

PULPIT COMPANION

FROM
TRIGGERS TO
TRIUMPH

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

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In this powerful message, we're challenged to move from being triggered by our emotions to living triumphantly through faith.

The central theme revolves around the story of Joseph in Genesis, showing how God can use our trials to refine and position us for greater purpose. We're reminded that our struggles aren't setbacks, but setups for God's glory.

The key lesson is learning to respond to life's challenges with faith rather than reactive emotions. This transformation isn't just personal; it has the power to bless entire communities, just as Joseph's faithfulness saved a nation.

We're encouraged to see our triggers as opportunities for testimony, reflecting God's glory instead of retreating into old patterns. This message is deeply relevant to our daily lives, offering a new perspective on handling conflicts, disappointments, and personal growth in our faith journey.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Proverbs 25:28
- Isaiah 48:10
- Genesis 50:20
- Romans 8:28
- John 10:10
- 2 Corinthians 5:17





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: From Triggers to Triumph

Reading: Proverbs 25:28, Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: In our journey of faith, we often encounter situations that trigger negative emotions and reactions. Just as Proverbs 25:28 warns us about the dangers of lacking self-control, we must recognize how easily our unguarded spirits can leave us vulnerable to spiritual attacks.

Today, reflect on areas in your life where you feel easily triggered. Are there past hurts, fears, or insecurities that cause you to react impulsively?

Remember, God calls us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). This transformation isn't instant, but a process that requires us to consciously choose faith over feelings. When you feel triggered, pause and ask God for the strength to respond with self-control and wisdom. Practice replacing reactive thoughts with Scripture, affirming God's truth over your emotions. By doing so, you're not just avoiding conflict – you're actively participating in your spiritual growth and becoming more like Christ.

Day 2: God's Refining Fire

Reading: Isaiah 48:10, 1 Peter 1:6-7

Devotional: The process of refining precious metals involves intense heat, removing impurities to reveal something beautiful and valuable. Similarly, God often uses the "furnace of affliction" to purify our faith and character. It's natural to want to avoid pain and difficulty, but today's readings remind us that these challenges serve a greater purpose in our spiritual lives.

Reflect on a current struggle or past difficulty in your life. How might God be using this situation to refine you? Are there impurities in your character or faith that need to be addressed? Instead of asking God to simply remove your troubles, pray for the strength to endure and the wisdom to learn from them. Trust that God, in His infinite love and wisdom, is working to make you more Christ-like through your trials. Remember, the goal isn't just to survive the fire, but to emerge from it stronger, purer, and more reliant on God's grace.





Day 3: Embracing God's Purpose in Pain

Reading: Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 8:28

Devotional: Joseph's story is a powerful testament to God's ability to use even the most painful circumstances for good. Despite betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment, Joseph recognized God's hand at work, ultimately using his position to save many lives. Similarly, Romans 8:28 assures us that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him.

Today, consider a painful experience from your past or a current struggle. How might God be working to bring good out of this situation? Are there ways you've grown or opportunities that have arisen because of this challenge? While we may not always understand God's purposes, we can choose to trust His promise. Ask God to give you Joseph's perspective – the ability to see beyond your immediate circumstances to the greater good He is accomplishing. Pray for the strength to forgive those who have hurt you and the wisdom to cooperate with God's plan, even when it's difficult.

Day 4: Living as New Creations

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Galatians 2:20

Devotional: In Christ, we are new creations – the old has gone, the new has come! This profound truth should radically change how we view ourselves and our circumstances. No longer are we defined by our past mistakes, hurts, or the labels others have placed on us. Instead, we are God's ambassadors, reconciled to Him through Christ and called to share this message of reconciliation with others.

Reflect on areas of your life where you still struggle to embrace your identity as a new creation. Are there old habits, thought patterns, or relationships that no longer align with who you are in Christ? Ask God to help you fully grasp the reality of your new identity. Practice seeing yourself through God's eyes – forgiven, loved, and empowered for His purposes. Consider how you can be an "ambassador for Christ" in your daily interactions, representing His love and grace to those around you.





Day 5: Abundant Life in Christ

Reading: John 10:7-10, Ephesians 3:14-21

Devotional: Jesus came that we might have life, and have it abundantly. This promise stands in stark contrast to the thief (the enemy) who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. As believers, we're called to embrace and experience this abundant life, not just surviving, but thriving in Christ.

Today, examine your life. Are you living in the fullness of what Christ offers, or are you settling for less? What areas of your life feel stolen, killed, or destroyed? Bring these before God, asking Him to restore and revitalize them according to His promise of abundance. Remember, this abundance isn't just material prosperity, but a richness of spirit, peace that surpasses understanding, and love that overflows to others.

Pray the prayer of Ephesians 3, asking God to strengthen you with power through His Spirit and to help you grasp how wide, long, high, and deep Christ's love is for you. As you do, open your heart to receive the fullness of all God has for you, trusting that He is able to do immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE : From Triggers to Triumph

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God for wisdom and open hearts as you discuss the sermon's message.

Key Takeaways:

1. Triggers often lead us to react emotionally rather than respond thoughtfully.
2. God can use our triggers to transform us and develop our character.
3. Our struggles can become testimonies of God's faithfulness and power.
4. Faith has more power than feelings in overcoming triggers.
5. Self-control is crucial in navigating life's challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The pastor mentioned that "you can't feel and think at the same time." How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. Discuss a time when you were triggered and reacted emotionally. How might that situation have been different if you had responded with faith instead?
4. The sermon referenced Joseph's story (Genesis 37-50). How does Joseph's experience demonstrate the transformation of triggers into triumph?
5. How can we distinguish between situations where God is trying to develop us versus times when we need to remove ourselves from harmful circumstances?
6. The pastor said, "Stop always praying for deliverance to get away from something and allow yourself to stay there long enough for God to develop you." What are your thoughts on this statement?
7. How can we practically apply the idea of "operating from resurrection mode, not reaction mode" in our daily lives?





Practical Applications:

1. Trigger Awareness: This week, pay attention to what triggers you. Keep a journal of these triggers and your responses to them.
2. Faith Over Feelings: When faced with a triggering situation, practice pausing and asking, "What would a faith-based response look like here?"
3. Scripture Memorization: Memorize Romans 8:28 or 2 Corinthians 5:17 to recall when feeling triggered.
4. Testimony Sharing: Share with the group next week about a past trigger that God has transformed into a testimony in your life.
5. Prayer Partner: Partner with someone in the group to pray for each other's growth in responding to triggers with faith.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying for God's grace and strength to transform triggers into triumphs in each member's life.

