

events, and experiences to be even bigger than God Himself. The spies in the Old Testament felt this when they saw giants occupying the Promised Land. Are you allowing the people or problems that populate your personal world to obscure God, His grace, and His great plan for your life?

So How Do We Refuel?

Get Close Enough to God to Hear Him. How? In the scripture. Through learning to listen in prayer rather than just talking. In worship – sincere worship, you will hear (sense) Him speaking to you.

Act on What You Hear from the Lord. Listening to God stirs renewal. Acting in obedience releases renewal.

Rely on the Indwelling Power of the Holy Spirit. Only daily dependence on the mysterious power and presence of the Holy Spirit refreshes, renews, and refuels us.

Before renewal and restoration there must be RETURN. When running on empty there is only one possible answer.

We must...

Return to our resource!

Dr. Terry Booth, Pastor
Amite Baptist Church
7100 Amite Church Road
Denham Springs, LA 70706
(225) 665-2762
tbooth@amitechurch.org



Building Strong Personal Relationships

Try something with me. Pause... Now, remember a time when you smiled broadly or laughed freely. Remember a time when you cried what seemed to be an endless river of tears. Have you ever hurt so deeply that you felt as if you would never recover from the pain? Have you ever beamed with satisfaction so brightly that all the troubles of life seemed to flee from your presence and you enjoyed what felt like a clear and cloudless day?

If you are like most people all of the snapshots of memory that came to your mind had one thing in common. They all had to do with relationships. Our greatest joys and greatest pains usually involve other people. **Nothing is as rewarding or as challenging as our personal**

Guess the Answer...

According to the Bible...

- What was the first and greatest need of man?
- What was the first and greatest gift of God?
- What was the first and greatest attack of Satan?
- What was the first and greatest failure of man?

According to the Bible, the answer for each question is the same, “*personal relationships*.” God said, “It is not good that man should be alone.” So, in a stroke of creative genius, He took from the side of the first man a rib and fashioned the first woman. I can hear the ladies now, “*Yes, and He did a better job the second time around.*” Well, nevertheless, He brought them together to be perfect complements one to the other. When the tempter showed up in the garden where did he attack first – and might I add where does he continue to attack most often – AT HOME! What was man’s excuse when finally confronted about the nakedness of his sin and shame, “*It was THAT WOMAN that YOU gave me.*” We have been playing the blame game ever since!

If there is any one thing all people share in common is that there is

He chose the lush land of Sodom for his family never looking at the lives of the people (Gen. 13:10). Have you grabbed what seems green only to find it’s poison ivy?

DEVASTATED! Often we run out of strength and hope when we find ourselves overwhelmed with opposition from people and events around us. The weight simply becomes too great. David and Paul are two examples of those in need of a place of rest and renewal (2 Samuel 15 – 16; 2 Corinthians 1 – 4).

DISILLUSIONED! Dashed dreams. Moses had them. At forty he planned to deliver Israel from bondage in Egypt but in a moment his dream melted into fear (Exodus 2:14). It took Moses forty years to dare to dream again and to be willing to listen to God for the right way to achieve his dream. Have you become deflated and disillusioned?

DEFEATED! Who of us has not tasted the bitter flavor of failure? We have made bold promises to God and others only to see them shrivel and die under the heat of hardship. Consider Peter (Luke 22). “I am ready to die for you Lord.” And later... “I don’t even know the man!” Failure can have a paralyzing effect on our lives. Are you in need of something or someone to restore you?

DISHEARTENED! This happens when we allow our view of people, situations,