

IS IT TIME TO 'REBOOT'?

TEXT: 1 Samuel 30:6

THESIS: To show how to "reboot" your life when things don't go as planned.

INTRO.: A. "Rebooting" is a computer term. It generally means that something has gone wrong with your computer or a program & you need to shut it down & then restart or "reboot" it & go back "on line." (There are times I would really like to give the boot to my computer!) When something goes wrong in the Christian life it might be time to "reboot" so we can get back "on line" for the Lord.

- B. Things had really gone wrong in David's life in our text (v.1-5), but David didn't quit or give up, he simply "rebooted."
- C. God gives life in increments! Time is life. Our life is divided into segments. Every year we have a Birth day. In Jan. we start a new year. Each month begins with the first. Each week begins w/Sunday. Each day begins w/sunrise. Every new day is a fresh beginning. "Tomorrow is a fresh, clean slate w/no mistakes in it." Today is yesterday's tomorrow! God gives us fresh opportunities all the time. If things go wrong today, there is always tomorrow for a fresh start. The question for you is **"IS IT TIME TO 'REBOOT'?"**

I. IT'S TIME TO 'REBOOT' – WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED: (TEXT)

A. The Remedy for Discouragement is Encouragement!

ILLUS.: David had every right to be distressed or discouraged. He was the King, the leader of the nation & the commander-in-chief of the armed forces & he had just suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of his enemies. It was both a national disgrace & a personal loss. But David **"encouraged himself in the Lord his God."**

1. Don't quit!

POEM: Don't Quit, by Jack Hyles

"When your health is feeling sickly, And the medicine tastes bad;
When your fellowship is lonely, And your happiness is sad;
When your warmth is getting colder, And in clouds your sunshine's clad; **DON'T QUIT!**
When you find your wins are losses, And that all your gains are lacks,
When ill things never come alone, And your troubles run in packs;
When your soul is bruised & battered From the Tempter's fierce attacks; **DON'T QUIT!**
Be not weary in well doing, For in due season brings the grain;
He who on the Lord hath waited Shall never run in vain;
The just man falleth seven times, Yet riseth up again; **DON'T QUIT!**

2. Look up! cf. v.7,8
 - a. Seek help from God's appointed source. v.7
 - b. Seek the Lord Himself. v.8a
 - c. Claim God's promise. v.8b

3. Keep serving!

ILLUS.: David encouraged himself in the Lord, then prayed, claimed the promise & moved on. He didn't resign the throne, become defeated or become depressed. (There is a difference between being "distressed" & being "depressed.") Then he claimed the victory & was successful. (v.18,19)

4. Don't turn back!

ILLUS.: David could have said, "Lord you anointed me King & you have let me down, I'm going back to being a shepherd of sheep instead of a shepherd of men. It's so much easier. But he had no right to reject God's past goodness or His calling. He just needed to "reboot"!

5. Don't depend on talent!
 - a. The prerequisite for success is character, not talent.
 - b. The formula for success is dependence on God, not on the flesh.

ILLUS.: What I want in a staff member or secretary is loyalty, tenacity, initiative & integrity, rather than talent or skills like typing, speaking ability, personality, etc.

6. Depend on the Lord!

ILLUS.: David didn't encourage himself in his army, chariots, horses, weapons of war, friends, family or even the "pastor." He **"encouraged himself in the Lord..."**

- B. When You "Get Down" – 'REBOOT'!

II. IT'S TIME TO 'REBOOT' – WHEN YOU GROW COLD:

Ps.39:3-4 *My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue, LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.*

- A. The Remedy for Coldness is Fire!

ILLUS.: The Lord is often in the fire. HE was in the burning bush when He appeared to Moses. (Exc.3:2) He was in the pillar of fire in the wilderness leading the Israelites which gave them guidance, light & heat! (Ex.13:21,22) He was in the fire that fell & consumed the offering on the altar in Lev.9:24. He was with the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. He was in the fire that fell & consumed the offering, altar, water & dust when Elijah contended w/the prophets of Baal. (He refuses to acknowledge "strange fire!" - Be sure you warm yourself by God's fire, not your own fire!)

Lev.10:1-2 *And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.*

1. The fire that warmed you before will warm you again!

ILLUS.: Where were you before when your heart was warm? Go back there & it will get warm again. Warm your heart in the Word, in your prayer-time, in fellowship with other believers, go soul-winning again, cook a meal for someone in need.

2. That which blessed you before will bless you again!

Is.57:15 *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

- B. When You Backslide – 'REBOOT'!

III. IT'S TIME TO 'REBOOT' – WHEN YOU ARE FEARFUL: Mt.6:26,29,29-34

- A. The Remedy for Fear is Faith!

1. Trust like a bird! v.25,26

ILLUS.: The least important part of your life is the physical. v.25 Even a lowly bird knows that God will supply his physical needs. v.26 The bird doesn't fret or worry.

POEM: "DON'T WORRY, ROBIN!" Cathy Corle [Revival Fires!](#), 1/99

3. Make like a lily! v.28-30

4. Don't worry! v.31
5. Don't doubt! v.33,34

ILLUS.: The same God who saved you by faith, will fill you by faith & keep you by faith. Jesus is called the Faithful & True One in Revelation. It is the devil who is the Doubtmaster! **Don't undo in doubt what you did in faith. Don't undo in a moment of weakness what you did in a moment of strength. Don't second guess spiritual decisions! God will vindicate those decisions in time.** Give Him a chance. Ex.: After making the decision to come here as Pastor, I had grave, serious, major doubts! After I arrived, those doubts became even larger. But since then the Lord has again & again confirmed & vindicated that decision.

B. When You Lack Faith – **'REBOOT'!**

CONCL.: **"IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO 'REBOOT'?"** Are you discouraged? Have you grown cold? Are you fearful? The remedy for discouragement is encouragement – from the Lord. The remedy for growing cold is the rekindled fire of God in your life.

The remedy for fear & doubt is faith in the Lord.

The remedy for your lost condition is simple trust in what Jesus did for you when He died in your place, was buried & rose again from the dead – for YOU!