

# altar e80

## My Longing for Approval

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*Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.* **Proverbs 29:25** NLT

### 1. Signs you are seeking approval from people

- Obsessing about what others think
- Being overly sensitive
- Having a hard time saying no

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. <sup>36</sup> For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. <sup>37</sup> He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. **Acts 4:32-37** NLT

<sup>1</sup> But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. <sup>2</sup> He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. <sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. <sup>4</sup> The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" <sup>5</sup> As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. **Acts 5:1-5** NLT

### 2. Overcoming the urge to please people

- Focus on pleasing God instead of pleasing people
- Don't pretend to be something you aren't

### Next Steps:

- Commit to seeking God's will by prayer this week, asking God to show me how I can let go of my need for approval
- Say no to \_\_\_\_\_, so I can say yes to \_\_\_\_\_
- Commit to stop pretending and honestly come to God as I am: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_