

When It All Falls Apart

Life in the Cave, Week One

I grew up near Mammoth Cave in southern Kentucky, on farmland that featured numerous sinkholes, all of which led into massive cave systems beneath the earth.

I LOVE caves! But when I find myself living in a spiritual cave, I don't love them so much:

- Caves of loneliness.
- Caves of depression.
- Caves of isolation.

We're all in a bit of a cave, aren't we?

DAVID'S LIFE, PRE-CAVE

- Chosen from his family and anointed by Samuel. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- Invited to the palace to serve King Saul. (1 Samuel 16:14-23)
- Defeats Goliath and wins the attention of the King. (1 Samuel 17)
- Meets his best friend, Jonathan, Saul's son. (1 Samuel 18:1-4)
- Receives his first wife, Michal, Saul's daughter. (1 Samuel 19)
- Gains popularity, power, and prestige. (1 Samuel 18)

David, at this point, is a rising star with a fantastic future ahead of him. He's on a growth track to success. Everything is going extremely well!

Then...

- Saul turns on David out of jealousy. (1 Samuel 19)
- David is exiled from the palace and from his wife.
- He is released from military service to Saul.
- He sees his best friend, Jonathan, for the last time.
- He loses contact with his mentor, Samuel.

Now, David has gone from palace-living to cave-dwelling. And God begins the real work of preparing David for a great calling to a great purpose.

1 Samuel 22:1-2 NIV

David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

It is in the spiritual caves of your life that God will prepare you for his greatest purposes for you!

In the next message, I'm going to talk about the lessons David learned in the cave and the lessons you and I learn in the caves in which we stay sometimes.

For today, know this...

God is at work in you, right now, in the cave. You may not see him or understand what he is doing, but in your loneliest, darkest hour, God is with you and is getting you ready for the fulfillment of his purposes for your life!