

**E.eliminate E.xcuses- E.xpress E.xpectations** Gen. 4:1-8; Ex. 3:1-15; Acts 20:22-38 June 6/10

If we are going to build healthy families we need to get rid of excuses. If we want to change anything in our lives we must stop with the excuses. They are the only things that hold us back. We need to stop saying, "I can't" when God says, "You can." When God calls, He empowers. Now is the time to serve God, to go farther and deeper. Summer is traditionally the time to slow down and take a break. Do we want God to slow down and take a break from our lives? Why do we take a break from Him?

Our thoughts, views and words are debatable, they can come to naught. God's word is not up for debate, it does not return void. When we receive instruction from God's word we need to guard against a doubting, negative spirit. God's word doesn't change based on us. We change based on God's word. We need to line up our lives with it. It's not about what we want; it's about what He wants. It's time for us to be real, to be practical. If we want to go deeper with God in growing healthy families we need to **R**.ecognize the truth. We won't lose weight until we recognize the truth that we are overweight. We will not forgive until we recognize that we are offended. We can't change something until we acknowledge it. Whatever our situation or circumstance, we must recognize the truth of it according to God's word before we can change it.

We need to **E**.liminate excuses for not changing i.e. too busy. We are as busy as we choose to be and we make time for what is important to us, for what we value.

We need to **A**.sk for accountability and we need to be willing to give it. Too often we don't hold each other accountable to our calling, to our walk as a Christian, to whatever area applies.

Accountability is one way of being successful in that area. Where do you and I need accountability? We need to find someone who will agree to be an accountability partner. Then we need to **L**.ive with a plan, God's plan. When we don't know what God wants for us we need to pick up the Bible, read it and it will come clear. If one of us was diagnosed with cancer, it's pretty much a given that we would be searching out every treatment, article and possible cure that we could find for our specific kind. Are there marital problems, financial problems, or relational problems amongst us? We need to be searching God's word for what He has to say about it. We want God to fall into line with us when what we need is to fall in line with Him and His plan. We also need to express our expectations. No one is a mind reader and we can't expect people to automatically know what we want from them or from a situation. God has expressed His expectations. There were expectations regarding an offering from Cain and Abel. One honored those expectations the other didn't. God called Moses into service and all he could do was think of reasons why he couldn't and what if. Are we guilty of that? God calls each of us to serve Him in some capacity or other. Are we busy telling Him why we can't do what He is asking of us? Don't entertain a doubting spirit. Step out in faith and God will equip you. He is the great **I AM**. Paul expected hardships in what he was called to do (Acts 20:22-38). Why do we think whatever we do should be easy and if it's not then we doubt God's calling on us? His grace is sufficient. Worship is a decision not a feeling so determine to worship the Lord regardless of what comes your way. Remember that He loves you and has only the best in store.