As believers, and according to God's Word, we are elected, empowered, enlightened to do all that God has called us to do and be. The greatest power on this earth comes from heaven to change and influence this world, but often we fall short, still finding ourselves dealing with insecurities.

Our feelings have the power to quickly lead us astray.

Dallas Willard writes, “Feelings make wonderful servants, but horrible masters.”

My ability to act in faith or love in depth is capped by my insecurities unless God blesses my life with a renewed mind.

There is possibly, a gnawing inside, that keeps us from feeling complete, creating knots in our stomach, filling us with insecurity.

**Problem Solving Or Problem Evaluation**- “This is the wrong test!”

The Holy spirit helps us take the test that was unexpected, the test was not intended to hit us with lower or cheap blows, but to advance us, requiring us to develop higher more keen skills.

Insecurity manifests craving for the security of a partner in our lives; or finding it under the knife, competing to stay ahead in our careers, our education, the amount of books we read or simply explode through the gossipy, jealous, vindictive arrows we call words shot into the backs of someone we detest.

Beth Moore’s book, *So Long Insecurity, you’ve been a bad friend to us*. Most often brought on by a perceived threat. She writes,

More often than not, if we are willing to make the connection, we can trace feelings of insecurity to a perceived threat, especially if it comes in a sudden rush. What are we afraid of? Who are we afraid of? What are we afraid of losing? Why are we afraid of being displaced? (Beth Moore, *So Long Insecurity, you’ve been a bad friend to us*.)

- Moses was so insecure that he had to have is brother Aaron help him with the call that God had given him. Truth known, Moses was NOT EQUAL TO THE TASK. BUT THAT DID NOT CHANGE GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS LIFE! When we are committed to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, God has a total different perspective of you than you do of yourself.

- Saul was very insecure, having his kingdom expand under the help and leadership of David, but he was threatened by his success. He was jealous of it and became insecure because of it. Have you noticed that often jealousy and insecurity go hand in hand?

The way you view yourself will actually shape how others view you. It’s possible that the personality you express to everyone around you has something to do with the personal insecurity that is rampant within you.
Where Does It All Come From?

In Matthew 15, Jesus was responding to questions the scribes and Pharisee's were throwing at Him concerning His disciples because they were not keeping up with the rules that they considered the law like washing their hands properly. Jesus responded to them that they had created laws to by-pass laws, instead of taking care of their parents financially, they would donate that money back into their own pockets or the Temple to make them look better. Jesus pulls the crowd of people together and tells them,

*What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'*

Matthew 15:11

Later Jesus’ disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable. Jesus told them that whatever comes into the body, goes to the stomach and then is discarded as waste. But,

*But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'*

Matthew 15:18

Then Jesus describes what comes out of the heart,

*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

Matthew 15:19

When we look at others thinking that they have everything, what were they thinking? Jesus would respond to that, there was something in the heart. So here is a key statement,

*At the end of the day, the condition of our heart is the grid in which we follow God, live, influence and lead.*

The word “insecure” means unstable, uncertain, lacking confidence, shaky and unsound. People walk around as insecure people, they lack confidence. Their emotions are always out of control. The word “secure”, means, having full command to rule, to be without anxiety and free from care.

There are Four Supporting Components of Insecurity, that impact our heart and therefore they impact our life in how we follow God, how we live among others and how we influence and lead.

**Four Supporting Components of Insecurity, (Enemies of Security)**

1. **Guilt- “I Owe You!”** A person of guilt has a secret or secrets, perhaps from their past, from a broken relationship, or a statement, meant to incriminate and belittle, a nickname, a moral failure, or unwarranted and unearned blame, from struggles with your children, from a marriage gone wrong, from a business that went bankrupt or a job they got fired from. Guilt is in the crevasses of our heart and can influence how we do life, how we follow God, how we live among others and how we influence and lead.

   Guilty people carry a secret that causes them to feel like they owe someone something. The guilt of their past is a payment that they are still trying to pay off.
They are imprisoned with an ankle bracelet that won't let them go in basically three ways:

1. **The Inward Shame- “I am so bad,”** is the plaguing guilt statement. Basically, they hold on to it because of how bad it was. You have been taught all your life, “YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!” Because of whatever was done in the past was so bad, you are now doing life for it. You now owe and will always owe and you will never be out of that debt for that particular situation. The insecurity for the extremity of the crime says that you owe!

2. **The Outward Blame- “Look what I've done,”** is the plaguing guilt statement. The difference is that my guilt is in response to all those my actions affected, “There's the evidence I'm a bad person.” The extremity of the debt is reissued each time someone involved in past bad situation gets back in the picture. You may have done something out of rebellion, lust, stupidity, neglect, even innocence or because it was the most important or necessary choice, the extremity of the debt can cause you to harbor guilt in your heart that can influence the rest of your life. The insecurity of guilt can and will influence your life choices, the type of people you believe you deserve or are allowed to associate with, and the level of quality of life you will have because deep in your heart you hear your own voice saying, “Look what I've done, I've got to pay it back!” The outward blame can influence everything you do in life, how we follow God, how we live among others and how we influence and lead.

3. **The Emotional Game- “Look what you've done, you are so bad!”** is the plaguing guilt statement. When manipulated by words of guilt, you don't have to even be bad or have any debt at all, you are just guilty! If you have been guilted your whole life, more than likely you feel like you owe someone for something. So you learn in life to be motivated to do something by guilt, you don't know how to do it without guilt or shame. You feel guilty sitting there, maybe resting, not busy or you have quit all together, run from it all. But there is healthy conscience and motive, and it calls us to respond.

Actually one of the challenges we face is getting people to serve in our church, on one side, we must resist guilt them into serving and help them journey into a healthy reason and purpose for serving. And on the other hand, help people who have no feelings of obligation or responsibility to serve, to get up and do something. Ha! Do you see how sly I was in that statement?

Obligation and Responsibility are owing statements. So what is it? How do we served if there is no obligation or responsibility? **You serve because you recognize ‘WHO YOU ARE!’** NOT “WHAT YOU ARE NOT!” You do not serve to pay off a debt, you serve because the debt is paid and you are now capable of reaching your full potential in Jesus Christ, and the only way to develop that is do what Christ did, glorify God by making Him known! My potential is lived out of me, not hidden in me.

Truth is, according to the Word of God, you do owe others, but only one thing,
Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.
Romans 13:8

Guilty people reflect onto others what is true of themselves. A guilty person will try to make other people guilty. The insecurity of a guilty person will keep people out away from them so they cannot be fully discovered. They can’t stop and rest, because they are driven.

**Indicator of a Guilty Person**

If you are hiding secrets. If you are doing something wrong with money, having an affair, business decisions that are illegal, owe people money, if you are hiding, you found a loophole that makes you feel like you are not guilty, you will not or cannot avoid this guilt into your life and it will impact your future. You will have to build roads to avoid any of those past people that might let the cat out of the bag.

**Habit To Break Guilt**

Confession - James 5: “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”

2. **Anger- “You Owe Me!”**

I've been hurt, something has been taken from me and if you get close to me I will expect you to pay back what others has done to or taken from me. I'll expect you to pay back from what my father took, my mother took. I'll expect you to pay back what my previous boss took. I'll expect you to pay me back what a friend took, the government took.

An angry leader overreacts to unmet expectations, they blow up, at a one alarm fire as if it were a three alarm fire. Angry people fixate their anger on individuals rather than systems. All frustration should lead to confrontation which demands instruction and systems. Frustration is anger waiting to escalate. Great systems create great behaviors. If you have behavior that is driving you crazy, then what is the system or the lack there of that needs to change?

Blaming individuals verses creating and enforcing systems is the basis of most conflict. It's easier to blame someone rather than create, teach and enforce a new system. As life progresses, we have to adjust in it with new systems or we will be frustrated trying to function out of the last seasons systems.

The natural tendency is to find someone to blame because you don't realize you can do something about it. A system is created to ease and minimize conflict, not be a reaction to explosive moods! IF A SYSTEM IS TO BLAME I HAVE TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR, IF A PERSON IS TO BLAME I WILL ALWAYS BE LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW.

**Angry people have very little emotional margin.** Angry people have a difficult time analyzing the systems they have created because it's much easier to find someone to blame. Angry people punish people, they don't coach them.

When you hear this you may be thinking, “Man I wish ____ could read this or
hear this.” “I would love for ____ to do a long, heart searching week on this!”

In an environment of an angry parent, boss, teacher, leader everyone tries to figure out what it is that will please them. Those involve in the environment of an angry leader will try to guess what that person wants because they don’t want to face their wrath.

The question today, “Are you angry?” “Are you in payback mode?” “Did somebody somewhere down the road do something to you, use you, hurt you, abandon you, abuse you, steal from you and they owe you and you are exacting that price from the people who are around you or closest to you?”

Anger says that “You owe me!”

It is so difficult for an angry person to look in the mirror. How they have lived and filtered life is so different than what really works.

An angry person has a difficult time pausing and openly hearing that a system needs to be in place. He or she feels attacked, feels like someone is trying to point out a fault, is not feeling respected, but the truth is, anger causes inroads to solution to be very narrow and hard to find, and few hang around long enough to find that road in.

An angry person creates an environment of fear where no one wants to bring a suggestion or solution to the table. Angry people cannot make good decisions because they seldom get all the information because people are afraid to bring it to the table.

I'm sure many people has tried to tell me and I just couldn't hear it or couldn't see it. I've not spent the last 32 years in ministry ever believing I was justified in my anger, but I do believed I was trapped in it. No one wanted to be healthy more than me! As I've stated, I've read book after book, praying, fasting, seeking out counsel, attempting to find out what I am now coming to understand. It would have been spectacular that I started off, not only my ministry but my marriage with understanding these principles.

Because of what I've created through my own anger, I'm sure now that somehow I've established some of those traits into someone else who now believes someone owes them.

Indicator Of An Angry Person?

- Internal, mental conflict.
  - If you've caught yourself shouting and pounding saying, “I'm not angry!”
  - If you are an angry person, probably someone has told you so.
  - If you are an angry person it is affecting a lot of relationships around you.
  - If you are working with an angry person they are affecting how information is shared, when it is shared and if it is shared. They are influencing the environment and attitudes of those around them.

Habit To Break Anger
Forgiveness, let people go. Anger will rob you of your leadership potential and anger can only be addressed through forgiveness. A good idea would be to write down, “What is it that this person owes me?” “What am I holding on to that could actually be paid back?”

3. Greed- “I Owe Me”

A greedy person has a problem letting others succeed or win. They can’t share the spotlight because it cast too much of a shadow on them. A greedy individual will sacrifice the good of their family, their business, their church or organization for personal advancement. It is almost impossible to see greed in the mirror.

Wants the good of self rather than for the good of the family, church or organization, it creates turf wars. The most important thing is that I get my fair share of credit, of appreciation, of say, of position.

Greed limit others. Greed is very much seen in how they respond to the success of the people around them.

Greed is easiest seen within the financial context. People who have a lot don’t feel like they have enough. Greed tells you that you don’t have enough. You start believing the credit card slogans, “You deserve it!” “Don’t keep yourself back!” Greed entices us to feel like we deserve more than anyone else in our position.

When greed is in the heart of insecurity it will say, “I need more reward,” “I need more recognition,” “I need more appreciation,” “I need to be taken more serious,” “I need to start on a higher level,” “I need to be heard.”

At the bottom of greed is fear. The fear of being insignificant. It’s the fear of not getting our fair share.

Changing The Game- Watch children play, change the rules of the game. A greedy person will never allow anyone else to win.

John Piper once said, “Too much time in the spot light will blind you!”

A greedy individual will change the rules if they think that someone is trying to be a part of their stage.

The Habit To Break Greed

Generosity.

4. Jealousy- “God Owes Me”

The jealous individual is quick to point out the shortcomings of other individuals. A jealous individual is reluctant to help assist or facilitate another person’s success. A jealous individual is threatened by capable, popular and talented people. Because if you become successful, suddenly my success is threatened.

A jealous individual measures their success by other people’s failures.

A jealous individual basically says, “I’m for you if you are for me and if you are not for me then I am for me and you are for you.” A jealous individual builds
alliances, not friendships. They cannot support someone else unless it supports their own goals. Is everyone there for you or are you here for everyone else?

We don't look very often in the mirror and say to ourselves, “You know what, I think I'm a jealous person!” We say things like, “I'm not jealous, I just don't think they did a good job.” “I don't think that person is of God!”

Jealousy says that we are owed what someone else has! God owes me. Why is she skinny and I'm not? Why does he have wealth and I don't? Why were they born into that family and I wasn't? Somehow, things beyond my control is owed to me by God. I want what they have and I don't want them to have what they have.

This can impact our families, our jobs, the teams we work on, the church we serve and go to. Jealousy wants what someone have or wants the other person not to have what they have.

• A jealous person is not comfortable around people who are better than them.
• A jealous person is not comfortable around people better looking than them.
• A jealous person is not comfortable around people who are more talented than them.
• A jealous person is often threatened...sometimes easily threatened.
• A jealous person pulls the God card out all the time.

There is competition that takes place in the local church.

How to Spot Jealousy

• Secretly celebrating the failure of another individual.
• If you can't share your load and let someone help you with it might be jealousy because someone might be able to do something better than you with it.

Habits to Break Jealousy

• Celebrate

Conclusion:

Insecurity impacts our life in how we follow God, how we live among others and how we influence and lead.

1. Guilt- “I Owe You!”
   1. The Inward Shame- “I am so bad,”
   2. The Outward Blame- “Look what I've done,”
   3. The Emotional Game- “Look what you've done, you are so bad!”

Indicator of a Guilty Person: If you are hiding secrets.
Habit To Break Guilt: Confession

2. Anger- “You Owe Me!”
   • All frustration should lead to confrontation which demands instruction and
systems.
• Frustration is anger waiting to escalate. Great systems create great behaviors.
• Angry people have very little emotional margin.
• An angry person creates an environment of fear where no one wants to bring a suggestion or solution to the table.

Indicator Of An Angry Person: Internal, mental conflict.
Habit To Break Anger: Forgiveness, let people go.

3. Greed- “I Owe Me”

At the bottom of greed is fear. The fear of being insignificant. It’s the fear of not getting our fair share.

The Habit To Break Greed: Generosity.

4. Jealousy- “God Owes Me”

How to Spot Jealousy: Secretly celebrating the failure of another individual.

Habits to Break Jealousy: Celebrate

The more we come into the radiance of His greatness, we are made great. Our insecurities become silenced by our confidence in the acts of obedience. We are no longer captured by insecurities demand because we’ve found something powerful and more fulfilling: Holy purpose!

Repent- INSECURITY is so ugly. We have to be quick to catch jealous moments and take them immediately to God. Remember to not get caught in shame or guilt, but take them to God. Allow Him to deal with your insecurity and bring healing to your life. As a believer we are supposed to pray for our enemies.