

SUMMER

Rescue Party

JULY 24, 2022

The challenge you're going through right now is the hardest one yet. Why? Because your current challenge is one step further than you've ever been before. It's unexplored territory. And, there's nothing that burns more brain cells and builds more new pathways in your brain than venturing forth into the unknown.

THINK IT OVER

What is your current battle?

^{21:1} A heavenly Adversary arose against Israel and incited David to count Israel. ² So David told Joab and the leaders of the people, "Go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and take a census of the people so I know how many people there are." ³ But Joab replied, "May the LORD increase his people a hundred times! Sir, aren't you the king, and aren't they all your servants? Why do you want to do this? Why bring guilt on Israel?" ⁴ But the king overruled Joab, who left and traveled throughout all Israel. When he returned to Jerusalem, ⁵ he reported to David the total number... ⁷ God was offended by this census and punished Israel. ⁸ Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done! Now please take away the guilt of your servant because I have done something very foolish." —I Chronicles 21:1-27

1) The only counting you should do is counting on _____. (God)

THINK IT OVER

What is a time that you found yourself 'counting' what you have?

¹¹ When Gad came to David, he said to him, "This is what the LORD says: Take your choice: ¹² three years of famine, three months of fleeing from your enemies while your enemies' sword overtakes you, or three days of the LORD's sword, that is, plague in the land and the LORD's messenger bringing disaster in every part of Israel. Decide now what answer I should take back to the one who sent me." ¹³ "I'm in deep trouble," David said to Gad. "I'd rather fall into the hands of the LORD, who is very merciful; don't let me fall into human hands." ¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague throughout Israel, and seventy thousand Israelites fell dead. ———I Chronicles 21:11-14

2) Your brokenness will bring calamity on others if it remains _____. (unresolved)

THINK IT OVER

Who have you seen bring calamity upon their loved ones because of unresolved brokenness?

¹⁵ Then God sent a messenger to Jerusalem to destroy it. But just as the messenger was about to destroy it, the LORD looked and changed his mind about the destruction. He said to the messenger who was destroying it, "That's enough! Withdraw your hand!" At that time the LORD's messenger was standing near the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁶ When David looked up, he saw the LORD's messenger stationed between the earth and the sky with a drawn sword in his hand stretched out against Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, dressed in mourning clothes, fell on their faces; ¹⁷ and David said to God, "Wasn't it I who ordered the numbering of the people? I'm the sinner, the one responsible for this evil. But these sheep—what have they done? LORD, my God, turn your hand against me and my household, but spare your people from the plague." ——— *1 Chronicles 21:15-17*

3) The path to _____ begins when we admit our own culpability and _____. (healing, guilt)

THINK IT OVER

What was a time you had your eyes opened and you grew as a result?

²⁶ David built an altar there for the LORD and offered entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices. He called on the LORD, who answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of the entirely burned offering, consuming the entirely burned offering. ²⁷ Then the LORD commanded the messenger to return his sword to its sheath.

4) The _____ of Jesus is all you'll ever need. Worship God with _____. (sacrifice, love)

THINK IT OVER

What helps you get to a place of worship or deep deep appreciation for God?