisters in Christ.</i> |

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| SCRIPTURE REFERENCES | ✓ 2 Tim 3:2, Psalm 55: 12-14, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Rev. 3:14-20 |
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| Chapter 2 (Page 13) Massive Offense | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Matthew 24:10-13 <i>“And then many will be offended, will betray one another and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.</i> ✓ This passage is referring to the Agape love that has fallen short in the lives of God’s people. ✓ Gal. 6:9, we have to learn to sow love to others even when we don’t receive it back from them. ✓ Jesus forgave all...closest friends who deserted him, Judas Iscariot, Peter, the Roman guards who crucified him...they didn’t ask for forgiveness, but Jesus forgave them anyway. (Matt. 5:44-47) |
| Great Expectations (Page 15) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ “I realized that the love I was giving was being sown to the spirit and eventually, I would reap those seeds of love. I didn’t know from where, but I knew the harvest would come. No longer did I see it as a failure when love wasn’t returned from the person I was giving it to. It freed me to love that person even more!” |
| Walls of Protection (Pg. 15) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proverbs 18:19...an offended brother or sister is harder to win than a fortified city. ✓ We construct walls when we are hurt to safeguard our hearts and prevent any future wounds. ✓ We withhold access to people in our lives until they have paid their debts to us in full. ✓ We open our lives only to people we believe are on our side. ✓ Our energy is consumed with making sure no future injuries occur. ✓ Love does not seek it’s own, but hurt people become more and more self-seeking and self-contained. In this climate of the Love of God waxes cold. ✓ Sea of Galilee versus the Dead Sea ✓ Sea of Galilee is free flowing with water in and out by the Jordan River. On the other hand, the Dead Sea can only receive water with no outlet. Nothing lives in the Dead Sea. ✓ Life cannot be sustained if only held onto: it must be given freely. ✓ 2 Corinthians 10:4-5..strongholds create set patterns of reasoning through which all incoming information is processed...they war against the knowing of God. ✓ When we filter everything through past hurts, rejections and experiences, |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>we find it impossible to believe God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Offended people will be able to find scripture to back their position(s), but it is not the correct division of God's word. ✓ The knowledge of God's word without love is a destructive force because it puffs us up with pride and legalism (1 Cor. 8:1-3). This causes us to justify ourselves rather than repent of the unforgiveness. |
| False Prophets (Page 17) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ False Prophets are self-seeking men/women who give the appearance of being Christians (sheep's clothing, Mat. 7:15) , but have the inward nature of a wolf or predator. ✓ Their teaching can be sound, but the fruit of their lives and ministries is not. They must be identified by their fruit and not just their teachings or prophecies. |
| Information Generation (Page 18) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Apostle Paul prophetically saw this day coming...deceived men/women would have a zest for knowledge but remain unchanged because of their refusal to actually live the Word! (2 Tim. 3:7) ✓ He would see people attending camp meetings, seminars, church services amassing knowledge, hunting for new revelations in order to live more selfish, successful lives. ✓ He'd see ministers taking other ministers to court ✓ He would see Christian publications and broadcasts attacking women and men of God by name. ✓ He would see Christians running from church to church to escape offense all because they cannot forgive. |
| Betrayal (Page 19) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ AN offense leads to betrayal and betrayal leads to hatred ✓ When we betray, we seek our own protection or benefit at the expense of someone else ✓ To betray someone is the ultimate abandonment of covenant. When betrayal occurs, the relationship cannot be restored until true repentance occurs. ✓ Betrayal then leads to hatred with serious consequences...(1 John 3:15) ✓ Laws of Love...(1 Cor. 6:7, Mat. 5:44, Phil. 2:3) |
| Declarations (Page 21) | ✓ |
| SCRIPTURE REFERENCES | ✓ Matthew 24:10-13, Matt. 5:44-47, Proverbs 18:19, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, 1 Cor. 8:1-3, Mat. 7:15, 2 Tim. 3:7, 1 John 3:15, 1 Cor. 6:7, Mat. 5:44, Phil. 2:3 |
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| Chapter 3 (Page 25) How Could This Happen to me? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ IF YOU'VE BEEN GENUINELY MISTREATED, DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE OFFENDED? ✓ Joseph's dream ✓ Joseph was despised by his brother's because he was favored by father. ✓ Jacob. ✓ His dreams of his family bowing to him incensed his brothers. (1. Bound sheaves in a field that bowed to him and 2. Sun. moon and stars bowing to him ✓ They threw him in a pit to die and then stained his coat of many colors with blood to convince Jacob of Joseph's death. ✓ They saw a band Ishmaelites and decided to profit from Joseph's proposed demise. (20 skekels of silver, around \$200) ✓ Inheritance to the son was extremely important in Jewish custom. ✓ Once sold into slavery, you were forever locked into that status. Any spouse and/or children were now subject to the same status. ✓ Potipher's wife setup of Joseph and claimed rape because he spurned her...he had integrity despite his circumstances. He was thrown into Pharaoh's prison. |
| Is God in Control? (Page 28) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Joseph was learning obedience through the things he had suffered. ✓ ...authority is given to serve, not to be set apart. ✓ Often during our periods of suffering, we sometimes lose sight on the greatness of our God and his plans for us. ✓ Sometimes when we face the fact that God could have intervened in our circumstances and did not, we can often "blame" him! ✓ If we're not careful, we'll blame others for the circumstances in our lives (Page 29). ✓ Key point: <i>Absolutely no man, woman, child or devil can ever get you out of the Will of God!</i> No one but God holds your destiny. ✓ It seems that we sometimes believe that heaven panics and has no plan for us when emergencies arise! ✓ Although we have issues with people, we sometimes don't take the time to think that God loves them and has a plan for their lives as well. If Joseph would have taken revenge and killed his brothers, it would have affected 10 leaders linked to the 12 tribes of Israel including Judah through which the lineage of Jesus Christ came. |
| God always has a Plan(Pg. 30) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ God used Joseph to interpret dreams ✓ Pharaoh had a troubling dream that none of his experts could interpret. The |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>prisoner who asked Joseph to remember him to Pharoah remembered Joseph's plea and in a moment when he thought not, the prisoner mentioned to Pharoah.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Joseph successfully interpreted the dream and was immediately promoted to the second highest position in the country.✓ Joseph ended up blessing his family beyond measure when the famine hit. (Gen. 45:5-8)✓ To become offended would only fulfill the purpose of the enemy to get you out of the Will of God.✓ WE MUST REMEMBER THAT NOTHING CAN COME AGAINST US WITHOUT THE LORD'S KNOWLEDGE BEFORE IT EVER HAPPENS! |
| Declarations (Page 33) | ✓ |

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| Chapter 4 (Page 37) My Father, My Father | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THE REJECTION OF A FATHER ✓ What do you do when you feel betrayed by your leader? ✓ A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP ✓ King David and Saul ✓ Perhaps David felt some kind of way when the Prophet Samuel prophesied David would become king. ✓ King Saul was tormented by God because he did not obey God’s instructions for utterly destroying the Amelakites (1 Samuel Chapter 15). The only thing that soothed King Saul was the playing of the harp by David. ✓ David had heard that King Saul offered his daughter in marriage for any man could slay the giant Phillistine. David asked King Saul if he could represent Israel since he had already found favor with King Saul. ✓ One day, things changed because the people (women) were lauding the accomplishments of David greater than that of King Saul. This infuriated King Saul with jealousy to the point he wanted to murder David. King Saul hated David because he knew the favor of God was on David and had departed from him. ✓ King Saul commissioned three thousand soldiers to help him find and slaughter David. One evening, weary from trekking David, King Saul and his soldiers camped out near a cave (En Gedi) to rest. They did not know the David was actually hiding in the back of the cave. God placed Saul and his soldiers in a deep sleep. David quietly sneaked through the camp, found King Saul and cut a piece of his robe and crept away unnoticed. ✓ As Saul was leaving, David cried out to him that he had cut away a piece of King Saul’s robe in the middle of the night. David could have killed him then, but he wanted Saul’s covering and favor. |
| Where Are the Fathers? (Page 40) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHERE ARE THE FATHERS IN THE GOSPEL? ✓ Leaders today seem to be more focused on their vision and plans rather than serving the Kingdom of God through serving people...it’s people serving their needs. ✓ The success of the vision justifies the cost of wounded lives and shattered people...decisions are based on money, numbers and results like a corporation. ✓ If leaders are not careful, they can find themselves jealous, envious or covetous of those that serve under them. They are willing to use people as a means to the end. Saul enjoyed the success of David until he felt |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>threatened. He then demoted David and ultimately sought to destroy him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ People who have rejected by a leader often blame themselves for the behavior of the leader. |
| <p>Who will avenge me? (Page 41)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ABISHAI AND DAVID (1 SAM 26:8) ✓ Abishai reasoned with David as to why David should allow him to kill Saul... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saul murdered 85 innocent priests and their families ○ Saul once again sent out 3,000 soldiers to kill David ○ God, through Samuel, had anointed David the rightful King of Israel. ○ God put an entire army into a deep sleep so that David/Abishai could walk through. ✓ If David were to allow an offended mentality to rule his mind and heart, he could have easily killed Saul, but pre-empted his future. ✓ David employed great wisdom and insight as to allow God to avenge his plight (1 Sam 26:9-11) ✓ We no longer kill with a sword, but use our tongue to destroy and maim people's reputations. ✓ Proverbs 6:16-19 says sowing discord or separation among brethren is an abomination |
| <p>Is God Using Me to Expose My Leader's sins?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HOW DO YOU SERVE UNDER LEADERSHIP THAT IS TRYING TO DESTROY OR RUIN YOU? ✓ Pastor Bevere was under extreme pressure with the prospect that he was to be unfairly terminated. An Assistant Pastor had lied and set him up to look bad in the eyes of the senior pastor. ✓ One day he had prayed for over 45 minutes asking God how might expose the Asst Pastor. After awhile, he inherently understood that God did not want him to repeat the process that had been done to him. ✓ God impressed upon Pastor Bevere to go to the Asst Pastor and ask forgiveness although the Asst Pastor started the issues. |
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| Chapter 5 (Page 51) How Spiritual Vagabonds are Born | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HOW SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ARE BORN ✓ It is righteous for God to avenge his servants. It is unrighteous for God’s servants to avenge themselves. ✓ <i>The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing that he is the anointed of the Lord. So David restrained his servants with these words and did not allow them to rise against Saul, 1 Samuel 24:6-7.</i> ✓ In the last chapter we discussed the level of commitment and devotion David had towards Saul only to realize the opposite was true from Sauls perspective. ✓ God wanted to see whether David would kill to establish his Kingdom after the order of Saul, or allow God to establish a throne of righteousness forever. ✓ Romans 12:19 – <i>Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay” says the Lord.</i> ✓ God tests his servants with obedience. He deliberately places us in situations where the standards of religion and society would appear to justify our actions. ✓ As David stood over Saul, he faced an important test...it would reveal if David still had a noble heart of a shepherd, or the insecurity of another Saul. |
| How Can God Use Corrupt Leaders? (Page 52) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HOW CAN GOD USE CORRUPT LEADERS? ✓ Childhood of Samuel...(1 Sam. 2-5) God, not the devil was the One who placed Samuel under the evil rule/authority of wicked, corrupt priest Eli and his wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas who were priests also. ✓ They took offerings by manipulation and force, committed fornication with women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle. ✓ Most Christians would leave the ministry and excoriate the ministry publicly. ✓ Samuel’s response was to serve faithfully under Eli (1 Sam. 3:1). Samuel apparently understood that he was ultimately serving God in spite of the disposition of who he served under...what a lesson for us to learn! ✓ Corruption ultimately takes it’s toll! The scriptures states the Word of the Lord was rare during those times..(1 Sam. 3:1) ✓ Samuel realized that Eli was God’s servant. CHILDREN DO NOT CORRECT FATHERS! |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leaders have a responsibility to train, discipline, lead and guide. Samuel's only chance for a correctional response was when Eli asked Samuel's opinion regarding a dream that Eli had. Even then, it was not a correction directly coming from Samuel, it was from God. |
| Churches Aren't Cafeterias (Page 54) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CHURCHES AREN'T CAFETERIAS ✓ People quickly leave churches without hesitation in many cases. ✓ Jesus is the only perfect pastor. Why do we run from difficult situations in America rather than facing them and working through them? How often do disgruntled members actually meet with leaders to gain further clarity on the issues at hand? ✓ Most people treat churches like cafeterias...then can pick and choose as they please! THIS IS NOT SCRIPTURE! ✓ 1 Cor. 12:18 reads..."But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as he pleased". According to our actions in our culture, we interpret God has set in the body as WE please... ✓ Key Point: If you are in the place where God wants you, the devil will use everything at his disposal, most notably, offense to move you from where God has you. If he can get you out, his plans were successful. ✓ Take the pebble out of my hand! Famous statement from the martial arts series in the 70's called Kung Fu. |
| The Critical Deception (Page 55) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BE AWARE OF THE COUNSEL OF OTHERS ✓ Sage wisdom from truly spiritual friends/family is to earnestly seek God for critical, sentinel decisions. ✓ Proverbs 16:22, "...where there is no wood, the fire goes out and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases". ✓ The grass seems greener from the other side...fallacy of the church hopper. ✓ Offended people react to the situation and do things that appear right even though they are not inspired by God. ✓ If we are obedient to God and have sought him, but he has not spoken??? ✓ God places us in uncomfortable situations to mature, refine and strengthen us, not destroy us! |
| The Planted Flourish (Page 56) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR? ✓ Many go from ministry to ministry to ultimately establish their own ministry! If God places them in a ministry where they don't receive the expected recognition...GHOST! They fail to recognize their own character flaws. ✓ Psalms 92:13..."<i>Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God</i>". ✓ If we do not run so fast from spiritual resistance, our root systems would have a chance to become stronger and deeper and our fruit would be plentiful and sweeter in the eyes of God and more palatable to His people. ✓ OFFENSE/THE LAW OF GOD/SPIRITUAL GROWTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Psalms 1:1-2, <i>Blessed is the man whose delight is in the Law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night!</i> ○ Psalms 119: 165, <i>Great peace have they which love [or delight in] thy law; and nothing shall offend them.</i> ○ Psalms 1:3, <i>He shall be like a tree planted by rivers of living water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper</i> ✓ We must grow strong roots. God has mercy on us all, but he only "deals" |

MOB Book Review/Summary

with mature believers...(Mark 4:16-17, "...And these are they likewise which are sown in stony ground; who when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness and have not root in themselves, and do endure for a time; afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

- ✓ Once you leave the place God has chosen for you, your root system begins to dwarf. The next time you face adversity, it will be easy for you to flee because you have been careful not to root yourself deeper...giving yourself an escape clause in essence. You then become a **SPIRITUAL VAGABOND**.
- ✓ CRIPPLED AND HINDERED IN YOUR ABILITY TO PRODUCE TRUE SPIRITUAL FRUIT, YOU STRUGGLE IN A SELF-CENTERED LIFE EATING THE REMAINS OF THE FRUIT OF OTHERS...
- ✓ Cain tried to win God's acceptance apart from God's counsel. Cain offended the Lord, but rather than repent, he took his anger and rage out on Abel. (Gen. 4:11-12).
- ✓ Offended people may still experience miracles, words of utterance, strong preaching and healing in their lives. However, these attributes and/or gifts of the Spirit, not fruit.
- ✓ WE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO FRUIT, NOT GIFTS...A GIFT IS GIVEN, A FRUIT IS CULTIVATED OR DEVELOPED.
- ✓ Notice that God said Cain would become a fugitive and a vagabond as a result of his actions. There are numerous spiritual vagabonds in our churches today. Their gifts and talents, if not well-received where God has placed them, allow them to leave for greener pasture where they might be more readily received. Cain though the same thing in Gen. 4:14.
- ✓ Offended people believe everyone is out to get them and their gift(s) is not appreciated. Proverbs 18:1 states..."*A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.*

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| Chapter 6 (Page 64) Hiding From Reality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HIDING FROM REALITY ✓ ACQUIRING AN OFFENSE KEEPS YOU FROM SEEING YOUR OWN CHARACTER FLAWS BECAUSE YOUR BLAME IS DEFERRED TO ANOTHER... ✓ The spirit of offense will often invoke a sense of isolationism with an understanding that one can serve God in an isolated state apart from other believers. ✓ When should I leave a church or ministry team? Answer: Who sent you to that particular church? The majority answer is God did. Response: If God sent you, then don't leave until God releases you. ✓ When God sends you, it is always in peace...Isaiah 55:12..." For ye shall go out in joy and be led forth with peace." ✓ Your departure will not be based on the actions or behaviors of others but rather on the Spirit's leading...leaving a ministry is not based on how bad things are. ✓ Romans 8:14...For as many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ✓ The word "son" is derived from two Greek words: <i>teknon</i> (one who is a son by mere fact of birth) and <i>huios</i> (one who can be identified as a son because he displays the characteristics of his parents). ✓ For <i>teknon</i>, Romans 8:15-16, ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading again to fear [of God's judgment], but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons [the Spirit producing sonship] by which we [joyfully] cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies <i>and</i> confirms together with our spirit [assuring us] that we [believers] are children of God. ✓ For <i>huios</i>, Romans 8:14... ¹⁴ For all who are <i>allowing themselves to</i> be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ✓ Translated, <i>teknon</i> implies babies or immature sons and <i>huios</i> implies mature sons. ✓ One path of growth or spiritual maturity is through trying situations and/or hardships. Hebrews 5:8, ⁸ Although He was a Son [huios] [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered. ✓ Growth cycles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical Growth is a function of time. ○ Intellectual growth is a function of time. ○ Spiritual Growth is a function of obedience. |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Word must not only be heard and learned, it must be applied. Application only occurs through active life scenarios. ✓ Some Christians are always learning, but never coming to the knowledge (epignosis) of the truth because of lack of “application” ...doers of the word! |
| Self Preservation (Pg. 68) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ SELF PRESERVATION ✓ The offended person will avoid the source of the offense and eventually flee becoming a spiritual vagabond. ✓ How we view past relationships is the scope of how we establish new ones. If we were offended in the past, we will once again be offended in the future! ✓ John 20:23...” If you forgive the sins of anyone they are forgiven [because of their faith]; if you retain <i>the sins</i> of anyone, they are retained [and remain unforgiven because of their unbelief].” ✓ Divorcees...60-65% of divorced people end up in divorce again after remarriage. ✓ Many times God will allow people to run away from situations He desires them to face if they are set from running away in their hearts...God (Holy Spirit) never forces us to do what we don’t want to do. I Kings 18-19 ✓ God fed Elijah and took care of him although Elijah disobeyed by running and not confronting Jezebel. God ended up having Elijah anoint Elisha and Jehu confront and destroy the rule of Jezebel. If were not careful, God will use us to usher in our replacement! ✓ Love forgets wrongs so that there is hope for the future! |
| Declaration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FATHER, MAKE ME NOT ONLY YOUR TEKNON SON (DAUGHTER) ADOPTED BY INTO YOUR FAMILY BY MY NEW BIRTH THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, BUT ALSO YOUR HUIOS SON, ABLE TO BE IDENTIFIED AS YOUR SON (DAUGHTER) BECAUSE I DISPLAY THE GODLY CHARACTERISTICS OF MY FATHER. |

MOB Book Review/Summary

| TITLE | AUTHOR |
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| THE BAIT OF SATAN – Living Free from the Deadly Trap of Offense | John Bevere |

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| Book Overview | In paraphrase, Luke 17:1 basically states it is impossible for us not to encounter being offended. For the sheer sake of being human with our own minds, volition and perceptions, we are going to say and do things that are injurious to one another. This book focuses on the scriptural approach to dealing with this dynamic and how to achieve victory and eliminate anxiety and separation from each other and ultimately GOD. |
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| CHAPTER | SUMMARY (HIGHLIGHTS/NOTES) |
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| Chapter 7 (Page 77) The Sure Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THE SURE FOUNDATION ✓ Isaiah 28:16...<i>"Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily"</i> ✓ Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was (Matt. 16:13). After the disciples shared their thoughts relative to the thoughts of the crowd, or what they had heard, Jesus asked the Disciples who they thought he was. It was an imperial question designed by Jesus to make them think about it. They probably never really thought indepthly about it. Simon Peter, however, received divine inspiration that Jesus was the Messiah, Son of God! |
| The Illuminated Word (Pg. 79) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WE MUST BE CAREFUL THAT WE DON'T OPERATE IN HEAD KNOWLEDGE ALONE ✓ When operating in head knowledge, two things can potentially happen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Susceptible to hype and emotionalism ○ Bound by our own intellect ✓ It takes a revealed word, or revelation from the Holy Spirit as to a deeper understanding. We should look for words/phrases that explode in our spirit. ✓ Jesus compared the unveiled word of God as that of a rock. A rock speaks of stability and strength. ✓ Some things that we need to hear from God on aren't directly found in the Bible...who should we marry? Where should we work? What church should we attend? Etc. It takes a revealed Word of God for our decisions. ✓ What God reveals by his Spirit cannot be taken from us! ✓ Mark Chapter 4 definitively conveys the state of our mind and emotions when receiving the Word. Particularly, Chapter 4:16-17...<i>"Who, when they have heard the Word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root (rhiza – progeny or offspring) in themselves, and so endure but for a time; afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended (skandalizo – to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, to entice to sin, to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey, to cause to fall away, to cause one to judge unfavorably or unjustly of another...)"</i> ✓ A person who is not rooted or grounded in the "revealed" Word of God is a prime candidate to be moved along by the storm of offense. This is more than just knowing scripture as opposed to revealed and activated scripture! |
| No Other Option (Pg. 81) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HOW CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER EXCEPT THEY AGREE ✓ Marriage can be a huge bastion for offenses to occur. Even when the two |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>parties genuinely love God and sincerely believe they are in love, or falling in love, it often takes more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conflict, misunderstandings will occur in marriage. There must be a revealed word in each that will allow healing and forgiveness to thrive. |
| The Solid Rock (Pg. 83) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD IS THE SOLID ROCK UPON WHICH OUR FAITH SHOULD BE BUILT ✓ "I'm temporarily serving at this ministry" ✓ "I'm on loan to this church" ✓ Such similar statements are made to justify a potential "escape route" when deemed necessary. |
| Where Could We Go? (Pg. 83) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THE REVELATION THAT PETER SPOKE WAS SO PROFOUND, IT BECAME A FOUNDATIONAL PREMISE FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT ✓ Jesus changed Simon's name (to hear) to Peter (petra - A large stone). ✓ As a result of hearing the revealed Word of God in his heart, he became a stone...impenetrable, unmovable. ✓ The disciples became increasingly offended by the actions of Jesus when His ministry drew near it's closure. They had given up quite a bit in some cases to follow Christ. ✓ To add insult to injury, Jesus makes the ultimate heretical statement: John 6:53..." Most assuredly I say unto you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ✓ Jesus asked his disciples after making the public declaration.." Does this offend you? John 6:61 ✓ The scripture stated that many of his disciple no longer walked with Jesus after that point (John 6:66) ✓ What would you do if your leader made a controversial statement that you didn't quite understand and/or emberassed you? ✓ What do you do when the allure of the ministry seems to fade, feels stagnant, or less appealing? ✓ Jesus then asked the twelve if they wanted to leave as well (John 6:67-69) |
| Reaction Under Pressure (Pg. 86) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tests and trials "locate" a person...they determine where you are spiritually. They reveal the true condition of your heart. ✓ Build our lives on God's revealed word! |

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| CHAPTER | SUMMARY (HIGHLIGHTS/NOTES) |
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| Chapter 8 (Page 91) All that can be shaken will be shaken | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHEN THE ENEMY SHAKES, IT IS TO DESTROY, BUT GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PURPOSE ✓ Hebrews 12:26-27...²⁶ <i>His voice shook the earth [at Mount Sinai] then, but now He has given a promise, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE [starry] HEAVEN."</i> ²⁷ <i>Now this [expression], "Yet once more," indicates the removal and final transformation of all those things which can be shaken—that is, of that which has been created—so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.</i> " ✓ When Jesus made the announcement that his betrayer was in the room as part of the last supper, the disciples first questioned who it might be only to turn it into an argument on who was the greatest disciple/follower – motives. ✓ In Jesus's greatest time of need and compassion from his disciples, they were more concerned about "jockeying" for position. In the reasonable mind, Jesus himself could have been offended! |
| The Purpose of Sifting (Pg. 93) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Even though Simon Peter had received a valid revelation of who Jesus really was, he was not yet walking in the character and humility of Jesus Christ. He was building his life and ministry on past victories and pride. ✓ 1 Corinthians 3:10 warns us on how we build our foundations in Christ. ✓ Pride will never equip us to fulfill our destiny in Christ. Pride was the portal through which Jesus told Simon Peter satan would sift "siniazo" him...to try one's faith on the verge of overthrow. ✓ Important point: Jesus did not pray for Peter and bind the enemy. Instead, he prayed that Peter's faith would not fail (Luke 22:32). Jesus knew that in order for Peter to become what the Kingdom required, he had to go through the testing or sifting process to discover his NEXT. ✓ God knew what satan desired, but HE had a greater plan. He allowed the shaking in order for everything in Peter that needed to be shaken, was shaken. ✓ Five purposes for shaking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To bring something closer to its foundation ○ To remove what is dead ○ To harvest what is ripe ○ To awaken ○ To unify or mix together so that it can no longer be separated. ✓ An interdependence on Jesus must ultimately be formed/developed |
| Judas versus Simon (Pg 94) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The big, strong, boisterous Peter who cut off the High priest's servants ear |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>was intimidated by the servant girl that identified him as one of Jesus's disciples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sometime it's the little things that can shake us the most which is often a blow to our self-confidence. ✓ Simon Peter and Judas were similar wherein they both denied Jesus as the most critical point in his life and ministry. The difference is Judas never longed to know Jesus in the manner that Simon Peter showed. That did not mean that Judas did not believe in Jesus and who he said he was...(remember Jesus sent out twelve disciples to preach, heal and deliver, not eleven). ✓ Judas had an agenda from the start; he never repented of his self-seeking motives. This was demonstrated by Matt. 26:14, Matt. 26:25 and John 12: 4-6. He never really knew this savior he was following. ✓ Because Simon never hungered to know Jesus, Jesus was not revealed to him. ✓ When Judas finally realized the magnitude of what he had done, he tried to return the 30 pieces of silver, but it was too late (Matt. 27:3-5) ✓ Judas ultimately committed suicide which was another act of living independent of God's grace. ✓ Numerous converts have prayed the sinner's prayer, attended church, become active and studied their bibles. However, without a revelation of who Jesus really is, when severe disappointment occurs, they become offended with God and want to have nothing to do with him. ✓ Comments such as..."God never did anything for me", "I've tried that church thing, but life only go more miserable", or "I prayed and asked God and he didn't do it! ✓ They never laid down their lives for Jesus, but aligned themselves with Jesus for their own benefit. They served him for what he could give them. (Mark 4:16-17) ✓ Our love for God is our foundation (Ephesians 3:16-18) |
| <p>Depending on God's Character (Pg. 97)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The enemy tries to pervert our perception of God's character. This initially occurred when the serpent twisted God's commandments to Eve not the eat the forbidden fruit. (Genesis 2 &3). In essence, the enemy was saying God was holding something back from Eve when God clearly said they could freely eat from any or all trees except for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He wanted them to retain their innocence and reliance on Him. ✓ God's word was no longer life, but law after Eve believed the skewing and slanting of God's intentions through his word. The desire to sin was then aroused. 1 Corinthians 15:56 states that the strength of the law is sin. ✓ The enemy sometime uses our perception of earthly fathers as our perception of our heavenly father. ✓ If you have given yourself fully and solely to Jesus and are committed to His care, you cannot be offended because you are not your own. Those who are hurt and disappointed are those who have come to Jesus for what He can do for them rather for Who He is. ✓ It is easy to become offended when judge by our natural surroundings and circumstances. |
| <p>Grace is Given to the Humble (pg. 99)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Simon Peter could no longer boast in his greatness. He had lost his natural confidence after the betrayal. He saw the futility of his own strong will. He |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>was now ready to receive God's grace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Humility is a prerequisite for God's grace to work. Peter identified this in 1 Peter 5:5..."Be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.✓ After Peter's conversion, he became a pivotal Apostle in the new testament. He courageously proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus before the same council that crucified Jesus.✓ History records that Peter was crucified as well. However, since Peter declared that he was not worthy to be executed in the same manner as Jesus, was crucified upside down. |
| Lord, I Have Served You, So Why? (Pg. 100) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ What do we do when we have served the Lord, but things go wrong anyhow?✓ We should not serve the Lord for what he can do for us. Rather, we should serve Him for Who He is and what He has already done for us!✓ Those who become offended with God do not fully realize the debt He had paid for our freedom. They have forgotten from what manner of death they were redeemed and only see through natural eyes than spiritual.✓ Offenses will reveal the weaknesses and breaking points in our lives. |

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| <p>Chapter 9 (Page 107) The Rock Of Offense</p> <p>(1 Peter 2:6-8)⁶ For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOSEN STONE, A PRECIOUS (honored) CORNERSTONE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM [whoever adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] WILL NEVER BE DISAPPOINTED [in his expectations]."</p> <p>⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe [in Him as God's only Son—the Source of salvation]; but for those who disbelieve,</p> <p>"THE [very] STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE,"</p> <p>⁸ and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they disobey the word [of God], and to this they [who reject Him as Savior] were also appointed.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JESUS DID NOT COMPROMISE THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM BEING OFFENDED ✓ As a result of the way we view the word "believe", many think that all they are required to do is believe that Jesus existed and died on Calvary and they then are in good or right standing with God. ✓ If this were true, then demons would be saved wherein James 2:19 states that demons believe and tremble, yet there is no salvation for them! ✓ The word "believe" has more meaning in the Scripture than simple acknowledgement. ✓ The main element in true belief is obedience. ✓ It is not difficult to obey when you know the character and love of the one to whom you are submitting to. ✓ Love must be the bottom line in our relationship with Christ...do we love him enough to keep His commandments! ✓ Jesus challenged the legalism of the leaders of his time. They wanted to rule over the people of God and vehemently opposed the "freedom" of worship that Jesus incited in the people. Furthermore, they sensed an erosion of their power base because Jesus operated outside of the aegis although he was perfectly in line with scripture. ✓ The religious leaders believed that things God's favor had to be earned through acts and religious control. ✓ Jesus is often depicted as this loving, charismatic person who never offended people with truth, smiled and blessed children and went on his merry way. ✓ Jesus denounced the Pharisees for their self-righteousness, turned over the tables of money changers (gambling) and ran them out of the temple. ✓ He told a man who wanted to bury his father, ..."let the dead bury the dead..."(Luke 9:59-60) |
| <p>Jesus Offended the Pharisees</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Jesus often clashed with the Pharisees (Matt 15:12) ✓ OFFENSES WILL PURGE WHO ARE NOT TRULY PLANTED BY HIS FATHER... ✓ Some people may join churches, but their hearts are not connected to that ministry...the preached truth and/or accountability of the Word reveals the essence of their hearts and motives. ✓ Some leaders avoid confrontation, afraid of losing people. This may be due to various reasons such as heavy givers, friendships, etc. If not careful, primary leaders will lose their God-given authority to bring correction when warranted. |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Prophet Samuel was not scared of confrontation. When Saul disobeyed God, Samuel told him the truth. When Samuel informed King he was leaving his counsel, King Saul reached out to apprehend Samuel and ended up tearing his garments which ultimately created a curse against King Saul (1 Sam. 15:28) ✓ Ultimately, Samuel didn't want this for Saul. However, Saul's disobedience and responses to Samuel (God), forced God's hand of punishment. ✓ The scriptures even state that Samuel mourned over the plight of Saul (1 Sam. 16:1) ✓ Leaders who don't speak God's truth to confront when required run the danger of drying up their own "anointing". ✓ The Bible does not record how Jesus responded to those who left his ministry! It does state his only delight was to do the Will of his Father. |
| Jesus Offended Those In His Hometown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Jesus offended those in his home town. (Matt. 13:55-57). The towns people try to kill Jesus by pushing him over a cliff...even in danger, he yet spoke the truth. |
| Jesus Offended His Own Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Jesus offended his own family. (Mark 3:21. 31-35). His own family thought he was out of his mind. Although they thought he was "Cray Cray", they ultimately became believers of the faith signified by their attendance in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost. |
| Jesus Offended His Own Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As discussed in Chapter 8, Jesus certainly offended His one staff (John 6:6-61, 66) At a time where it seemed everyone was against him (religious leaders, His hometown, His family and His staff), he never compromised the gospel message. |
| Jesus Offended Some of His closest friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. However, when notified of Lazarus's illness, Jesus stayed two more days in the place where he was. (John 11:6) By divine revelation, Jesus knew Lazarus would die. It took a great deal of boldness, confidence and integrity to remain committed to the purpose at hand and not succumb to the pressures of an immediate response. ✓ Martha and Mary both confronted Jesus with their belief that Lazarus would not have died had Jesus responded in a timely manner. What they did not perceive was divine purpose...(John 11:21, 32) |
| Jesus Offended John The Baptist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ John saw the Holy Spirit descend down on Jesus like a dove, yet, due to his imprisonment, he wasn't sure about Jesus. Imagining being thrown in jail after all of the prophetic utterances and spiritual insight just to see another come along and reap the benefits of the labor you've vested? (Luke 7:18-20) ✓ Jesus responded to the two disciples of John the Baptist to inform John the ministerial exploits that Jesus had performed and not to be offended by what had been accomplished by Jesus...Luke 7:21-23. |
| Offense without Apology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If we are to obey the Spirit of God, people will be offended by us. Some just will not understand us if we are truly being led by the Spirit! ✓ 1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh [and died for us], arm yourselves [like warriors] with the same purpose [being willing to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing God], because whoever has suffered in the flesh [being like-minded with Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [having stopped pleasing the world],² so that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living for human appetites <i>and</i> desires, but [lives] for the will <i>and</i> purpose of God. ✓ The greatest measure of offended people will occur in the church...those who are not familiar with church protocol and polity! |

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| <p>Chapter 10 (Page 123) Lest We Offend Them</p> <p>(Romans 14:3) 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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JESUS OFFENDED SOME PEOPLE BY OBEYING HIS FATHER, BUT HE NEVER CAUSED AN OFFENSE IN ORDER TO ASSERT HIS OWN RIGHTS. ✓ In Matthew Chapter 17, a tax collector approached Peter regarding taxation of Jesus and his disciples. They were in the city of Capernaum which was considered Jesus's home base city. ✓ Jesus anticipated the taxation was going to come...he obeyed the laws of the land. ✓ Peter wasn't quite sure on how to handle the situation. So, he took the matter up with Jesus. Jesus responded with somewhat of a rhetorical answer: 1)Do Kings tax their (sons) children or strangers. Answer: Strangers. He was referring to his royal/majestic nature that, in fact, made him free from the natural laws and taxation. Although the tax collector collected on behalf of the temple, who ultimately owned the temple? Answer: God. ✓ Once Jesus established the entitlement of his nature, he acquiesced to the law so that he would show that in spite of his heritage, he still subjugated himself to the laws of the land: Matthew 17:27 <i>... "However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take it and give it to them [to pay the temple tax] for you and Me".</i> ✓ It's amazing that Jesus performed a mini-miracle wherein the fish that was caught contained the exact amount necessary to cover the tax. In order not to offend, he told Peter to pay the tax! Jesus knew the money would be in the mouth of the fish because he knew is rights and Owner and Lord of the earth. He knew God would supply his needs (Philippians 4:19) ✓ In Chapter 9, we discussed the fact that Jesus said and did things that he inherently knew would be offensive. However, it wasn't based on spitefulness, or any other flesh driven motive...he was fulfilling his Kingdom purpose to establish principles that we would follow after. ✓ Jesus further refined his reasoning on his actions in Matthew Chapter 18:1-4: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, <i>"Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"</i> ² <i>He called a little child and set him before them,</i> ³ <i>and said, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent [that is, change your inner self—your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble, and forgiving], you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.</i> ⁴ <i>Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.</i> |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The key phrase was “he who humbles himself”. He further explains in Matthew 20:26-28 the mindset of a servant: <i>²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your [willing and humble] slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [paying the price to set them free from the penalty of sin].”</i> ✓ He did not come to be served. He was the Son of God. He was free from any natural laws. He was subject to no man, yet he chose his liberty and freedom to serve man! |
| <p>Liberty to Serve (Pg. 125)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WE ARE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER ✓ We are exhorted to serve one another in the manner that Jesus served us...Galatians 5:13...” <i>For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the ¹⁶sinful nature (worldliness, selfishness), but through ¹⁵love serve and seek the best for one another.</i> ✓ Another word liberty is “privilege”. We are not to use our liberty of freedom to serve ourselves, but one another. ✓ Serving: The difference between Servant vs. Slave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A <i>slave</i> has to – a <i>servant</i> gets to or chooses to ○ A <i>slave</i> dos the minimum requirement – a <i>servant</i> reaches the maximum potential ○ A <i>slave</i> goes one mile – a <i>servant</i> goes the extra mile ○ A <i>slave</i> feels robbed – a <i>servant</i> gives ○ A <i>slave</i> is bound – a <i>servant</i> is free ○ A <i>slave</i> fights for his rights – a <i>servant</i> lays down his rights ✓ How often do serve with a resentful attitude? We can remain slaves in our hearts and our thinking when are minds are not renewed. ✓ When we’re not liberated in Christ, we tend to fight for our own benefit rather than that of others. ✓ The Apostle Paul further explains this dynamic when addressing the consumption of food to both the Roman and Corinthian churches in Romans 14:1-2. The squabble arose out of the religious traditions where certain foods could not be consumed based on customs. Romans 14:13, 17...” <i>¹³ Then let us not criticize one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block or a source of temptation in another believer’s way, ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [what one likes], but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.</i> ✓ There were strong Christians and weak Christians. The stronger Believers were not using their freedom to serve, but as a platform for their interpreted rights. ✓ AS MATURE BELIEVERS, IF NOT CAREFUL, WE CAN USE OUR LIBERTIES TO SIN BY WOUNDING THOSE OF WEAKER FAITH TO BE OFFENDED AND STUMBLE. |
| <p>Laying Down Our Rights</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ AFTER JESUS ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLES OF HIS LIBERTY, HE WAS CAREFUL TO CHARGE THE DISCIPLES WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY. <p>Matthew 18:6-10...”<i>⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble and sin [by leading him away from My teaching], it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone [as large as one turned by a donkey] hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.</i></p> |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>⁷ <i>"Woe (judgment is coming) to the world because of stumbling blocks and temptations to sin! It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to the person on whose account or through whom the stumbling block comes!</i></p> <p>⁸ <i>"If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble and sin, cut it off and throw it away from you [that is, remove yourself from the source of temptation]; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into everlasting fire. ⁹ If your eye causes you to stumble and sin, pluck it out and throw it away from you [that is, remove yourself from the source of temptation]; it is better for you to enter life with only one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fiery hell.</i></p> <p>¹⁰ <i>"See that you do not despise or think less of one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven [are in the presence of and] continually look upon the face of My Father who is in heaven.</i></p> <p>✓ Our liberties have been granted to us for serving and laying down our lives. We are to build and not destroy! Additionally, our liberties were not given to us to heap things upon ourselves. Many today are offended by certain Believers because of their lifestyles.</p> |
| <p>The Edification Test (Pg. 30)</p> | <p>✓ THEREFORE LET US PURSUE THE THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE AND THE THINGS BY WHICH ONE MAY EDIFY ANOTHER</p> <p>✓ We should make it a point not to offend one another. Some of our actions may actually be permissible by scripture, but does it seek the edification of another for myself? 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-33..." ²³ <i>All things are lawful [that is, morally legitimate, permissible], but not all things are beneficial or advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things are constructive [to character] and edifying [to spiritual life]. ²⁴ Let no one seek [only] his own good, but [also] that of the other person. ³¹ So then, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of [our great] God. ³² Do not offend Jews or Greeks or even the church of God [but live to honor Him]; ³³ just as I please everyone in all things [as much as possible adapting myself to the interests of others], not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, so that they [will be open to the message of salvation and] may be saved.</i></p> |

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| <p>Chapter 11 (Page 135) Forgiveness-You Don't Give, You Don't Get</p> <p>(Mark 11:24)²⁴ Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, trust that you are receiving it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive your offenses."²⁶</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A PERSON WHO CANNOT FORGIVE HAS FORGOTTEN HOW GREAT DEBT GOD HAS FORGIVEN THEM ✓ We live in a culture where we don't always mean what we say. It begins in childhood where the parent promises to discipline the child for wrongdoing, but does not follow through. ✓ The child then begins to question what adults say and can become confused as to when they should obey or not. ✓ Example of "fake" conversations (Page 136) ✓ Pastor Bevere believes the average person doesn't really mean a fourth of what they say...we simply pacify, codify and sometimes even lie. ✓ Jesus (Holy Spirit) means what He says and wants us to take Him serious. ✓ Jesus walks in a level of integrity and sincerity that transcends culture and time. ✓ Various passages of scripture highlight the principle of forgiving first...(Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 6:37, Matthew 6:12) ✓ THE WAY WE FORGIVE, RELEASE AND RESTORE ANOTHER PERSON IS THE WAY WE WILL BE FORGIVEN. |
| <p>Forgiveness and Spiritual Growth (Pg 137)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHY DON'T I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF GOD? ✓ Pastor B ministered to a family in Indonesia. The mother did not feel/experience the presence of God. After Pastor B prayed with her for a while, the Holy Spirit revealed the problem was unforgiveness remained in her life against her husband. ✓ How often had we heard Apostle tell people the only thing that was holding up their spiritual breakthrough was unforgiveness! |
| <p>The Unforgiving Servant (Pg 139)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PETER LIKED TO TAKE THINGS TO THE EXTREME ✓ Matthew 18:21, Peter poses a rhetorical question as to how many times we should forgive a person...7 times. Jesus's response shocked him...70 times 7 (✓ Jesus wants us to forgive as God does...10,000 talents (equivalent to \$14.5 billion or more in today's economy (Mt. 18:23-24)(Pg 140) ✓ Matthew 18:25-27 tells us the Master ultimately forgave the servant in spite of the amount that was owed. True forgiveness is akin to the cancellation of debt! ✓ Colossians 2:13-14 tells us the enormity of God's forgiveness. The debt for which we are forgiven is unpayable within ourselves. ✓ Later in that same passage, the servant was not so forgiving to his fellow servant and forgot the magnitude of forgiveness originally granted to him |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>(Mt. 18;28) A denarii is equal to one day's wage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Us being treated badly by someone does not compare to our offenses against God. ✓ A person who cannot forgive has forgotten the great debt for which they were forgiven. When you realize that Jesus delivered you from eternal death and torment, you will release others unconditionally. |
| Lessons For Believers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THREE MAJOR POINTS TO PONDER ✓ 1)The Unforgiving servant was turned over to torture ✓ 2)He had to pay off the original debt: 375 tons of gold ✓ 3)God the Father will do the same to any believer who does not forgive a brother's offense. ✓ Torture – agony of body or mind...Instigators of torture are demonic spirits. In some cases, God has granted permission for forces to inflict pain upon believers who will not forgive. ✓ Medical doctors have scientifically linked unforgiveness and bitterness to certain diseases such as arthritis and cancer. This also applies to mental illness. ✓ Forgiving others also includes ourselves! ✓ 2 Peter 2:20-21 addresses the punishment for believers who refuse to walk in the Way. ✓ Jude 12-13 addresses twice dead individuals ✓ Matthew 7:22-23 addresses the same phenomenon. |

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| Chapter 12 (Page 149) Revenge – The Trap (Romans 12:17) ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WE ARE TO BE SO FAR REMOVED FROM AVENGING OURSELVES THAT WE WILLINGLY RISK BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AGAIN ✓ Holding on to the spirit of offense is like holding a debt against someone. ✓ It is unrighteous for us to avenge ourselves But that is exactly what we are doing when we refuse to forgive someone. ✓ When we seek to correct the wrong done to us, we set ourselves up as judges.(James 4:12, 59) ✓ You may have done nothing to deserve the wrong done to you. However, when you contrast what was done to you with what you’ve been forgiven for, there is no comparison. |
| No Gray Judges Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Under the Old Covenant, if you trespassed against me, I had legal rights to bring the same trespass back to you. (Lev. 24:19, Exodus 21:23-25). The Law was supreme and Jesus had not yet come to set us all free. ✓ In Matthew 5:38-42, Jesus eliminates the right for us to hold grudges against one another. ✓ We must do our best to make room for the “Just” judge to have preeminence. He reward righteously. ✓ The woman who waited for her ex-husband to come and apologize and admit he was wrong (Pg. 151) ✓ Jesus had already forgiven us on the cross before we came to him to ask for it! (Col. 3:13) ✓ We are admonished in the Word of God to be rooted and grounded (Gal. 5:22-23) ✓ The Ground (soil of our heart) will only produce what has been planted in it. If we plant seeds of debt, unforgiveness and offense, another root will spring up in place of the Love of God. It is called the root of bitterness. ✓ Definition of bitterness: Bitterness is unfulfilled revenge. (Hebrews 12:14-15) ✓ Bitterness is a root. When bitterness is not checked in our hearts, it produces anger, resentment, jealousy, hatred, strife and discord. Jesus called these evil fruits.(Matthew 7:19-20) |
| A Potential King Defiled (Pg. 153) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ David was a man after God’s heart! He did not seek revenge against King Saul. ✓ When God’s judgment fell upon King Saul, David did not rejoice. ✓ Amnon (King David’s son) raped his half-sister Tamar. Tamar was Absalom’s (David’s 3rd oldest son) sister. After Amnon shamed Tamar, Absalom took |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <p>care of Tamar, but resented Amnon for his actions and anticipated that David would avenge her against Amon. Although David was angry about what Amnon had done, he took no action against Amnon which further angered Absalom. After two years of no intervention by King David, Absalom plotted to kill Amnon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Amnon threw a feast for all of his brothers. When Amnon did not suspect it, Absalom had him killed and then fled to Geshur. Absalom's hatred for David began to grow as well based on David's inability to address Amnon's missteps. ✓ After four years, David had restored Absalom to prominence. However, Absalom was still bitter towards David. |
| <p>Experts on Error (Pg. 155)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Absalom ultimately stole Israel away from David. Once again David had to flee, this time, it was from his own son! Unfortunately, Absalom was killed while trying to pursue David... his resentment and anger ultimately cost his life. ✓ Assistants to leaders in a church often fall in the same category as Absalom. ✓ They believe their mission in life is to deliver those around them from the grasp of an unfair leader. ✓ If you sow strife, you will reap it as well. ✓ |

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| Chapter 13 (Page 161) Escaping The Trap (Acts 124:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ YOU GROW MORE FROM THE MOST CHALLENGING OFFENSES – THE ONES FOR WHICH YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TRAINED ✓ It takes every effort to remain free from offenses. ✓ If we exercise our bodies, we are less prone for injuries. We sometimes exercise our hearts to not be so easily offended. ✓ Our degree of maturity determines how well we will handle an offense without injury. ✓ Some offenses will be more challenging than others...this extra strain can sometimes cause offenses to occur. ✓ Extreme offenses can sometimes cause denial. ✓ Sometimes God wants us at the end of ourselves so that we can truly turn to him. ✓ The first step to healing is recognizing you are hurt and/or offended...stop the denial, or the blame on others! ✓ Could your spiritual warfare (torment) stem from unforgiveness? ✓ The first step to healing is realizing that you are hurt. ✓ Consecration is sometimes necessary to position your spirit to better hear from God. |
| What About Relapses?(P. 163) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How do I avoid relapsing into an offended state when I hear/see the individual that offended me? Answer: Matthew 5:44(<i>“But I say to you, love [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,</i>) ✓ When someone is oppressing you, pray for them fervently as if it is something that you want God to do for you! (Psalm 35:13-14) |
| Healing in Confrontation(P.165) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sometimes it is necessary to actually confront or meet with the individual to attain healing. 1 Peter 4:8 ✓ Your heart can be “exercised” in the in-between periods where you seem to be going nowhere or even backwards. |
| Maturing Through Hardships (P.166) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WE GROW THROUGH TOUGH TIMES, NOT EASY TIMES. ✓ We cannot escape hard places in our lives...they MUST come in order for us to grow spiritually. ✓ Recovery from hardship is a choice. ✓ Jesus learned obedience through the things that he suffered. ✓ We must choose a life of self-denial. (1 Peter 4:12-13) |

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| <p>Chapter 14 (Page 171) Objective: Reconciliation</p> <p>(Matthew 5:21-24 ²¹“You have heard that our fathers were told, ‘Do not murder,’²² and that anyone who commits murder will be subject to judgment. ²²But I tell you that anyone who nurses anger against his brother will be subject to judgment; that whoever calls his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing!’ will be brought before the <i>Sanhedrin</i>; that whoever says, ‘Fool!’ incurs the penalty of burning in the fire of Gei-Hinnom! ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the Temple altar and you remember there that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift where it is by the altar, and go, make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift.)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HELP A STUMBLING BROTHER THAN IT IS TO PROVE YOURSELF CORRECT ✓ In God’s eyes a murderer is not limited to the one who commits the murder, it is also the one who hates his brother! What you are in your heart is who you really are. ✓ Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount illustrates how important forgiveness is in the lives of believers. If one is angry with his brother without cause, he is in danger of judgement. ✓ The word Raca means empty headed or fool. It was a very harsh word in the time of Jesus that would have legal ramifications in certain settings. The word fool means to be godless. ✓ In today’s vernacular, it would be akin to telling someone to “go to hell” an really mean it! ✓ Not dealing with anger will turn into hatred and according to scripture, unabashed hatred can lead to danger of hell fire. ✓ Why should reconciliation be so urgent! For our sake or our brother? (P. 172) ✓ Jesus is exhorting us to reconcile even if the offense is not our fault. |
| <p>Asking forgiveness of the one who is offended(p. 173)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ROMANS 14:19 THEREFORE LET US PURSUE THE THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE AND THE THINGS BY WHICH ON MAY EDIFY ANOTHER ✓ We are to maintain an attitude of pursuing peace through humility at the expense of our pride. ✓ Standing up for ourselves does not ultimately facilitate peace when pursuing reconciliation. ✓ Steps: listen and keep your mouth shut until they have expressed their issue(s). Whether or not you agree, let them know you respect what they have said and that you will search your heart and intentions. You then apologize for any way that you may have harmed them. If they are accurate with their claim, you admit they are right and ask for forgiveness. ✓ Pride defends...humility agrees and says you are right and asks for forgiveness. (Mt. 5:26-27) ✓ James 3:17...Godly wisdom is willing to yield. |
| <p>Approaching someone who has offended you (p. 174)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MATTHEW 18:15 MOREOVER IF YOUR BROTHER SINS AGAINST YOU, GO AND TELL HIM HIS FAULT BETWEEN YOU AND HIM ALONE. IF HE HEARS YOU, YOU HAVE GAINED YOUR BROTHER |

MOB Book Review/Summary

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Jesus does not want us to tell our brother how rotten he/she is. Rather, our goal is to remove the breach that has separated us✓ 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 ¹⁸ And it is all from God, who through the Messiah has reconciled us to himself and has given us the work of that reconciliation, ¹⁹ which is that God in the Messiah was reconciling mankind to himself, not counting their sins against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore we are ambassadors of the Messiah; in effect, God is making his appeal through us. What we do is appeal on behalf of the Messiah, "Be reconciled to God!✓ The word reconciliation actually begins with the understanding that we have offended God(Jesus) with our sins, yet he reconciles us back to him...the same should be extended to each other.✓ We imitate God when we extend forgiveness to one another✓ Eph 4:1-3...keeping the bond of peace✓ We should not go to a brother/sister who has offended us until we have determined in our hearts that will have forgiven them...no matter how they respond to us.✓ Progressive approach to reconciliation...Matthew 18:16-17✓ RECONCILIATION IS THE BOTTOM LINE. |
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MOB Book Review/Summary

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| Chapter 1(Pg 5) The Trap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trap: ✓ In order for a trap to be successful, two things must be present; 1) It must be hidden and 2) It must be baited. |
| Chapter 2 (Page 13) Massive Offense | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Matthew 24:10-13 <i>"And then many will be offended, will betray one another and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."</i> |
| Chapter 3 (Page 25) How Could This Happen to me? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ IF YOU'VE BEEN GENUINELY MISTREATED, DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE OFFENDED? ✓ Joseph's dream |
| Chapter 4 Page 37) My Father, My Father | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THE REJECTION OF A FATHER ✓ What do you do when you feel betrayed by your leader? |
| Chapter 5 (Page 51) How Spiritual Vagabonds are Born | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HOW SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ARE BORN ✓ It is righteous for God to avenge his servants. It is unrighteous for God's servants to avenge themselves. |
| Chapter 6 (Page 64) Hiding From Reality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HIDING FROM REALITY ✓ ACQUIRING AN OFFENSE KEEPS YOU FROM SEEING YOUR OWN CHARACTER FLAWS BECAUSE YOUR BLAME IS DEFERRED TO ANOTHER... |
| Chapter 7 (Page 77) The Sure Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THE SURE FOUNDATION ✓ Isaiah 28:16..."Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily" |
| Chapter 8 (Page 91) All that can be shaken will be shaken | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHEN THE ENEMY SHAKES, IT IS TO DESTROY, BUT GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PURPOSE ✓ Hebrews 12:26-27..."²⁶ His voice shook the earth [at Mount Sinai] then, but now He has given a promise, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE [starry] HEAVEN."²⁷ Now this [expression], "Yet once more," indicates the removal and final transformation of all those things which can be shaken—that is, of that which has been created—so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." |
| Chapter 9 (Page 107) The Rock Of Offense | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JESUS DID NOT COMPROMISE THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM BEING OFFENDED ✓ As a result of the way we view the word "believe", many think that all they are required to do is believe that Jesus existed and died on Calvary and they then are in good or right standing with God. |
| Chapter 10 (Page 123) Lest We Offend Them | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JESUS OFFENDED SOME PEOPLE BY OBEYING HIS FATHER, BUT HE NEVER CAUSED AN OFFENSE IN ORDER TO ASSERT HIS OWN RIGHTS. |
| Chapter 11 (Page 135) Forgiveness- You Don't Give, You Don't Get | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A PERSON WHO CANNOT FORGIVE HAS FORGOTTEN HOW GREAT DEBT GOD HAS FORGIVEN THEM |
| Chapter 12 (Page 149) Revenge – The Trap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WE ARE TO BE SO FAR REMOVED FROM AVENGING OURSELVES THAT WE WILLINGLY RISK BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AGAIN ✓ Holding on to the spirit of offense is like holding a debt against someone. |
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