

The Path to Wholeness: NINE

October 7, 2018

We're almost there:



Today we come to the EIGHTS – affectionately known as
THE CHALLENGER

The Challenger is strong and confident.

They have a strong sense of justice and truth.

They will stand up for the oppressed, and the vulnerable, for the underdog
(Although they want the underdog to remember who's top dog.)

They don't beat around the bush;

They are very clear about what needs to be done.

It may seem to the observer that they're driven by anger,

but underneath they are really driven by a total commitment to truth and justice
and doing things RIGHT!

An EIGHT is a leader who gets stuff done.

When healthy, they can be a rock of reliability and their word can be trusted.

Some of our greatest leaders in recent history have been EIGHTS.

Churchill is a classic example.

No one had to wonder what his opinion was about Hitler's oppression of the Jews.

When it came to defending England:

We shall defend our island,
we shall fight on the beaches,
we shall fight on the landing grounds,
we shall fight in the fields and in the streets,
we shall fight in the hills;
we shall never surrender.

He galvanized a nation and inspired the American President to join.

Martin Luther King did the same for the blacks.

The world is a better place because of the EIGHTs among us.

When they are healthy they are protectors.
When they are unhealthy, they are dictators
EIGHTs can be the Churchills, or you can be Hitlers.

As with all the personality types, the EIGHTs have a core motivation.
They too have a . . .

CORE MOTIVATION

I have to avoid weakness.
I have to be in control.

That can come off as:

I don't need your help,
and don't tell me what to do.

And trying to get an EIGHT to admit their mistakes or admit they're wrong? –
Good luck!

That would look like weakness,
and weakness is kryptonite for an UNREDEEMED EIGHT.

CORE TEMPTATION – AGGRESSION (WIN at all costs)

They're sure their cause is right, and their decisions are right.
They suffer from an excessive certainty in the rightness of their own opinions,
so their actions are justified in their own minds.
The result is that they're prone to violate the dignity of others
to get what they want, or to get done what they want.
They may either be unaware that they are violating another person's dignity,
Or sometimes they don't really care.

This is the essence of lust – lust that is not sexual.

Jesus cares.

Every human being is made in the image of God.

And we don't get to violate the dignity of any of them

Not with harsh or vulgar language

Not with dismissive attitudes

Not with mockery

Not even in the name of just revenge.

James and John, the sons of thunder as Jesus called them, are perfect examples.
They wanted to call down fire on those Samaritans who treat Jesus unjustly.
They're so consumed with the wrong that has been done
that they can't see what spirit they are of – and it's not the holy spirit.

We're all tempted to have a *little* justifiable revenge.
The other person's in the wrong,
And someone has to teach them lesson!
Jesus isn't convinced.

Most often, however, EIGHTs are not trying to hurt anyone,
So don't take it too personally.
They *enjoy* confrontation and a good debate,
not realizing others find this hard to endure.
They don't really know how scary they can be or how hurtful their words and tone are.
They just want to get the job done – right!

Since they make up their minds quickly,
they don't want to waste time listening to other's people stupid opinions.

Since they enjoy being against things, they'll be your naysayers.
But if you need someone to play the Devil's Advocate, you come to the right place!

If you're an EIGHT or have a lot of EIGHT in you, you're may be saying,
“Oh dear! You're making me sound like a bully!”
Or if you're a woman – there's another B word you might get called. LOL
But hold on, God create you because he *needs* you in his kingdom.

Or if you *live* with an EIGHT (a child, a spouse, a boss) you may be saying,
“How am I supposed to survive living with this EIGHT!”
It's a challenge to live with a challenger!
They challenge you,
they challenge your rules,
they challenge your thinking,
they challenge their teachers,
they challenge the church.
So how do you get on with an EIGHT?

Let a pro – who is a healthy EIGHT – show you how.
In **2 Samuel 12** we have a great story of two EIGHTS in a showdown.

Our first EIGHT is David.

David impregnates Bathsheba and then has her husband, Uriah, killed.

He took what he wanted and now must cover his tracks.

Hey, he's the king and kings must hold onto power at all cost.

All ethical considerations are subservient to staying in control.

(there's nothing new under the sun)

Apparently, instead of being tormented by guilt, (which EIGHTs seldom are)

he's pleased that he's gotten away with his cover up

and doesn't plan on giving the matter another thought.

What's done is done; let's move on.

David, the Challenger, needs to be challenged!

So God picks another EIGHT for this task.

Enter Nathan.

Now Nathan being a *healthy* EIGHT,

and knows exactly how to win over another EIGHT.

Listen in: **2 Samuel 12**

“There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.

The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,

but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought.

He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children.

It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms.

It was like a daughter to him.

“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man

(Because he's an EIGHT and has a burning passion for justice for the oppressed)

and said to Nathan (with all the bluster of an EIGHT.)

“As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die!

He must pay for that lamb four times over,

because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

It was David's EIGHTness that allows him to take Bathsheba and kill Uriah,

And it was also David's EIGHTness that calls forth his passion

to rise up against this horrible injustice.

Bring that man to justice for he had no pity!

The punchline's coming:

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

What a moment!

David was undone!

Nathan got behind David's defenses, and gives him space to figure things out.
then he nails him.

And it worked! David responds with a simply, sincere, "I HAVE SINNED!"

Then Nathan goes on to tell David what the consequences are going to be for his sin.
Having nothing further to say, Nathan leaves.

That's how you deal with an EIGHT?

Nathan was straight with David, not showing any intimidation or woundedness.

(That would have shown weakness, and EIGHTs don't respect weakness.)

And Nathan did not accuse right off or be confrontational.

EIGHTs will rise to a fight, and then no one gets anywhere.

Nathan doesn't try to ingratiate himself to David.

There's no, "Oh king, live forever;" No flattery.

That would be despised by David as weakness.

But, Nathan knows EIGHTs are like an egg.

Hard on the outside, but mushy in the middle.

While they don't like to show their tender underbelly,

it's there in all its vulnerable beauty.

So Nathan tells a story.

Once the point hits home,

Nathan says, this is how it is, this is how it is going to be.

End of discussion, and Nathan leaves.

You gotta stand back and admire a REDEEMED EIGHT.

Nathan had learned meekness (power under control)

And he uses that power under control to be God's spokesman.

Like for all personality types, maturity is a process.
We get to see that process up close and personal in a New Testament personality.

Saul, the persecutor of the early church. was for sure an UNREDEEMED EIGHT.

He's out to persecute this Jesus Sect.

He's not doing it for revenge.

He's doing it because they are *WRONG*.

He's doing what he's doing in the name of what's RIGHT.

He's defending God!

God saw the zeal of this EIGHT and said,

Hey, there's a guy I can use!

But remember, it's hard to convince an EIGHT that they're wrong.

unless you're God, who has his ways and means.

Acts 9

As Saul neared Damascus on his journey,

suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

That's how you get an EIGHTs attention!

But just because Saul was converted and became Paul, a Jesus follower,

He didn't learn meekness (power under control) immediately.

In one of his earliest letters to the Galatians,

He says of the Judaizers who were saying that to for a man be a Christian

he had to be circumcised,

I wish that these people who are upsetting you would go all the way;

let them go on and castrate themselves! (Galatians 5:12)

Said like an EIGHT!

And remember he had no patience for the young Mark

who ran home when life got too tough on the mission field.

Show weakness? You're not fit for the team.

But Paul also displays the beauty of REDEEMED, MATURE EIGHT.

Which brings us to the **CORE CONTRIBUTION** to the Kingdom of God.

Often the reverse of their core temptation
MEEKNESS and MERCY

Meekness is power under control.

Listen to Paul toward the end of his ministry in his letter to the **Philippians 2:5-8**
As he calls *us* to power under control.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,
and coming in the likeness of men.
And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself
and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

And, having learned meekness, Paul learns to excel in mercy.
In his final letter to Timothy he writes: (2 Timothy 4:11)
Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

But . . . learning meekness and mercy, doesn't mean he stopped being an EIGHT.
Listen to his passion and strength as an EIGHT in Philippians 3:13-14

This one thing I do:
Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus....
The man still has got fire in his soul!

So, if you're an EIGHT – Praise God! . . .
And here are some **Scriptures** just for you!

Micah 6:8

What does God require of you?

To love justice (You've got that one down pat)

to do mercy (That's a bit more difficult)

and to walk humbly with your God (Ah, you're killing me here!).

But what you come to realize EIGHTS,
is that the justice and truth you are passionate about
will only be accomplished effectively and enduringly
when God has worked into you the mercy and humility part.

James 3:17 NLT

The wisdom from above is first of all pure.
It is also peace loving,
gentle at all times,
and willing to yield to others.
It is full of mercy.

You don't get extra credit points for being right if you're harsh.

Let's face it, there are a lot of ignorant and stupid people in your life.
Your job is not to control them and correct them.
Your first job is to love them.

And finally, Paul and EIGHT who started out hating weakness writes in . . .

2 Corinthians 12:10 NLT

I take pleasure in my weakness, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions,
and troubles that I suffer for Christ.
When I am weak, then I am strong.

Come on. We know you have a soft, mushy part inside.
It's beautiful!

Lead with your vulnerability and weakness, and watch God work.

Thank God for EIGHTS!

And Now to all EIGHTS:

May God use you to:

Unmask all dishonesty and deception

Stand up against evil and injustice

Champion the oppressed

Motivate people to excellence

And may you be a mover and shaker in the Kingdom of God.