

The Path to Wholeness: SEVEN
September 9, 2018

A REMEDED SEVEN – THE ENTHUSIAST

The enthusiast radiates joy and optimism,
and are good at passing on all this positive energy to others
They can find the good even when everyone else is overwhelmed with the bad.
They are full of idealism and plans for the future,
and whatever they are into, they are all in.

If you're planning a party, make *sure* you invite a SEVEN!

To help us understand the spirit of the ENTHUSIAST we go to God's Word
to meet a father and son duo.

Listen to this description of King David who's having a rare SEVEN moment.

2 Samuel 6

David brought the Ark of God to the City of David
with a great celebration . . .
And David danced before the Lord with all his might,
wearing a priestly garment.
So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of
the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.



David was so full of joy, he couldn't contain himself.

To illustrate the spirit of a SEVEN, here's an excerpt of a children's choir.
See if you can find the SEVEN.

VIDEO- Six-year-old SEVEN

That was Lauren, a six-year old SEVEN who's gone viral on YouTube.

Oh, for that kind of freedom!

Now, some of you may be closet SEVENs.

We need you to come out of the closet and share your joy with us!!

But as with all assets, there is a shadow side.

SEVENs love joy and want to maintain a constant state of well-being,
To the point of it becoming a driving need –
it becomes their . . .

CORE MOTIVATION: to pursue pleasure to avoid pain.

They may at some point in life have had a painful or traumatic event
that overwhelmed them and they found a solution:
repress the pain and fill their life with happiness.

They fill their calendar with excitement, activity and even work.

Their motto is, **“Whatever you do, don’t be bored!”**

Boredom is anathema for a SEVEN.

They want that adrenaline rush.

If their real world is drab, mundane or boring,

they’re not above escaping into a fantasy world that’s full of adventure and pleasure.

As for unpleasant or tedious responsibilities? They get pushed off until MAÑANA.

It’s hard for a SEVEN to commit themselves too deeply

to a person, a job, or even a philosophy of life,

They always want to leave their options open

so there’s a way out if the situation becomes painful.

They’re cautious because at some level they are aware that their positivity
makes a really good first impression,

which could sell an image of themselves that they can’t live up to,

and *that* could lead to failure, and failure is PAINFUL!

And pain must be avoided!

Also, SEVENs are wise to be cautious in relationships.

It usually takes a long time before they can see the shadow side of a relationship.

Because they want everything to be beautiful,

they idealize people and situations and fade out the less appealing aspects of reality,

This leaves them naïve and vulnerable.

They need to take it slow so that reality has time to balance out their idealism.

Since SEVENs don’t like to deal with painful situations,

they don’t like to challenge bad behavior.

This avoidance can become a parenting style.
We certainly saw that with David.
When his son, Amon, rapes his daughter, he says nothing.
When his son, Absalom tries to usurp the throne, he runs.

If you're a SEVEN and a parent,
It's not your job to make them like *you*;
it's your job to train them so they when they grow up other people will like *them*.

Avoidance can become a marriage style.
Let's not talk about the problems; they'll go away.
Heads up: It doesn't work.
You either deal with it straight on, or it will deal with you.

Their energy of an enthusiast can be a bit much for others who might be heard saying,
"Tone it down a bit! Get some solid ground under your feet!"

That's exactly what happened to David.
If you look at the picture closely,
there is a woman peering out from behind the curtains.
You know who that is? It's his wife Michal,
who's not at all happy with his jubilant display of enthusiasm.

2 Samuel 6:16, 20-23

As the Ark of the LORD entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul,
looked down from her window.

When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD,
she was filled with contempt for him.

When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul,
came out to meet him.

She said in disgust, "How distinguished the king of Israel looked today,
shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!"

David retorted to Michal, "I was dancing before the LORD,
who chose me above your father and all his family!

He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the LORD,
so I celebrate before the LORD.

Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this,
even to be humiliated in my own eyes!

But those servant girls you mentioned will indeed think I am distinguished!"
So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life.

(maybe you don't sleep with a woman who holds you in contempt???)
Had she been able to celebrate his carefree abandon,
her future might have been very different.

But Michal wasn't the only woman who would give David trouble,
which brings us to the CORE TEMPTATION of a SEVEN.

CORE TEMPTATION: INTEMPERANCE (Overindulgence/lust)

David liked women – too much.
We know the story of David and Bathsheba.

David was first impulsive.
He could have had any single woman he wanted,
but on an impulse, he went after a woman who was out of bounds.

And then he was reckless.
He had her husband killed to cover his impulsive indulgence.

Impulsive and reckless—a dangerous combination.

And frankly, David got away with it.

EXCEPT for the fact that there is a holy God in heaven to whom we must give account,
who exposed his sin through the prophet Nathan.

But as I said in the beginning, we are looking today at a father/son duo.

There's a saying,
The sins a parent indulges in moderation, the child will indulge in excess.
So was the case with David and Solomon

David overindulged his passions on *occasion*,
but Solomon made overindulgence a lifestyle choice.

If David was a SEVEN, King Solomon was a SEVEN on steroids.
Solomon too had a weakness for women,
only he had 700 wives and 300 concubines.
This he did in direct contradiction
to the explicit instructions from God for Kings in Israel,

Deut. 15:17

The king must not take many wives for himself,
because they will turn his heart away from the LORD.

Well, guess what happened . . .

1 Kings 11:4, 9, 10 (NLT)

In Solomon's old age, his wives turned his heart to worship other gods
instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God,
as his father, David, had been.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon,
because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel.

But lest we think of lust and overindulgence as only sexual,
We can overindulge anything, even good things.

Just listen to the extravagance of King Solomon in his daily food allotments

1 Kings 4: 28

The daily food requirements for Solomon's palace were

150 bushels of choice flour and
300 bushels of meal; also
10 oxen from the fattening pens,
20 pasture-fed cattle,
100 sheep or goats,
as well as deer, gazelles, roe deer, and choice poultry.

I know he had a lot of people to feed, but really? How many cooks in that kitchen?

He was overindulgent in accumulating might and power.

1 Kings 4:26

Solomon had 4,000 stalls for his chariot horses, and he had 12,000 horses.

Again, this was in direct contradiction to the instructions he had been given from God,
who said in Deut. 15:16

“The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt
to buy horses.

And Solomon was overindulgent in increasing his wealth and glory.

Listen to this list in 2 Chronicles 9:13-29 (GNT)

Every year King Solomon received over twenty-five tons of gold,
in addition to the taxes paid by the traders and merchants . . .

Solomon made two hundred large shields,
each of which was covered with about fifteen pounds of beaten gold,
and three hundred smaller shields, each covered with about eight pounds of beaten gold.

He also had a large throne made.

Part of it was covered with ivory and the rest of it was covered with pure gold.

Six steps led up to the throne, and there was a footstool attached to it, covered with gold.

There were arms on each side of the throne, and the figure of a lion at each side.

Twelve figures of lions were on the steps, one at either end of each step.

No throne like this had ever existed in any other kingdom.

All of King Solomon's drinking cups were made of gold,

and all the utensils in the Hall of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold.

He had a fleet of ocean-going ships sailing with King Hiram's fleet.

Every three years his fleet would return, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

King Solomon was richer and wiser than any other king in the world.

But this too was in direct contradiction to the expressed instructions from God

who said in 1 Kings 4:17

And the king must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

In all these areas, God said to Solomon, “This is what I want,”

and Solomon says, “No!

Look at how successfully this is working for me.

No one could argue with the fact that if wealth was the goal, it was working!

And this *feels* right.

So it CAN'T be wrong.

How often have we heard that argument?

But it *feels* right! God would want me to be happy!

So thank you just the same, but I prefer my own wisdom and judgment over your instruction.”

And so, as Solomon says of himself in Ecclesiastes 2:10,

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.

That's a SEVEN on steroids.

As is typical for SEVENs, everything they do, they overdo.

If it's work, they overwork.

If it's a diet, they stick to it religiously.

If it's an exercise regimen, they get obsessive about it.

If they become religious, they become too religious.

Did you know, overindulgence in religion can be a form of escape?

There's even a verse in the Bible for that.

Eccl 7:16

Do not be overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise.

Why should you destroy yourself?

SEVENs go to extremes.

Not being given to moderation, you can see why a SEVEN would be prone to addiction.

Too much drugs or alcohol or sex.

Gotta drown out the pain!

But all this running and self-medicating to avoid pain and stay on the exciting cusp of life isn't sustainable.

It eventually comes to an end.

Solomon comes to the end of his life, and you know what his conclusions is?

Eccl 1:1, 14, ESV & NTL

Vanity, vanity, all is vanity!

I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—
like chasing the wind.

Solomon's parting words in Eccl 12:13 are:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

Unfortunately for Solomon, he came to this revelation too late to do a do-over.

If you've had a SEVEN crash while there is still time to start over,

THANK GOD!

But consider, the worst for Solomon was not that he ended up feeling
that he had wasted his life.

His indulgences cost *others* dearly too.

You know why God didn't want the Kings of Israel to amass beautiful women,
great militaries, and extravagant wealth?

It's because these indulgences come at the expense of the others.

His lavish kingdom was built on the oppression.

Foreigners were reduced to slave labor;

Good men were torn from their homes to fell timber or cut stone in the quarries.

Good women were turned into indentured servants.

And the money required for such an extravagant kingdom meant

exorbitant taxation that left many families at the point of starvation.

The strain of oppression was unsustainable and after Solomon died,
the kingdom was divided between his two sons,
who would see the glory days lost, never to return.

I'm sure there were those who were rich and powerful
who mourned the loss of the good old glory days.
BUT those who bore the cost of the glory days,
and had prayed fervently for justice to prevail,
thanked God in heaven that the glory days were gone.

Granted, the cost of one's over-indulgence doesn't show up for a long time,
but when it does,
one mourns the wasted years
and the pain carried by the people most dear.

But given all these words of caution, know that God Loves SEVENS.

God said David was a man after his own heart!

Thank God for SEVENS

They have so much to contribute to our lives and to the Kingdom of God.

**Their CORE CONTRIBUTION TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD is
SOBER JOY.**

A REDEEMED SEVEN has met Jesus, **a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.**
They have learned that pain must be embraced, and do like Jesus did,
who for the joy that was set before him, endured the pain.

They no longer must deny the dark side of life,
But are ready to walk (holding the hand of Jesus)
"through the valley of the shadow of death"
knowing it is temporary.

They no longer need to flee to day dreams
but can show up for life in the beautiful *and* painful present.

They have learned the serenity of contentment:

Galatians 5:22-23

I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. . .

I have learned the secret of living in every situation.

For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strengthens me.

Having stepped away from idealism into wide-awake realism,
They no longer survive on superficial optimism,
but have found a well of deeply grounded hope.

They are the ones who can bring joy and hope where grief reigns.
So, do yourself a favor.
Get some SEVENs in your life!