The notes for this volume of study are not mean to be a "method" – but rather a "reference of helps" to the readers as individuals. A "bank of encouragement" – with the Lord as our source!

DEALING WITH THE REJECTION AND PRAISE OF MAN

- I. There are two ways we are healed from the wounds of past rejections:
 - A. Through the Sovereign Work of Grace administered to our hearts by the Power of the Holy Ghost.
 - B. Through the illuminations of Truth to our minds. When God's truth finds good soil in our hearts through His Word it lodges within us and renews our minds.
- II. The purpose of this book is to work with the second dynamic of healing our wounds.
 - A. God's Word ministers Wholeness and Freedom through truth!
 - B. These truths will search the depths of:
 - 1) Your inner Attitudes.
 - 2) Your inner Motives.
 - C. Let God's Word (truth) set you free from:
 - 1) The power of Rejection's woundings.
 - 2) The entrapment of Man's praises.
 - D. The truths that set us free from both of these extremes are amazingly Similar!
 - 1) Proverbs 4:18 a word for ever increasing Freedom!

I. Chapter 1 – REJECTION – The Universal Malady.

- A. Our world is filled with Rejection!
- B. List 8 areas of rejection (4 from the book and 4 of our own):

1_	
2_	
3_	_
4	
5_	
6	-
7	-
8	

- C. Every human being knows what it is to Feel rejection.
- D. We have two basic problems in this rejection area:
 - 1) Because of our brokenness through Sin we are very capable of Dispensing rejection.
 - 2) And our sinful fallenness also makes us Susceptible to receiving rejection when none was intended.

- E. Rejection takes many Forms:
 - 1) Hurtful Words.
 - 2) Withdrawn Attention.
 - 3) Unspoken Gestures.
 - 4) Unreciprocated Love.
 - 5) Malicious Assault.
- F. We often construct self-protection mechanisms to Insulate us from recurrences of reject injury!
 - 1) These Walls alone are evidence that we have been injured more than we thought!
 - 2) Relationships with others suffer as we distance ourselves because of past pain....
 - 3) Then we Struggle to find full satisfaction in the relationship God has given us. Rejection has left a Scar.
 - 4) We make "Inner Vows" against the Hurt of rejection "We will never be hurt like that again!"
 - a) This "protection" from further rejection usually traps us into a pattern of behavior that binds us to the Bitterness of the past.
 - b) Once we have been wounded by rejection Relationship become a great risk.
 - c) Even Marriage becomes a gamble as we discover we often suffer the greatest wounds of rejection from those who love us more!
- G. Remember, feelings of rejection are a result of broken Humanity, our Fallenness, our Ineptitude at relating to one another in the perfection of Christ.
 - 1) Also, other people may feel rejected by us for any number of reasons and we are not aware of it initially.
- H. Whatever state we find ourselves in rejection or praise let us be encouraged to know we have the Holy Spirit who is here to Guide us into all truth. Lifting us from the pits of rejection and saving us from the traps of man's praise.

II. Chapter 2 – Even Jesus experienced rejection:

- A. You alone know the depths of your own Heartache.
 - 1) The bitterness of Rejection.
 - 2) Depths of MisUnderstanding.
 - 3) Wounds of private Pain.
 - 4) Suffering silently in ways known only to God.

- B. God's (Jesus) rejection:
 - 1) Mutiny of Mankind.
 - 2) Betrayal of Lucifer.
 - 3) Rejected by Men Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11, John 15:18
 - 4) Rejected by His Hometown.
 - a) Jesus was perfect and was still rejected!!!
 - 5) Rejected by the religious Leadership of His day Luke 11:53-54.
- C. Jesus & Jeremiah compared because no Old Testament prophet suffered Rejection like Jeremiah! Matt 16:13-14
 - 1) He prophesized faithfully what God gave him as a result almost everyone Hated him.
 - 2) He had wronged no one but because He was God's mouthpiece everyone Cursed him.
 - 3) The people of Jesus day said, "Jesus reminds us of John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah.
- D. The Reward of rejection:
 - 1) Earthly rejection, properly Embraced, is an opportunity to gain Heavenly Treasure.
 - 2) Don't just share your valuable Lessons with anyone –
 - 3) Matthew 7:6
 - 4) Jesus does intend that we turn our Pains to Pearls! Acts 14:22
 - 5) The Pearls of Great Price is the People of God the Bride of Christ who came through great tribulation.

III. Chapter 3 – REJECTION: God's Specialty Tool

- A. In this life the Masters workbench holds many tools with which He forms His Servants into the image of Christ!
- B. The tool of rejection is one with which He Accelerates the maturity of His chosen vessels.
- C. When God destines a saint for extraordinary Influence in the Body of Christ, He prepares him/her through the rejection of people.
 - 1) This will Tenderize this person to the reality of rejection.
 - 2) It will help Sensitize this person to how easily rejection can be inflected on others!
 - 3) Because of this sensitivity the servant leader will handle the flock of God with exceptional Care and tenderness.
- D. It is to these sensitized shepherds that God can entrust greater Influence.

- E. David's rejections:
 - 1) David was not in Jesse's memory bank when the Prophet Samuel came to choose a King of Israel!
 - 2) David was rejected by his Brothers when he came with supplies to the battlefield Eliab voiced his rejection of David. I Samuel 17:28
 - 3) Kin Saul tried to Kill David repeatedly...
 - 4) David's wife Michal, despised him. II Samuel 6:20.
 - 5) David's sons, Absalom and Adonijah tried to overthrow him!
 - 6) David "handled" all this rejection by continually withdrawing to the Secret place where he:
 - a) Renewed his Hope in God.
 - b) Renewed his Confidence in God.
 - 7) Because David knew that God loved him and accepted him he could keep an accurate Perspective on the rejection of men!
- F. God designs rejections for our Benefit:
 - 1) David and Absalom are prime examples of rejection and an individual's response to God *or* against God!
 - 2) A substantial step toward "Freedom of Soul" is made when we are able to see God as the Author of life's rejections and not men!
 - 3) If we respond Properly to it, the rejection will be used by God to shape and conform us to the image of Christ.
 - 4) However, as long as we perceive men as the source of the rejection we will **Struggle** in our attitude toward them.
 - 5) We need to begin to give thanks to God who allows our rejection for higher Purpose.
 - 6) Those whom God loves are always rejected the Most....
- G. Rejection is a vital Ingredient in the training up of endtime leaders, and after we're trained and raised up it Continue to be a necessary tool to maintain and guard our hearts in humility!
- H. When people reject you, but you are Fueled on the inside with the profound affections of your Father for you then you are able to give yourself to your fellow man regardless of how he treats you.

IV. Chapter 4 – The Real Source of Healing

- A. Learning to respond properly to rejection is a Process that takes many years.
- B. Children are often Wounded most by rejection.
- C. Children do not have the Tools to handle rejection right.
- D. Christian maturity is NOT an Instant attainment, but rather a *lifelong* process SO give yourself Time to master the principles of overcoming rejection.
- E. If we allow it, rejection can Drive us into a place of finding God.
- F. The Principles involved in responding *redemptively* to rejection.
 - 1) Jesus whole Ministry was
 - a) Trials but not offended
 - b) Vexation to the soul but not embittered
 - c) Pain by rejection but not wounded
 - 2) Rejection hurts, but in need not Wounded.
 - 3) The *Healing Balm* (#1) we need IS the unparalleled Acceptance of our Father which operates as an internal wellspring of love that flows from the heart of our heavenly Father to us.
 - a) When we have been Stung by rejection, we need to learn to retreat to the Secret Place to be renewed and cleansed by the Affections of our loving Heavenly Father.
 - b) Rejection is a trial BUT the acceptance of our Father is the healing Ointment.
 - 4) Forgiveness (#2) is also one of the first steps in being healed from the ravages of rejection…by extending total forgiveness to those who have Wronged us.
 - a) Jesus model of forgiveness was stated like this, "Father, forgive them for they Know not what they do." Luke 23:24.
 - b) This model shows us Jesus already forgave his tormentors now he was asking His Father to forgive them too.
 - c) Stephen also gave this example, "Lord, do not Charge them with this sin." Acts 7:60
 - d) When you Release your offenders from the judgment of their sin, you Break the power of unforgiveness and fined a new release to relate in Freedom to others who sin against you!

- 5) Accept (#3) Your Father's Love
 - a) When this Love really touches your heart, it *burns away* the cords that rejection would bind around your heart.
 - b) THE KEY is: You must Believe John 3:16. God loves YOU this much....
 - c) Once we believe we must Receive His love! When we take in His love we will find ourselves renewed, saturated, strengthened, sustained, lifted, empowered by the greatest power in the Universe His Love
 - d) The devils aim is to keep us from Accepting and receiving God's Love. Could God *really* love you that much? Timothy 4:1 When we doubt the Father's Love we are straying from the Faith!
 - e) Let the Holy Spirit place this deep within your Consciousness: You are wildly and irrevocably loved and enjoyed by God!
- 6) Until you are Established on the inside in the Love of God, you will always be susceptible to the rejection's woundings! (Read the paragraph of this sentence over again).

V. Chapter 5 – Your Source of Acceptance...Jesus plus nothing else!

- A. When God accepts me, I need acceptance from no one else.
 - 1) When we realize we are accepted and embraced by the great God of the universe, the acceptance of People becomes secondary
- B. If the Father is approving of our lives, the World can line up against us, but it won't be able to wound us *on the inside* because *on the inside* we are feeding on the Father's affirmation.
- C. This teaching does *not* advocate an independent Spirit or a condescending attitude that says, "I have heard from God so scram or save your advice."
 - 1) The Lord has called us to walk in inter-Dependent with our fellow believers in the Body of Christ! I Corinthians 12
- D. We look to each other for Encouragement, for counsel, for Prayer support, for practical help, for wisdom, for perspective, for correction BUT *not* for our Source of acceptance!
- E. <u>BALANCE</u> and one of the greatest challenges in Christian maturity:
 - 1) To make myself vulnerable to your Kindness and Affection.
 - 2) While not allowing myself to be penetrated by our Rejection!
- F. It is a sign of maturity when we can receive correction without Interpreting it as rejection.
- G. <u>SOURCE of ACCEPTANCE</u> We will not be healed of rejection by <u>Analyzing</u> the source of your rejection, but by <u>Looking</u> at the source of acceptance. Hebrew 12:2.
 - 1) When we yearn for others acceptance, we Open ourselves to their rejection.

- 2) When we hope for man's acceptance, we make ourselves Vulnerable to man's rejection!
- 3) When you are Complete in your Heavenly Father's acceptance, you will no longer crave earthly acceptance.
- H. Closing the door on rejection:
 - 1) Remember, if man's acceptance will build you up man's rejection will Devastate you. Ecc. 7:21
 - 2) Jesus was not touched by the praise of man and was therefore not Wounded by the rejection of man.
 - 3) Jesus found His complete identity in His Father's acceptance *and* so can you and I!
- I. We can not serve Two masters Matthews 6:24:
 - 1) We can not look for acceptance from Both God and man.
 - 2) When we seek someone's acceptance, we try to Please him.
 - 3) Whomever we desire to please, we become his Servant
 - 4) We must decide are we trying to Please God or man? Proverbs 16:7

VI. Chapter 6 – The SNARE of Man's Praise:

(this thought is captured in Jesus question. John 5:44)

- A. Jesus denounced the religious leaders of His day because they were driven by the Need to garner men's approval.
 - 1) Luke 20:46 dressed in long robes to be admired, receiving many greetings in the market place because of their position, having the best seats in the Synagogues and the best places at feasts, also because of their positions.
 - 2) Matthew 23:5 ALL their works they do to be seen by men.
- B. We would Imitate the example of the Apostle Paul who did not seek to please men, but to please God *alone*. I Thess. 2:4-6
- C. Seeking the Pleasure (approval) of God, is in itself an all consuming pursuit. Matthew 25:23, I Cor.3:12-15
- D. There are two practical reasons why we should *NOT* seek the praise of men:
 - 1) #1 People are Undependable
 - 2) Even Christians are Undependable
 - a) <u>Take note</u> we will all have experience in rejection in the Body of Christ as we have many weaknesses
 - b) <u>Take note</u> even Christian <u>Leaders</u> with their best and most sincere efforts are undependable.
 - 3) We are to love one another and be faithful to one another but to Trust in God alone!
 - 4) #2 The Opinions of people are insignificant. II Cor. 10:18
 - a) When you stand before God's throne *Both* your opinion of yourself and the opinions of others will be Insignificant
 - b) Psalms says "The Praises of Men are lighter than a Vapor!" Psalm 62:9

- c) We live for one thing the Praise of God.
- 1) If we are overlooked or left "unnamed" there are two reasons God chooses to leave us anonymous:
 - a) To save us from the Seduction of fame....
 - b) To give opportunity for Refining from the desire for recognition.
- E. Another related issue with "Man's Praise" is this The root of Anger IS THE fear of rejection! Proverbs 29:25
 - 1) The fear of man Snares, but the fear of God Frees!
 - 2) Whoever Trusts in the Lord *will be safe*.
 - 3) The fear of man will *freeze* our Ability to move with God!

VII. Chapter 7 – Jesus and the Praise of Man

- A. Jesus Wept over the city of Jerusalem as people were praising Him.
- B. Unaffected by the praises, He felt His Father's Heartbreak over the people who would not receive Him.
- C. When we are Energized by men's praises, we lose our Discernment! *Don't* believe your own press!!!
- D. Man's praise will cause us to loose:
 - 1) The ability to Discern the Father's agenda.
 - 2) The ability to Discern the false Motives of men.
- E. This is the main reason why Christians of "Higher anointing" have fallen in various traps the Praise of Men from even sincere people... The Crushing of disappointment and the lack of recognition will keep us from self-Destruction.
- F. We NEED to hear the inner voice of the Holy Spirit saying to us, "You are my Beloved child in whom I am well pleased."
- G. Receiving Honor from men:
 - 1) Jesus said, "I do not Receive honor from men," Jn. 5:41
 - 2) The Bible says this to us, "looking unto Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despised the shame-" Hebrews 12:2
 - a) Jesus joy was to please His father.
 - b) And receive Honor from His Father
 - 3) Hold out for the Highest honor Just as Jesus did. Philippians 2:9-11 Look for God's honor as Jesus did!

VIII. Chapter 8 – How Daniel handled the Praise of Man – Daniel 6:3

- A. Daniel was told twice that he was "Greatly Beloved by God. 1. Daniel 10:11, 19
- B. Daniel the semi retired "Secretary of State" of Babylon, the "has been" for the former King Nebuchadnezzar's cabinet, only remembered by two people God and Queen Mother...turned down all offers by King Belshazzar...The "Out to Pasture" menial task government worker avoided being Seduced by the King's honors, refused all Rewards and

- prestigious advancements! Thankfully, his discernment was still very much intact...the King and his court would be dead by morning.
- C. Daniel was safe, because he lived only for the honor of God could bestow!
- D. When God has a man like Daniel, who is not touched by the praise of men, He is able to Accelerate His purposes in the earth.

IX. Chapter 9 – The Critical Implications of OVERCOMING:

- A. The issues at state in this subject are absolutely crucial in their significance.
 - 1) If we come to terms with the Praise of Man, we will be guided toward the path of true Kingdom Fruitfulness.
 - 2) If we lose here, we hazard becoming Casualties in the war that rages around us.
- B. Release of Kingdom Authority
 - 1) The first issue is Will God find worthy vessels with which He can Entrust the higher dimensions of Kingdom Authority.
 - a) There is nothing more Damaging in the kingdom than someone who has a little bit of power flowing through their lives, but who is Touched by men's praises...
 - b) How can God give miracle working power to people who Feed off the praise of men they will self-destruct.
 - c) Jesus Passion was not that He looked good but that His Father looked good. In return the Father honored Him with Miracles.
 - d) God will Anoint and empower believers who seek to capture the hearts of others for His Son *Not for themselves!*
 - 2) The Second issue is The "I" word (Idolatry):
 - a) When I am "feeding off Something" other than Christ this is called Idolatry.
 - b) Doing the will of the Father was Jesus source of nourishment and delight John 4:34
 - Possibly the greatest stronghold in the lives of believers everywhere – being Nourished by the approval and honor of men.
 - d) God wants to be our only Sustenance
 - 3) The Third Issues is Accuracy of Ministry
 - a) If we speak something from our own hearts, out of our own resources we are subconsciously Groping for the praises of men. John 7:18
 - b) The one who speaks the message of God has only one Concern to look good in God's eyes and deliver God's message as faithfully as he /she can.
 - c) Jesus called such a person "True", or the person who hit the bull's eye of the target! He/she will be pleasing in the eyes of God.

- 4) The Fourth Issues is Free of all Men
 - a) Paul said to the Galatians, "Stand fast I the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
 - b) We only live under the Duress of trying to protect what we own...when we have *something to lose*.
 - c) When we have *nothing to lose* (ie, The praise of men) we are Free! We can not be:
 - 1) Bought
 - 2) Blackmailed
 - 3) Coerced
 - d) When we no longer Receive the praise of men, we are free of all men. We are free to love all men equally and unconditionally regardless of their attitude or action toward me.
 - e) This is the freedom Jesus died to give us!

X. Chapter 10 – God's COMMITMENT to Help us Overcome

- A. We must recognize that it is possible to impress people and Not have the full Pleasure of God!
- B. One exercise would help us to maintain our focus in this endeavor of "Pleasing God" that whatever we3 do it t is for an audience of One! II Corinthians 4:5
- C. We need to be aware that if we are not careful in our delivery of God's message that the listeners can come away with the wrong message for example...
 - 1) Remembering the messenger more than Christ!
 - 2) Becoming more focused on the vessel than even on the Message!
 - 3) We must be careful not to proclaim Ourselves. No matter what our position is Minister, Worship Leader, Youth Leader, Christian Drama Director you name it!
- D. There is (if we are willing to admit it) something in all of us that Enjoys the attention and praises of people!
 - 1) However, God will not Entrust His Bride to servants who desire the Bride's affections! Hegai is a solid example of this No personal desires toward Esther whom he served Esther 2:15
- E. God is Preparing "Spiritual Eunuchs" whom He can entrust with His Bride!
 - 1) Leaders who will not Desire the Bride's affections, praise and attention.
 - 2) God is Removing the mechanism that desires the recognition of man.
 - 1. The King will find them Worthy of the highest entrustment to feed, nurture, and prepare the Bride for her wedding day.
- F. Hegai was a True Friend of the Bridegroom. John the Baptist called himself a friend of the Bridegroom....John 3:29
 - 1. Sincere leaders in the church desire to be a True Friend to Christ.

- 2. A True Friend seeks to Preserve the Bride's affections for the Bridegroom alone.
- 3. The Bride needs to be careful not to give her attention to the True Friend in the Absence of the Bridegroom!
- 4. How many times and ways do we praise the True Friend instead of the Bridegroom? And we must know that the Bride will praise the Friend!
- 5. The Question then becomes what will *We* do as the Friend of the Bridegroom with this Praise Believe it, Love it, Look for it, Drink in the praise? If we do, we no longer area friend, but a competitor!
- 6. The Groom's Sphere is the Bride's affections.
- G. *When* our flesh is gratified by the praise of the Bride, Praise of men (both represent the Church), We should:
 - 1. Be aware of the Tendency of our Flesh and have a sense of alertness as to what is happening a check, a sense of pain, a light goes on in our head or heart…"watch it!"
 - 2. Now know the extent to which the Entrapment of men's praise can lead us and pray that God will make us even more sensitive.
 - 3. Our aim should be as a creed "I will not receive honor from men"
 - 4. As we live in the greater light of His revelation in this arena we may often feel we are doing Worse.
 - 5. The Victory in this area is not so much as Attainment as a lifelong journey of *Dying to Self*.
 - 6. As we give our hearts to serving Him with purer Motives we should not be surprised to sense a deeper dimension of affection from His heart to ours.

XI. Chapter 11 – HOW should I Praise Other People (three questions.)

- A. The three questions are:
 - 1. Should I Praise other people?
 - 2. If so, then How do I do that properly?
 - 3. And, How should I Respond when others affirm and praise me?
- B. Question #1 We do not Seek the praise of other people, but we DO seek to Honor and Affirm and Encourage other believers as much as possible.
 - 1. *Honor others in a fitting way* But we do not seek the honor of people because we do NOT find our Identity or Fulfillment in their praise!
 - 2. Scriptures show us we are to Affirm one another on a continual basis in these ways:
 - a) Love others John 13:34
 - b) Encourage others I Thessalonians 3:2
 - c) Kindly Affectioned toward others Romans 12:10
 - d) Receive others Romans 15:7
 - e) Admonish others Romans 15:14

- f) Tenderhearted towards others Ephesians 4:32
- g) Comfort and Edify others I Thessalonians 5:11
- h) Exhort others daily Hebrews 3:13
- i) Consider others to stir them up for good Hebrews 10:24
- j) Have Compassion for others I Peter 3:8
- k) Strengthen others Luke 22:32
- 1) Edify others (build up) Romans 14:19
- 3. Praise, properly express and received, will strengthen us in our walk.
 - a) God has made us to Need encouragement from one another.
 - b) Praise and affirmation can Bolster our courage to persevere in our warfare.
 - c) God has intended that we Help on another forward with our words.
- 4. Paul did not withhold his praise from the Corinthian Church (I Corinthians 11:2) for the things that were right but for the things that were Abuses he did not praise them I Corinthians 11:17, 22
- C. Question #2 How should I affirm others?
 - 1. We are to encourage others but we do not want to Feed an individual's carnality.
 - 2. It is the "Receivers Responsibility" to Handle the praise, encouragement and affirmation properly!
 - 3. HOW Praise and Encouragement must be given with:
 - a) Discernment Selectively and Carefully.
 - b) Strategically not just for an Emotional prop!
 - c) Jesus commended Peter by affirming the Work of God in Peter...
 - d) So we should affirm what God is doing in someone by His Grace!...even when we see their Shortcomings!!!
 - 4. The Apostle Paul always used this form of praise always giving God the Credit for their growth in: obedience, giftings, giving, faith and expressions of love.
 - 5. In one phrase Paul did two things:
 - a) Praised their spiritual Attainment.
 - b) Gave ALL the credit to God
 - 6. Remember the example: I thank God for" phrase that Paul used in affirming others.

XII. Chapter 12 – How Should I Respond when Others Praise me?:

- A. Remember the first two points in this book:
 - 1. The praise of man is a Snare.
 - 2. We need to get the victory over the Desire for men's praise.
 - a) God can not entrust the higher Dimensions of Kingdom authority and power to vessels that are nurtured by the praises of men.

- b) When we Feed off the praise of men, we are actually succumbing to Idolatry finding our sustenance in something other than Christ Himself.
- c) It is only as we are free from wanting to Impress people and seek to Honor God alone in our ministries that we are able to find true accuracy in Spiritual Warfare, where our ministry truly "Hits the mark".
- d) Those who are not touched by the praise of men become Free of all men. There are Free to love all men equally and completely, regardless to whether they are Rejected or loved in return. It is the place of Total Freedom
- B. What should I do when others affirm me?
 - 1. When others affirm you, the fire it turned high, and the true Attitudes of your heart begin to surface.
 - 2. God will use the Compliments you receive to show you your heart.
 - 3. When another praises us we do not receive the praise we receive Them! Example "Thank <u>you</u> for your love". We receive the Person and their love.
 - 4. The Body of Christ will never come to full Maturity and Fruitfulness until we receive each other as equal members of the body! We need to receive each and every member. II Corinthians 6:11-13
- C. Review the major points of this book on paged 84-86.