

I do believe God has given me this Word not to impress you but to impress upon you that we need to get something worked out and priorities need to change before Jesus returns. Because on judgment day it will then be too late to make things right and I don't know about you but I feel that day is here.

If you have your Bibles...

James 4

- 1 What causes arguments and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?
- 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and argue. You do not have, because you do not ask.
- 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your selfish passions.
- 4 People! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded.
- 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

>> I want to talk to you tonight on the topic of, "Title Tantrums" (Title Graphic)

>>When I was a kid, I loved wrestling... Now if you don't know professional wrestling this is a lot different than boxing or MMA/UFC, this is entertainment, easiest way to explain it, wrestling is like the Harlem globetrotters. It's not a real game but it's designed with entertainment in mind.

People Like Macho Man Randy Savage (PICTURE)
The Ultimate Warrior (PICTURE)
and my favorite Hulk Hogan (PICTURE)
Memphis and I got to meet Him (PICTURE)

My wife was like that is so cool you're taking Memphis to experience that :)

All of those wrestlers were larger than life, they were real life super heroes all going after one thing, **the championship title**. They fought, they battled, they would even sabotage if they had to but in the end, they did whatever they had to do, to walk away with a victory.

The problem is folks is wrestling is not real. Those matches are choreographed. They know the winner before the match even starts, yet they are fighting for something, for the esteem, for the popularity, for the worth yet, for a **title**, in the end... it means absolutely nothing.

Unfortunately this world and sad to say, **the Church** has turned into a professional wrestling match, oh no we're not fighting against wickedness and principalities or spirits in high places NO we're fighting for things that don't matter, fighting for things who had the biggest crowd on Sunday, or who can have the most Easter Services, how many did you have this past Sunday, well we had 1 thousand well we had 1500, well I think we added the numbers wrong I think we were at 2000 now that I think of it but yea how many followers on social do you have, you mean real ones or the ones we paid for? And we aren't doing this to lift up Jesus up anymore we're doing it to lift up our **social title**. Because if we act like we're successful then people will

think we're successful. But God knows the inner. Man looks on the outside but God looks on the inside. I'm reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 7:22...

Matthew 7:22

Many will say to me on that day Master, we preached the Message, we casted out the demons, our super-spiritual projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the point. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. Depart from me, I never knew you.

Friends I am so thankful I serve at a Church, and I serve under a Pastor who believes that lifting up Jesus is still the only way to draw me draw men unto Him. I am thankful, that was taught to get out of the way, and let the Holy Spirit have his way I am thankful that I was raised that if you want to be first, you must make yourself last if you want a seat at the head of the table sit at the end if you want favor be faithful over the few and God will make you ruler over many!!!!!!!!!!

So lets get into this...

The Bible talks about in 1st Corinthians, that God brings the increase or another translation says "the promotion or title". So having a title is not unbiblical, what is unbiblical is ENTITLEMENT!

Definition: Is the belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment! This is the problem with so many of our children. People do not realize today it is not what we leave to our children that makes them great. It is what we leave in our children that makes them great. In fact, if you leave more to them than you leave in them, they will run through what you left to them 'cause they don't have enough in them to sustain them. And when Memphis gets a little older Imm tell him, listen your daddy worked for everything that we have and Imma leave you a good in hesitance but you better believe what I leave for you will not be greater than what I leave in you.

And tonight we gonna deal with some titles that we need to make right so that our children will set spiritually not just finically.

☑ The Title of Comparison!

When I first began song writing, the songs that I was writing was awful. I was rhyming words that didn't rhyme I would rhyme a word with the same word. It was terrible, but it was pure. I had nothing else to focus on other than a purpose and yearning that God gave me. And overtime not overnight the gift was flourishing and growing and revelation through song began to mature and scripture came alive in the lyrics but I allowed the **Title of Comparison** to creep in my mind **and I watched as purpose became performance** and the gift and

★ **BIG IDEA** Don't let the gift you once cherished begin to be gift you start comparing.

One person in the Bible who struggled with comparison is the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32. When the younger son returns home after squandering his inheritance, the older brother becomes resentful and compares himself unfavorably to his brother. He feels overlooked and unappreciated despite his faithful service to his father. See the Bible says that the younger brother was outside the Celebration on his brother returning. Comparison has a way of stripping your title of Joy. Of stripping your title of

happiness. And you'll find yourself throwing a party but the only attendee was you. I'm sick and tired of being someone's monkey with cymbals saying it's gonna be ok, you're ok, everyone loves you, not buck up buttercup, delight yourself in the Lord. Choose this day Joy. No matter if good things are happening to you or your brother or neighbor or coworker.

★ **BIG IDEA** Comparison will have you coveting a lifestyle you're not willing to work for. You focus on purpose, God will focus on promotion.

We need to put down the Title of Comparison and lift up the title of Gratitude.

Look at somebody say that's not my title!

✓ **The Title of Position!**

In wrestling, there are two types of people:

Those who rely on strong guys: (PICTURE)

These are people who don't work for anything. They just rest on their laurels. Use what God gave them but never try to do anything more with it. They just try to impress with strength but not technique.

Then there are those that are high flyers: (PICTURE)

These people are people who have to work, practice, train, study, rehearse, and then once they did all of that they have to then work practice train study, study rehearse because the gifting that they have has to be matured and crafted. If you would go out and perform these stunts without putting in the effort you would end up hurting yourself or hurting somebody else.

The 'strong guys' impress people with their power. But, in order for the high flyers to do what they were gifted to do, they got to climb to the top rope and perform stunts that others don't have the guts to do. You see the higher you go, the more faith it requires.

★ **BIG IDEA** God will never ask you to go to a higher place that he hasn't already purposed you to go! The question is do you trust Him?

The journey of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis chapter 22 wasn't just of God's provision but it was about Abraham's faith. God says to Abraham, Take your only son, whom you love, up Mt Moriah and sacrifice him. STOP! What?

BE Funny acting like talking on a phone Have you really ever just took a moment and put yourself in that position? I mean maybe y'all are just a little bit more saved than me but I would be like hey God my cell service is bad, maybe try and text me cause I don't have enough bars I think I heard you wrong, I'm pretty sure you just said to sacrifice my son and light him on fire.

But the next sentence said and Abraham woke up the next morning and began the journey to the mountain? Why is our first reaction to tell God what is best for our life? Why do we pray to go to new heights and God says ok do this and then we say, well that's not exactly what I had in mind. Abraham traveled for three days. How many of us would have given up after a few hours? How many wouldn't even start the journey. But your Bible says Abraham gather two young men, Isaac and donkey and headed out. This is where the story gets good for me. Your Bible says that on the third day Abraham looked up and seen the place afar off. And pay

attention to scripture here. You can't just read the Bible you have to read the Bible. The Bible says in verse 4 that when Abraham seen the place a far off immediately he told the two other young men stay here with the donkeys.

★ **BIG IDEA** You got to recognize that when God is calling you higher, not everybody is meant to go with you! That might mean family has to stay down here, that might mean friends have to stay down here, but majority are just gonna be a bunch of donkeys cause donkeys are stubborn and the second something happens that they don't understand, they plant their feet and say I'm not going anywhere. Let me tell you something Don't let a stubborn donkey keep you from the position God has for you. Don't let someone who ain't willing to trust in God stop you from climbing up the mountain, Be like Abraham that says I know this don't make no sense but if God said it that settles it, If that means I have to give up everything, I'll do it, if that means I have to sacrifice then I'll do it, because right before you think it's over over on the side, God will provide what you need when you need how you need it and you'll back and say This is then place that the Lord will provide someone needs to call you home this is the place the Lord will provide. When you go into your job this is the place the Lord will provide. I know it doesn't look good, I know it doesn't make since but God has ram waiting just for you. All you have to do it trust!!!

☑ **The Title of Comfort!** (Anthony get into position)

This is the title belt that has crept on so many in the church and so many in the world that we're seeing people who once fought for what they believed in say you know, I just don't have what it takes to stand up for what is right. I just don't know if I have the strength. I think I need to just lie down for a minute and rest. But rest will often lead to less. And less will lead to death. Because comfortability has no vision. And where there is no vision, people perish.

Whether it's Wrestling, Boxing, Work, Life in general, there is very little comfort when you're in a fight! There is a point that some fighters get to where they face the choice to lay down in comfort or push on to victory. But in these sports, If you decide to lay down and say you know I just can't go on, I can't do this, **This brings on the dreaded 10 count. (PICTURE)**

For if the ref gets to 10 before your standing back up... you lose, it's over, the fight is over, what you had being working for is over. the chance for you to win is done.

ENDING (Anthony start playing)

For some of you that's what happened. It may have started with The Title of Comparison. No it's not a wrestling belt, it's what you seen on social, it's your friend from work that post all these photos and you sit at home scrolling and scrolling and comparing and the blessing you once prayed for now your cursing because the title of comparison, but tonight we're saying **THAT'S NOT MY TITLE**. Some of you are battling the title of position no, again it's not a wrestling title belt, it's a name plate at the end of desk that you think you deserve. Everyone around you has been promoted but your still clocking in and clocking out doing the same thing and so many of you in this place tonight have so many different tile that are around your waist that I didn't even mention. And that has led to The Title of Comfort.

★ **BIG IDEA** The word rest is in Wrestle. And I know your tired and you want to give up but I believe some of you are about to get your fight back. And your about to snap out of your comfort add the wrestle back to rest and fight for what you believe in, fight for your purpose, fight for your marriage, fight for your kids fight for the promise God has for you. And the Title of Victory is about to be yours

If you believe that stand to your feet...