

BETRAYAL

Definition: lead astray; to fail or desert especially in a time of need. To reveal unintentionally; to disclose in violation of a confidence. To deliver or expose to the power of an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; prove false to; disappoint the hopes or expectations of; deceive; mislead or seduce.

“I will sacrifice you on my behalf.” “Me first, no matter what it costs you.”

Symptoms: Anger, aggressiveness, bitterness, retaliation, self-protection, facades and walls built, independence, pessimism, cynicism. Betrayal is the basis for all mistrust.

Examples or forms of betrayal:

Workplace / Team. Common purpose, joint effort, but unfair assignments.

Family. Common bonds, shared history and future, but broken relationships.

Marriage. Unity, shared hopes and dreams, but broken trust.

For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. - Psalms 55:12-13

Church / Ministry. Common calling, one body, love one another, but brokenness.

My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. - Psalms 55:20-22

Foundational Belief (Conclusions): a) Life's not fair. b) No one can be trusted. c) God can't be trusted. d) My calling didn't matter. e) I'm disqualified.

Presenting Symptoms:

- 1) **Inability to trust.** “Fool me once, ...”
Trust cannot be earned, it must be granted.
- 2) **Loss of purpose.** “Not allowed to fulfill my calling.”
For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. – Romans 11:29
- 3) **Root of bitterness.** “I'll never get over this pain and injustice.”
The root is tied to the offense and will remain unless removed by forgiveness.
- 4) **Vengeance.** “It's up to me to set the record straight.”
Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” – Romans 12:19

Prayer Strategy

- 1) *What have you lost?* (Take an account)
- 2) *Who hurt you?*
- 3) *Why did they act that way?* (Find compassion)
- 4) *Forgive the person (echoes).*
- 5) *What has God promised you? – God is sad.*
- 6) *Who are you, now?* (Renewed or reaffirmed identity)