A PLACE OF CHANGE MINISTRY OCTOBER 17, 2026

STRENGTHENED TO PURSUE

DR. ERIC THOMAS

October 17, 2026

> Dr. Eric Thomas on the three moves to make before your life falls apart - and why waiting for God's go matters more than moving fast.

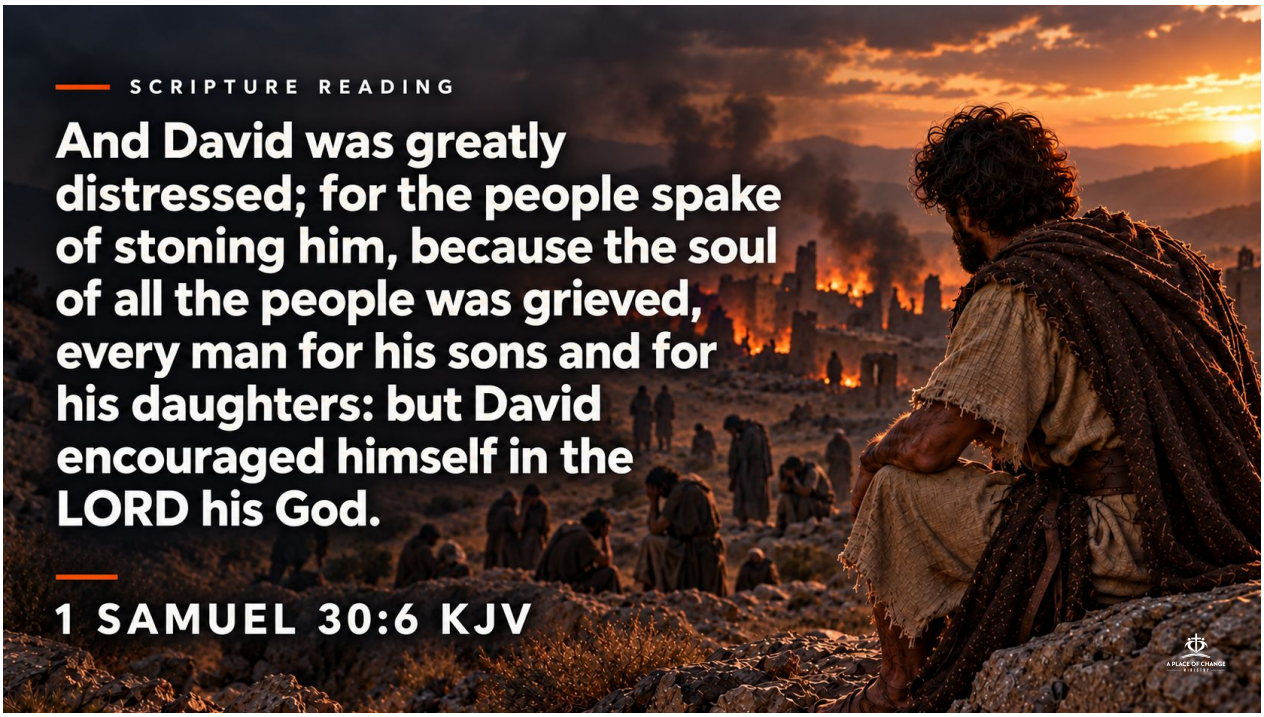
THE ONE THING

WHEN LIFE FALLS APART ALL AT ONCE - THE WAY IT DID FOR DAVID AT ZIKLAG - THE ANSWER ISN'T TO PROCESS IT WITH EVERYONE YOU KNOW OR POWER THROUGH IT ON YOUR OWN. STRENGTHEN YOURSELF IN THE LORD FIRST, ASK HIS PERMISSION BEFORE YOU MOVE, THEN ASK HIM DIRECTLY WHETHER TO PURSUE - AND WAIT FOR HIM TO SAY GO.

STRENGTHENED TO PURSUE

When life falls apart all at once - the way it did for David at Ziklag - the answer isn't to process it with everyone you know or power through it on your own. Strengthen yourself in the Lord first, ask His permission before you move, then ask Him directly whether to pursue - and wait for Him to say go.

ET opens by naming that this message isn't an accident: three strategies, straight from the word, not invented, built specifically to help you fight back before - not after - your life falls apart.



From the deck - Title slide, "Strengthened to Pursue," A Place of Change Ministry, October 17, 2026, Dr. Eric Thoma

DAVID WAS GREATLY DISTRESSED (1 SAMUEL 30:6)

The full weight of it: David's camp was burned to the ground, his wives and children taken captive, and his own men - grieving their own families - turned on him and talked openly of stoning him. Not one problem. Several, compounding, all at once.

> And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.
>
> 1 SAMUEL 30:6 (KJV)

STRATEGY 1 - STRENGTHEN YOURSELF IN THE LORD

The first move, before any other move: get encouraged. David didn't let the circumstance control him; he let God control the circumstance. Whatever news you just got, go to God with it first - before you call, text, or post.

WHAT NOT TO DO: PROCESSING IS GOSSIPING

The lion-and-alligator picture: a lion wins on land, but an alligator wins once it drags the lion into the water - its own territory. The same way,

"processing" that's really venting (recruiting other people to agree with you) drags you into the devil's territory. Check your motive: are you seeking clarity, or building a jury?

PROCESSING IS GOSSIPING.

Dr. Eric Thomas

STRATEGY 2 - GET PERMISSION (1 SAMUEL 30:7)

Before David moved, he called for the ephod. Most of what's stressing us out is a decision we made in the flesh and only asked God to bless afterward - a relationship, a job, a post - instead of asking Him first.

> And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.
>
> 1 SAMUEL 30:7-8 (KJV)

STRATEGY 3 - INQUIRE OF THE LORD (1 SAMUEL 30:8)

Two direct questions: "Shall I pursue?" and "Shall I overtake them?" God is not a co-signer on your plan; He's the author and the finisher of it. He answered David plainly: "Pursue... thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."

GOD IS NOT A CO-SIGNER. I AM THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER.

Dr. Eric Thomas

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GO THROUGH, IT'S WHO YOU GO THROUGH IT WITH

ET's own testimony, used briefly and in general terms: he's walked through real, life-altering crises of his own - including losing his home to a tornado - and the lesson held every time: the outcome depends on who you go through it with, not the size of the loss.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GO THROUGH THAT MATTERS. IT'S WHO YOU GO THROUGH IT WITH.

Dr. Eric Thomas

THE STORY DOESN'T END AT THE FIRE

Three days later, David recovered everything he'd lost. The devastating scene in the middle of 1 Samuel 30 is not where the story ends. Concentrate on your ending, not your middle - the middle is not the whole story.

> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
>
> ROMANS 8:28 (KJV)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Every time something falls apart this week, stop before you call, text, or vent to anyone - go to God first, ask His permission, and ask Him for direction before you move. Work through the five-day plan on this page one day at a time.

DO NOT JUST READ IT

THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT

MONDAY

Name What Fell Apart

What's the "burned-down city" in your life right now - the thing (or things) that hit all at once? Write it down honestly, then write one thing you know is true about God in the middle of it.

TUESDAY

Check Your Motive

Think of something you've been "processing" with other people lately. Were you seeking clarity, or recruiting agreement? What would it look like to take it to God instead?

WEDNESDAY

Ask Permission First

Name one decision you're about to make - or already made - without asking God first. Go back and ask Him now.

THURSDAY

The Two Questions

Take whatever you're facing right now and actually ask God: "Should I pursue this?" and "If I do, will it work?" Write down what you sense Him saying.

A PLACE OF CHANGE MINISTRY

KEEP BUILDING.

Saturdays at 11:00am.

Notes, slides and the full transcript every week at apoc.kapturedpixel.com/message