

How Do You Handle Being Uprooted in Life?

Psalm 116:12: (NASB) *What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?*



Being uprooted can mean a lot of different things. It can be the onset of a disease or disability, the loss of a job or loved one or experiencing a difficult trauma. Maybe it is a change of location - a physical move or perhaps an emotional jolt that makes us reset our thinking. Being uprooted is by definition unexpected, unwelcome and uncomfortable. It messes up our lives! Christians might like to think that because we have God working in our daily experiences, we are going to be shielded from such things. This is entirely untrue. On the surface this might seem disappointing, because nobody wants to go through experiences that mess everything up! The good news is that uprooting experiences, especially for a Christian, can be some of the greatest tools of our lives!

We cannot find the most important lesson unless we ask the most important question.

When uprooted, we normally ask: **What does God want FROM me?**

Instead, let us ask: **What does God want FOR me?**

What does God want FROM me?

This is a BEWILDERMENT-DRIVEN Question.



What does God want FOR me?

This is a FOCUSED-DRIVEN Question.



 **The stroke, My Father, Locked in His Body but Soaring Free, TEDTalk**

- I know a man who soars above the city every night. In his dreams, he twirls and swirls with his toes kissing the earth. Everything has motion, he claims, even a body as paralyzed as his own. This man is my father. Three years ago, when I found out my father had suffered a severe stroke in his brain stem, I walked into his room in the ICU at the Montreal Neurological Institute and found him lying deathly still, tethered to a breathing machine. Paralysis had closed over his body slowly, beginning in his toes, then legs, torso, fingers and arms. It made its way up his neck, cutting off his ability to breathe and stopped just beneath the eyes. He never lost consciousness. Rather, he watched from within as his body shut down, limb by limb, muscle by muscle.*

This patient, Ronnie Cahana, was uprooted in a most unusual way.



Our first example today of a biblical uprooting will be a summation of the prophet Daniel’s experience.

As we go through each of our uprooting stories, we will ask:

- ⇒ How did this experience come to me?
- ⇒ Why does this uprooting experience come to us?
- ⇒ What can I learn from it?



Theme for this uprooting story:

Psalm 116:12: (NASB) *What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?*

The nature of this uprooting experience: It is potentially anticipated as a possibility due to Jeremiah’s prophecy in Jeremiah 25:11-12.

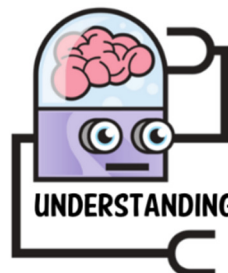
In some of our uprooting experiences we may have some preparation.

**SOMETIMES WE ARE UPROOTED
TO GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THE
POWERFUL TOOL
IN THE HAND OF GOD WE WERE CALLED TO BE.**



Daniel needed to be uprooted so he could be used as a powerful tool in God’s hands. Daniel (along with others) was taken as a captive to Babylon as a teenager. We all know the story of how his diligent faith and wisdom was recognized at every level, and he was eventually elevated to be King Nebuchadnezzar’s right hand man. Now, fast forward to the end of that time period. Daniel was probably in his sixties, and his life was about to take an entirely different path. For the last forty plus years, he had faithfully served King Nebuchadnezzar. Now with the “head of gold” gone, Babylon would slowly begin its unraveling process.

For more about Babylon pictured as a head of gold, please search our archives for [Episode 786: Why Do Historians Dislike Daniel So Much?](#)



UNDERSTANDING UPROOTING:

Even dire circumstances can bring unexpected opportunity while bringing out the best in us, as long as we maintain our highest focus.

Jesus had one of the most dramatic uprooting experiences. He was in heaven with God and volunteered to be uprooted. He came to earth and sacrificed for God’s human creation. He became an even greater tool in the hand of God.

Isaiah 6:8: (NIV) *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, here am I. Send me.*



A “focus” text for our uprooted and now transplanted arsenal of Scriptures:

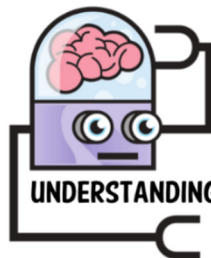


Hebrews 12:2-3: (NASB) ²*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* ³*For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

There is about a 13-year gap between the death of King Nebuchadnezzar and the events of King Belshazzar. During this period, it is important to realize Daniel is no longer an advisor to royalty; he is just a normal citizen. Through all of this time, Daniel prays three times daily for the freedom and protection of his people. He is outspoken when necessary, quietly observing when appropriate.

Now after more than 50 years, the prophet is finally tuned in enough to see the most far-reaching visions of world history and the overruling power of God Almighty.

- Daniel’s vision of the four beasts, which was the dramatic vision of future events (Daniel 7).
- Daniel’s vision of the ram and the goat (Daniel 8).



With focus, long and lonely conditions can bring profound and godly results.

Daniel is now getting up there in age. Hasn’t he been through a long enough uprooted phase?

It is important to note how God’s providence works in the lives of specific individuals. With Daniel, we are observing someone with such unshakable devotion that God could allow him to go through excessive uprooting for long periods. Daniel was a conduit through which God’s word flowed. During captivity, Daniel may have heard about Jeremiah’s prophecy about Israel becoming desolate for 70 years.

When uprooted, do we ask:

What does God want FROM me?



What does God want FOR me?



The alphabet, My Father, Locked in His Body but Soaring Free, TEDTalk

- *In that ICU room, I walked up to my father's body, and with a quivering voice and through tears, I began reciting the alphabet. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K. At K, he blinked his eyes. I began again. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I. He blinked again at the letter I, then at T, then at R, and A: Kitra. He said "Kitra, my beauty, don't cry. This is a blessing." There was no audible voice, but my father called out my name powerfully. Just 72 hours after his stroke, he had already embraced the totality of his condition. Despite his extreme physical state, he was completely present with me - guiding, nurturing and being my father as much if not more than ever before.*

Kitra was wise enough to find a way to communicate with her father. As we will see, this unlocked doors and he found freedom within his paralysis. His life dramatically changed but instead of stopping with the trauma, he moved on to find victory.

Let's return to our story of Daniel. Several years have passed since the visions of chapters 7 and 8, and Daniel is now in his eighties. Belshazzar, the young egotistical co-king, is now in his mid-thirties.

Belshazzar makes a great feast as we open this next chapter of Daniel's life:

Daniel 5:1: (NRSV) *King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand. (He was drinking wine from the cups that came from the temple and made fun of God.)*

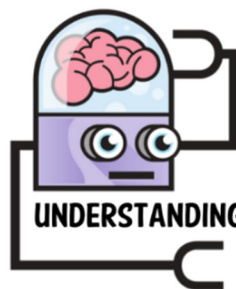
Verses 7-8 are just like the old days - there are godless actions. The king panics and calls in the astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers, and offers riches and the position as third ruler in the kingdom for an understanding of the mysterious writing on the wall.



Daniel responds:

Daniel 5:17: (KJV) *Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known unto him the interpretation.*

Daniel next recaps the history of King Nebuchadnezzar and then directly faces the arrogance of this young and prideful man, and the kingdom falls.



Godly habits while being uprooted bring godly reputation.

Daniel still had a good reputation even though much time had passed.



Daniel, now in his eighties, is back in the limelight, solely by virtue of his character and godliness:

Daniel 6:1-3: (NRSV) ¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps... ²and over them three presidents, including Daniel.... ³Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom.

This excellence and loyalty to God brought resentment from the satraps (provincial governors in the ancient Persian empire) and presidents. As a result, Daniel ended up in the lion's den. Daniel as an old man was still uprooted, but he still held up the highest level of integrity. His faithfulness carried him through, which is an example for us.



King Darius' response:

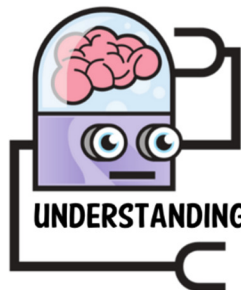
Daniel 6:25-28: (NRSV) ²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all peoples... May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for He is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and His dominion has no end. ²⁷He delivers and rescues, He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for He has saved Daniel from the power of the lions. ²⁸So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Darius makes a decree that everyone must recognize the God of Daniel. It never would have happened if Daniel was not taken captive from his home where he was comfortable. If we are taken somewhere foreign to us, we need to ask, "What does the Lord want FOR me?"

The conclusion of Daniel's story: About three years later, King Cyrus declares freedom for Israel. The 70 years of captivity are over. Daniel is now aged and never does leave Babylon. Though still there, he remains the freest man in all the land. He has faith, he has seen miracles, he has prophesied and he has seen God's providence.

Daniel's faith and actions played a major role in the ending of the 70 years of desolation. Because of Daniel's earnest prayers, God put him in a position of influence with Cyrus and Israel was set free.

In our uprooting experiences, perhaps we can have the opportunity of being in a position to be a powerful tool in the hand of God.



UNDERSTANDING UPROOTING:

Being uprooted can be a lifelong and repeated experience. As with Daniel, if we stay focused on the simplicity of devotion above, we can be blessed while uprooted.



When we have been uprooted, we are transplanted which may not always be comfortable.

A “lifelong focus” text for our uprooted and now transplanted arsenal:

Romans 8:38-39: (NASB) *³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



We need to keep ourselves focused through whatever our uprooting experiences may be.

For more on the life of Daniel, please search our archives for Episodes 806, 808 and 813: [Why Was Daniel So Special? \(Parts I, II and III\)](#).

Daniel IS a remarkable example! What are the differences with the uprooting experiences of Joseph?

Our next uprooting example is Joseph, and on the surface his experience of being yanked from his home is similar to Daniel’s, except Joseph was betrayed by his own brothers. This would have been a deeply troubling factor to process and get over. Let’s look at what he did and how he flourished.

How DO we handle being betrayed by our own family, especially the way Joseph was?

When uprooted, do we ask:

What does God want
FROM me?



What does God want
FOR me?



If we change the question, we change our ability to find the answer.



Cocoon of healing, My Father, Locked in His Body but Soaring Free, TEDTalk

- I slept by my father's side for the first four months, tending as much as I could to his every discomfort, understanding the deep human psychological fear of not being able to call out for help. My mother, sisters, brother and I, we surrounded him in a cocoon of healing. We became his mouthpiece, spending hours each day reciting the alphabet as he whispered back sermons and poetry with blinks of his eye. His room - it became our temple of healing. His bedside became a site for those seeking advice and spiritual counsel, and through us, my father was able to speak and uplift, letter by letter, blink by blink.*



People came to Ronnie for advice and encouragement. (Ronnie Cahana is a Rabbi and looked to God throughout his difficulty.) Letter by letter he was able, through his family, to communicate.

Let's take a look at the uprooting experiences of Joseph.

Theme for this uprooting story:

Psalm 116:13: (NASB) *I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.*

The nature of this uprooting experience: It is completely unexpected and unprepared for.

From a spiritual perspective, sometimes our uprooting is for the purpose of helping others we never could have otherwise helped. This is the story of Joseph!

Before being uprooted, Joseph faced a raging one-sided rivalry consisting of ten older brothers versus himself. Joseph was an integrity-filled teenager who lived his loyalty and showed a fearlessness when speaking the truth, even if it could prove to his detriment.

Joseph's brothers had grown tired of him:

Genesis 37:18: (NRSV) *They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.*

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed so they sold him into slavery instead:

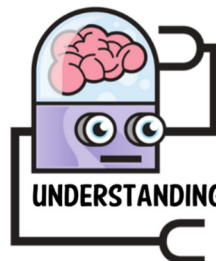
Genesis 37:27: (NRSV) *Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh. And his brothers agreed.*

Why would God allow this injustice if Joseph was favored? He went from the protection of his father's home to becoming a slave in Potiphar's house. If Joseph had not been sold into slavery, he would not have been brought into the Egyptian culture and put into a position of influence. Being sold into slavery was the doorway to the opportunity to save many lives.

A death sentence is overruled to become a life sentence of slavery. God does protect those whom He has set to do His will:

Genesis 39:1,3: (NRSV) *¹Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian... ³His master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hands.*

Sometimes our uprooting experiences can take us completely by surprise.



Even under dire circumstances, deciding to live a life of sacred honor is the way to stand tall, no matter how horrible the uprooting circumstances were that got you there.

Viktor Frankl was a Holocaust survivor and describes change as a choice. He chose to adopt change to survive living in a concentration camp. He is a great example of being uprooted and became a powerful influence for good.



Instead of rebelling, we should choose to ask, “What does God want FOR me?”

Fast forward to Joseph as the king’s right hand, revealing himself to his brothers who were starving.

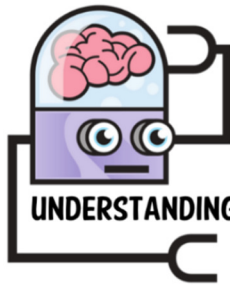
Joseph wept aloud when the opportunity came to reveal himself:

Genesis 45:3-5: (NASB) ³Then Joseph said to his brothers, I am Joseph! Is my father still alive? But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers... I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

This is what forgiveness looks like!

Joseph clearly recognizes God’s providence in his uprooting and is able to absolutely forgive:

Genesis 45:7-8: (NASB) ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. ⁸Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.



UNDERSTANDING UPROOTING:

By living a life of sacred honor to God through Jesus, we can be SURE that whatever uprooting we may be experiencing WILL BE for godly good to us and others.

Joseph repeats his recognition of providence three times - his uprooting saved the masses from starving.

A “sacred honor” text for our uprooted and now transplanted arsenal:

Romans 8:28: (NASB) *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*



The story of Joseph is a true testimony to God’s tender loving care through the most unlikely experiences.

For more on the life of Joseph, please search our archives for Episodes 773 and 780: Who Was that Hero in the Multi-Colored Coat? (Parts I and II).



Uprooting can help us be a tool of God and help us protect others. Is it ever about just us?

Daniel and Joseph were such lofty examples of being dragged out of their lives, only to be the saviors of their worlds. What about Elijah? He was a faithful prophet of God who single-handedly took on royalty AND the prophets of Baal and won. Yet, he was also uprooted and ran for his life.

What would you do if you had done everything right and the results left YOU uprooted?



Sometimes we bring the uprooting upon ourselves. I had this experience. I made a career change many years ago and uprooted things very dramatically. It turned out I made the change too soon, which became clear afterwards. I made the change because I saw the opportunity for having freedom to control my time, but for years I did not have freedom to control my time. After six or seven years things finally started to level out, and that is when Christian Questions came along. The ability to have control over time gave me personally the ability to do my contribution. That uprooting was by my own choice out of a true desire. God made me grow up into it.

When uprooted, do we ask:

What does God want
FROM me?



What does God want
FOR me?



Connections, My Father, Locked in His Body but Soaring Free, TEDTalk

- *Then, one day, from the corner of my eye, I saw his body slither like a snake, an involuntary spasm passing through the course of his limbs. At first, I thought it was my own hallucination, having spent so much time tending to this one body, so desperate to see anything react on its own. But he told me he felt tingles, sparks of electricity flickering on and off just beneath the surface of the skin. The following week, he began ever so slightly to show muscle resistance. Connections were being made. Body was slowly and gently reawakening, limb by limb, muscle by muscle, twitch by twitch.*

Our third biblical uprooting story will be a look at the experiences of Elijah.

Theme for this uprooting story:

Psalm 116:14: (NASB) *I shall pay my vows to the LORD; oh, may it be in the presence of all His people.*

The nature of this uprooting experience: It is completely opposite from expectations.

King Ahab was deeply idolatrous and evil. God raised Elijah up to stand against Ahab.





“Elijah” means “My God is Jehovah.” Courage had arrived, and his name was Loyalty:

1 Kings 17:1: (NASB) *Now Elijah the Tishbite... said to Ahab, As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.*

Three things are shown clearly:

- **Specifics:** The Lord God lives - in spite of all that you have done to disavow Him.
- **Clarity:** I represent the Lord God and no other, and here is His message of punishment.
- **Accountability:** My word as God’s prophet can release this punishment.

What do we do when we did God’s will, but the results are the OPPOSITE of what we expected? Sometimes our uprooting is for the purpose of our own protection so we may continue our work.

When uprooted, do we ask:



Elijah asked the wrong question and had to be shown the right way.

1 Kings 19:1-4: (NASB) *¹Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. ³And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life... ⁴But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.*

Elijah felt like a failure. The thrill of victory was instantly turned to the agony of defeat.

An angel comes, strengthens him, and Elijah journeys to Mount Horeb.

1 Kings 19:9-10: (NASB) *⁹Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, What are you doing here, Elijah? ¹⁰He said, I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

God then shows Elijah His presence in the “sound of a gentle blowing”:

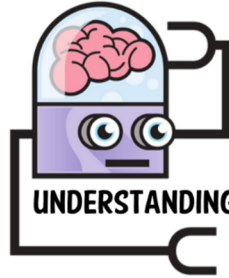
1 Kings 19:12: (NIV) *After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*



God again asks Elijah what he is doing, and Elijah repeats what he already said to God previously:

1 Kings 19:15-16: (NASB) *¹⁵The LORD said to him, Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; ¹⁶and Jehu... you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha... you shall anoint as prophet in your place. (Your work is not yet done!)*

What can we learn from Elijah’s uprooting experience which came completely unexpectedly?



Sometimes our expectations are out of line with God’s providence. In these times, we must be humble enough to refocus our minds and reengage our efforts.



A “refocusing and reengaging” text for our uprooted and now transplanted arsenal:

Isaiah 41:10: (NASB) *Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

If Elijah could learn to manage such an enormous and unexpected uprooting, then surely, we can manage ours.

For more on the life of Elijah, please search our archives for Episodes 954, 956 and 958: [The Power of Courage, Submission and Legacy \(Parts I, I and III\)](#).

We have seen uprootings that were unexpected and surprising. What about one that we fully expect?

We all have experiences coming our way we have time to prepare for. While there is an advantage to having time to think and adjust, the uprooting of such an experience can still be difficult and traumatic. The Apostle Paul had such an experience, and it was heartbreaking.



As I have mentioned on previous podcasts, my mom and dad, both 90-years-old, moved in with us about a year and a half ago so we could help care for them. My dad had advanced Alzheimer’s, along with other medical issues and passed away six months ago. When they asked to live with us, we welcomed them, and it is a privilege to help them, but it is still an uprooting experience. It has uprooted our lives in several ways. There is always someone in our home - it is either my parents, caregivers, visiting nurses, physical therapists, etc. Our routine has changed; we have little privacy and have time restrictions on when we need to be home, since my mom cannot be left alone. Either my wife or I need to be home by 1:00 pm before the caregiver leaves. Our home is no longer our own, but it is not supposed to be. When we consecrate our lives in service to God, all we have belongs to Him.

Uprooting happens in different ways. We need to learn from examples in the Scriptures so we can find our way through the difficulties.



How do we handle it when we know we are going to be uprooted? How do we prepare? It is good to begin with prayer.

Trish: I want to thank Jonathan for mentioning his personal experience because a lot of our uprooting comes from just being where we are in life. This topic has been very enlightening to me, because I was uprooted four years ago in my life while working in a bank as a teller when two bank robberies took place. I never put it in perspective of being uprooted before. I was uprooted in my life for the purpose of becoming more prosperous in my life in Christ. So, what does God want FOR me? This topic was very encouraging to me.

Someday we will tell Trish's entire story with this experience which led to a lot of trauma. She was the bank teller who was robbed twice by the same person within two weeks.

When uprooted, do we ask:



Progress, My Father, Locked in His Body but Soaring Free, TEDTalk

- *For most of us, our muscles begin to twitch and move long before we are conscious, but my father tells me his privilege is living on the far periphery of the human experience. Like an astronaut who sees a perspective that very few of us will ever get to share, he wonders and watches as he takes his first breaths and dreams about crawling back home. So begins life at 57, he says. Few of us will ever have to face physical limitations to the degree that my father has, but we will all have moments of paralysis. I know I frequently confront walls that feel completely unscalable, but my father insists that there are no dead ends. Instead, he invites me into his space of co-healing to give the very best of myself, and for him to give the very best of himself to me.*



Jesus gave the very best of himself. Rick, I appreciate this quality in you. One of your favorite phrases is, "Do the most important thing at every given moment." Every time you are with someone, you are focused on being a blessing, a comfort, a help, giving an answer or asking the right question. Thank you for who you are.



Rick: Thank you. To me, to be able to contribute to others is one of the great privileges in life. Most of the time the contribution is by listening. When you listen to someone with your whole being and they know they are the only important thing at that moment, trust develops, and progress can be made.

Our fourth uprooting story will be the winding down of Apostle Paul's ministry. Theme for this uprooting story:

Psalm 116:15: (NASB) *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones.*

The nature of this uprooting experience: It is very much anticipated and expected.

It is hard to sum up the Apostle Paul's life. He was focused, engaged, courageous and tireless. When his public ministry was coming to an end, he walked boldly towards that end.

Sometimes our uprooting is for the purpose of closing a chapter or ending an experience.

Acts 20:17-27: (NASB) *(selected verses)* ¹⁷From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸...he said to them, You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time... ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house... ²²And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God... ²⁷For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

The Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me - Paul knew going to Jerusalem was going to be a difficult physical experience for him. He understood it was the Lord's will and the uprooting was coming.

Paul proceeds to warn and encourage his brethren:

Acts 20:32: (NASB) *And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

Paul reminds them of how he selflessly did the work of the gospel:

Acts 20:36-38: (NASB) ³⁶When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, ³⁸grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

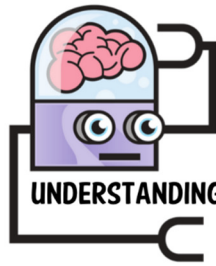
Paul was their mentor and he told them he would not be seeing them again.

The prophet Agabus speaks of Apostle Paul's future:

Acts 21:8, 11-13: (NASB) ⁸On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist... ¹¹And coming to us, he (Agabus) took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, This is what the Holy Spirit says: In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. ¹²When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.



Paul encourages the brethren how to handle his trial. Jesus did the same on his last night when he prepared his disciples how to handle his experience. Paul walked boldly into the uprooting experience knowing he would die for the cause.



Being uprooted is especially difficult when it means you must leave behind profound relationships. Be sure to remember that this loss is temporary and essentially momentary.

Unlocked, My Father, Locked in His Body but Soaring Free, TEDTalk

- *Today, my father is no longer locked in. He moves his neck with ease, has had his feeding peg removed, breathes with his own lungs, speaks slowly with his own quiet voice and works every day to gain more movement in his paralyzed body. But the work will never be finished. As he says, "I'm living in a broken world, and there is holy work to do."*

Whether we are uprooted or not, we have much work to do.



A “staying the course” text for our uprooted and now transplanted arsenal: Philippians 4:12-13: (NASB) ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

The Apostle Paul is saying, “Whether I am uprooted or not, what matters is I am about the cause of Christ. I will take the experiences and circumstances in front of me and use them for the glory of God.”

Even if we do not want the experiences and circumstances, if they are not expected, or if we bring them upon ourselves, it does not matter. What does matter is how we make it a godly experience and witness to those around us God’s providence in our uprooting.

***How do you handle being uprooted in life?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***



**Join us next week for our podcast on October 14, 2019:
Ep. 1095: Jesus Died For You! Are You Dying For Him?**

Bonus Material!

Every problem introduces a person to himself. — *John McDonnell*

More information on the TED talk we featured:

https://www.ted.com/talks/kitra_cahana_my_father_locked_in_his_body_but_soaring_free

In 2011, Ronnie Cahana suffered a severe stroke that left him with Locked-In Syndrome: completely paralyzed except for his eyes. While this might shatter a normal person's mental state, Cahana found peace in "dimming down the external chatter," and "fell in love with life and body anew." In a somber, emotional talk, his daughter Kitra shares how she documented her father's spiritual experience, as he helped guide others even in a state of seeming helplessness.

Take your anxiety to these verses and let them shine the light of Jesus' example on it:

Colossians 3:12-24: (NASB) ¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

LET the peace of Jesus rule - proper focus gives permission for peace to rule:

¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

LET the word of Jesus dwell in you - focus brings permission. Then ACT in Jesus' name.

The next verses - have mutual respect - wives, husbands, children, parents. This is how you bloom!

²²Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Anxiety can be turned towards growth when we know the "why" of all that we do:

Hebrews 4:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.





To truly cope with being uprooted we NEED contentment to flourish. Jesus knew this and showed us what the road to contentment and happiness looks like:

Luke 12:22-32: (NASB) ²²And he said to his disciples, For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Contentment perspective: Our human life and body must be seen in light of the Kingdom. If we are followers of Jesus, then our life and body are bent toward his footsteps.

²⁴Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!

The birds and the animals go about their instinctive business and are provided for as a result. Our contentment will instinctively flourish when we are about our business of following Jesus.

²⁵And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? ²⁶If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?

We are small in the big picture of God's plan. Our contentment comes in acknowledging God does watch over and care for our lives.

²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!

The flowers - God's creations that simply grow because they are planted are stunning evidences of God's care for His creation. Our contentment can take root in this beautiful example of God's care for detail.

²⁹And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.

We, as the called of Jesus, are different, and our contentment depends upon our being reminded of this important, basic and life-changing fact.

³¹But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³²Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

Our contentment is a result of our focus and our application of that focus. Once we set our lives in order, we can then begin to truly develop deep and abiding happiness.

10 Bible verses for hard times:

1. **Deuteronomy 31:6:** (KJV) *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

2. **Isaiah 41:10:** (KJV) *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

3. **Isaiah 26:3:** (KJV) *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*



4. John 14:26-27: (NASB) ²But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

5. Proverbs 3:5-6: (KJV) ⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

6. Psalms 34:17-18: (KJV) ¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

7. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: (KJV) ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

8. 1 Peter 4:7-8: (KJV) ⁷But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. ⁸And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9. 1 Peter 4:12-13: (KJV) ¹²Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you ¹³But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

10. Hebrews 12:1-3: (KJV) ¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

