

UP! Day 8 Circle UP 7/14/21

Fact- God wants us to answer His invitation to UP! So we can be lifted up and built up! Up is an extremely important spiritual and theological truth and concept.

UP! is dimensional not merely directional. UP! is above our earthly, natural, fallen ways.

Rev 4:1-2 "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately I was in the Spirit;

Fact- God has always called His people UP! Up in Spirit, up in observation and up in understanding! UP! Because His ways and thoughts are higher, we must go UP! to encounter all we can. Set our minds on things above, not things of the earth!

Prov 15:24- the way of life winds upward for the wise.

Today- **Circle UP!** Pioneer wagons for strength and safety! Moving forward...

- a) **Mar 3:34** And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "**Here are My mother and My brothers!**"
- b) Jesus circled up with his friends, how much more should we?
- c) Gethsemane- come pray with Me.
- d) Less than 10% of men have a real best friend, someone they actually do life with, where they know and are known.

Building yourself and your circle- who to be, what to look for...

1. **Be friendly-** obvious but challenging for some/many.
 - a) **Prov 18:24** A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
2. **Be open-** your circle might surprise you- unpacking Jonathan and David.

- a) **1Sam 18:1**- Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
- b) Jonathan the prince, heir to the throne, rich, powerful etc. David the shepherd boy, poor, insignificant... anointed and called to be king.

Fact- the unlikelihood of this friendship can't be overstated. Should never have happened. Be open to these types of destiny-shaping friendships.

3. **Be generous not jealous-**

- a) **1Sam 18:4**- And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

Fact- Jonathan overcame the jealousy he saw exhibited by his father to be generous toward David.

Listen- be a friend that loves, celebrates, and supports your friends. Be generous in words and deeds, from a pure heart, pure motives etc.

Communion- no greater love than someone who lays his life down for a friend... I call you my friend... Jn 15:13,15.