



## Providential Relationships

II Samuel 13:1-5

*In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. <sup>2</sup>Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. <sup>3</sup>Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. <sup>4</sup>He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." <sup>5</sup>"Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'"*

### I. Understanding the Plan

What is God up to in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

How does God grow my faith? \_\_\_\_\_

You were never meant to live in spiritual isolation.

Proverbs 27:17

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

### II. Understanding the Obstacles to Growth

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ is calling you away from spiritual growth.

II Corinthians 4:4

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

B. Your \_\_\_\_\_ (natural desires) is pulling you away from spiritual growth.

Romans 7:19-21

*For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.*

C. Your \_\_\_\_\_ are pulling you away from spiritual growth.

Proverbs 13:20

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*

• Over time, \_\_\_\_\_ bring \_\_\_\_\_.

I Corinthians 15:32-34

*If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup>Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." <sup>34</sup>Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.*

Who in your life is calling you up to the noble things of God?

• Friends determine the quality and direction of your life because they \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ your faith.

### III. Partnering with God in Your Growth

A. Expect \_\_\_\_\_ to appear in your life.

B. Choose to get out of a \_\_\_\_\_ and into a \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Realize \_\_\_\_\_ is a natural part of growth.

D. In humility, admit that you need \_\_\_\_\_.

You will either work *with* or *against* God in your growth.