MY CHURCH. MY HOUSE.

EPISODE GUIDE

EPISODE 26:

You Were Born an ORIGINAL, Not a Copy (Stop Performing)

Toxic relationships do their deepest damage quietly. Not through the obvious wounds, but through identity erosion, the slow process of becoming someone you are not to keep the peace with someone who cannot handle who you are.

In this second episode of the Detox series, Apostle Raley moves from the diagnosis to the cure. Here is the truth: you were born an original. Stop performing for people who were never worth the audition, and step into who God actually made you to be.

YOU WERE BORN AN ORIGINAL

Ephesians 2:10

"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus."

The deepest damage a toxic relationship does is identity erosion, slowly becoming someone you are not to survive someone who cannot handle who you are.

But you are God's handiwork, an original by design. You were born an original, so do not die a copy.

THE ENEMY ATTACKS YOUR IDENTITY

Genesis 3:5

"You will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Adam and Eve were already made in God's image, yet the serpent told Eve that what God made was not enough and she needed to become something more.

The first toxic relationship in history was an assault on identity, and the same lie still whispers today. A relationship that will not let you be who God made you is toxic.

STOP PERFORMING FOR APPROVAL

Proverbs 29:25

"Fear of man will prove to be a snare."

If you are always pretending, always on, always editing yourself to stay in someone's good graces, you are living a performance instead of a life.

It is exhausting, and it is never worth it. It is better to be rejected for who you are than accepted for who you are not.

TOXIC PEOPLE RESENT YOUR GROWTH

Genesis 37:8

"They hated him all the more because of his dream."

Toxic people are often threatened by your growth, because your becoming more exposes their staying small. So they dismiss, discourage, and refuse to celebrate your wins.

Joseph's brothers hated his dream because they believed it was real. The intensity of the opposition is often a measure of how real your dream actually is.

GOD IS STILL WORKING ON YOU

Philippians 1:6

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on."

Loving the skin you are in is not pride. It is agreeing with the God who called what He made breathtaking, while He keeps changing you.

You have permission to grow, with or without anyone's approval. Grow anyway, because shrinking to fit someone's insecurity is not a life.

KEEP THE RIGHT COMPANY

Proverbs 13:20

"Walk with the wise and become wise."

You become like the people you stay closest to. Your closest relationships are a snapshot of your future.

Seek out people who are further along, who dream big and celebrate your dreams. Do not hang onto a dysfunctional relationship if it costs you the right one.

THIS WEEK'S MOMENT

This week's Moment is a Purpose challenge. Stop performing, and step fully into the original God made you to be.

Ask:

- Where have I been performing instead of being myself?
- Whose approval have I been shrinking to keep?
- What dream have I gone quiet about?

Then:

- Love the skin you are in, exactly as God made you
- Name one way you have been editing yourself to keep the peace
- Grow this week without waiting for anyone's permission
- Share your dream with one person who responds in faith
- Seek out someone further along than you
- Make room by loosening one relationship that keeps you small

Pray:

"Father, thank You that I was born an original and that You called what You made good. Heal the places where I have shrunk to survive, and give me the courage to stop performing. Help me grow into everything You placed in me, and surround me with people who celebrate what You are doing. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Remember:

- I was born an original; I will not die a copy.
- I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
- It is better to be rejected as myself than accepted as a fake.
- I will grow, with or without anyone's permission.
- My dream is real, and my future is good.
- As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.