

Red flags

For every single situation we will ever encounter, we will have red flags from the Lord warning us when it is the wrong direction.

Red flags are warning signs or indicators that something might be wrong, risky, or problematic.

It reveals the need for

- Caution
- Further investigation
- Avoidance

This may be a warning about a decision one is taking or about to take.

- 1) Relationships –
2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- 2) Business – Partnership with unbeliever (Unequally yoked) 2 Corinthians 6:14
- 3) Employment – Sex for promotion; High staff turnover, vague job descriptions, lack of contract, lack of clarity, and confusion.
- 4) Personal safety

No one ever goes through a difficult time to look back and not find any warnings or reservations about that issue.

This is a crucial way God speaks and/or warns us and leads us.

Many times, people say, "My gut told me?" Do they mean, "My God!" Your gut should not be telling you, but God. We need to be sensitive to the Lord.

Genesis 27:1-30 And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. 2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: 3 Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; 4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die. 5 And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. 6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, 7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. 9 Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

10 And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. 11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: 12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. 13 And his mother said unto him, upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. 14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. 15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: 17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Genesis 27:18-24 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son? And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou biddest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me. And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice,

but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am. Gen 27:25 And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:

Gen 27:28 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

The story of Isaac and his venison (savory meat) is quite interesting. There is a lot to learn from how he dealt with this situation. He made some serious mistakes that we can learn from and apply that learning and knowledge to our lives. Walking in the flesh is a very costly way of life. We must be led by the Holy Spirit all the time to avoid grave mistakes.

God speaks to us through the reservations we have about certain things. The sad thing is that most of the time we neglect those heart convictions and reservations and go on to do what our head says, and at the end of the day, when everything backfires, we say, "I knew something was wrong". This is the most devastating statement. Knowing that something doesn't seem right in our hearts, yet we still go against it, is so painful.

Never force yourself to do that which is revealed in your heart with certain reservations.

1 Samuel 13:12 says, "Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering."

- A TV program called "**Locked abroad.**"

- In every situation, all these people (male and female) knew that what they were doing was wrong, yet they pressed forward and went against their heart's reservations.
- They had multiple red flags, yet they ignored them all until they were caught. I think I saw only one guy who threw away the cocaine they were making him carry. He was threatened, and he returned and smuggled it only to be apprehended en route.
- They lived to regret it.
- One lady was dressed and tapped on cocaine and went to the bathroom to remove it, but gave up and was busted, arrested, and thrown to jail, then prison.

A. Red flag one

a) "Who art thou, my son?"

- i) This is the beginning of Jacob's deception. He came to the father with the venison that was supposed to be prepared and brought by Esau. The mother gave word to Jacob, and they both connived and robbed Esau, making the venison before he came from hunting to make it for his father.
- ii) But Isaac had doubts whether this was truly Esau, that's why he asked, "Who art thou my son? He could not see (Genesis 27:1), **but he was not deaf**. I truly believe he knew the voices of his two boys, but even if he wasn't sure, he should have followed the reservations he had in his heart.
- iii) If you had two sons and one knocked on your door and said, "Daddy, it's me," would you not know which son it is? And in case you had some doubts about who was at the door, would you not ask a few more questions and make out clearly who it is? Would you just open the door and let someone in whom you weren't sure of?
- iv) Regardless of all that, here we begin to see the first reservation Isaac had; whether this was truly Esau or otherwise, he would have never asked who it was.

B. Red flag two

a) "How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son?"

- i) This is another red flag that came up. Yet again, Isaac ignored it. He knew deep within his heart that something was wrong. How is it that it took this young man hardly any time to go hunt, skin, clean up, cook, and serve him?
- ii) God was speaking to Isaac's heart, but he did not hearken to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He was a hungry man who had lost his sense of judgment.
- iii) Also, notice how this is worded. He did not say, "How is that thou has found it so quickly, my son **Esau**"? It seems clear that he still had clear doubts about whether this was truly Esau that why he never addressed him as Esau, at least not yet.
- iv) This was a quick turnaround time to hunt, clean, cook, and serve. This takes way more time than this. Isaac knew this and better than this.

C. Red flag three

a) "And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not."

- i) Wow, this is interesting. Notice what Isaac then says, after the two red flags above, he then says, "come near that I may feel you, whether thou be my very son Esau or not."
- ii) It is clear to me that Isaac had doubts whether this was truly Esau, or else, he would not have said, "**Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.**" These words make it super clear that he doubted that this was his very son Esau, yet he went forward anyway.
- iii) I truly believe that Isaac's desire to eat of the venison (savory meat) blinded every sense of objectivity and discernment that would have helped him detect the deceiver. But still, the Holy Spirit was speaking to his heart and putting in these reservations that he should have followed to make the right decision, **but he ignored the better sense of judgment that**

comes from the heart and went with his touch or physical senses. This speaks volumes **about the lust for food that Isaac was gone into.**

iv) He also says that he was about to die—not true! He just wanted food, and by saying he was about to die was a good reason to get what he wanted—the venison!

- This was all premature because he died about 43 years later. This was not God. This was the flesh of Isaac.

b) Notice and Isaac said unto Jacob, not Esau...

D. Red flag four

a) **"The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."**

i) This is another red flag. Isaac still had obvious doubts that this was not Esau. This makes the point I made earlier that **he knew whose voice this was, or he doubted Jacob to be Esau.**

ii) Here in this verse, he confirms that the voice was that of Jacob, but the hands were those of Esau.

iii) This was a clear conflict. He should not have proceeded to eat and give the blessing with these doubts and reservations. How wrong was Isaac!

iv) We should never let our five senses rule or lead. They can be easily manipulated. They are not dependable and not consistent.

- We should use our hearts as a means of better judgment. **What is in our hearts is a better sense of judgment than what we smell, see, feel, taste, and hear.**

- We need to follow our hearts more than our physical senses. Every time we follow our senses more than our hearts, we end up making wrong judgments and decisions.

- Isaac, being unable to see, still had his heart to discern this situation, but he again ignored it.

E. Red flag five

a) "And he discerned him not,"

- i) If you live in your head and your emotions, you will not be able to walk in true discernment. Discernment is the ability to see things with your hearts detecting their authenticity and accuracy.
- ii) **If Isaac was fooled by Jacob, it's because he allowed it. Isaac wanted or allowed himself to be deceived.** He knew it! With all the reservations he had, it should not have happened. He was being led by the flesh, not by the Holy Spirit. All the decisions he made were because of the food (Venison).
- iii) Why did Isaac still have to bless him with all these doubts? Notice that the following verse says, "And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am."
 - Isaac still blessed Jacob, knowing well in his heart that he was not Esau.

F. Red flag six

a) And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.

- i) Isaac still had reservations even after he had blessed Jacob— "Esau"
- ii) He again asked if this was Esau. He had enough doubts, red flags, and reservations to act upon, but he chose not to, and the damage and plunder this brought to the family was enormous. It is sad to look back and say, "I knew this was wrong. It felt off."
- iii) We should not overlook those reservations that we have in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is speaking to us through those doubts and reservations in our hearts. They should not be ignored. They should be strongly considered and acted upon.
- iv) Although it looks like Jacob pulled off a genius deception here, **he later reaped (Galatians 6:7-8) what he sowed with big interest.** When he went to Laban his uncle and wanted to marry his daughter, he was deceived (Genesis 29:25) and given the older (Leah) instead of the younger (Rachel)

who he wanted to marry, and he worked even more years to pay the dowry for Leah and more years for Rachel (Genesis 29:21-30).

- Cheating, lying, cutting corners and all deception does not get us forward but backward. A man is not established by wickedness (Proverbs 12:3).

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

- i) God speaks to us through the peace in your hearts.
- ii) If you have reservations or red flags, you will not have peace.

One, consider all options. Many wrong decisions have been made because not all the options were considered. Two, don't let fear rule out God's possibilities. Three, use your mind and imagination to explore what will happen with each choice. Four, where do you have the most peace? God will always lead you in the direction where you have the most peace. Follow the peace of God. Discern the greater peace as you consider the option the Lord would have you take. In your spirit, there will be total peace over the right choice, but we aren't always totally in the Spirit, and it is not unusual for some turmoil to exist.

Apostle Paul's Jerusalem Red flags

We also find red flags in the life of Paul, which he ignored. God paraded multiple red flags before Paul, but he ignored them all.

Paul desired to go to Jerusalem and was willing to die there for the gospel. That sounds noble, but it was premature for Paul to go to Jerusalem. Everyone, including himself, knew that he was headed for fire, yet he went ahead and left regardless of all the warnings given him, and as soon as he got there, he was persecuted and shortly sent to Rome after appealing to Caesar.

Red flag one: Acts 21:4 "And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."

- The disciples told Paul through the Holy Spirit not to go to Jerusalem.

Red flag 2: Acts 21:8-9 "And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy."

- Phillip had daughters who prophesied. What did they prophesy? It is possible that they prophesied concerning Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

Red flag 3: Acts 21:10-12 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

- Paul was warned by Prophet Agabus from Judea, yet he resisted and did his thing anyway.

Red flag 4: Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

- Paul could not be persuaded. He was stubborn. He said he knew not the things that were going to come upon him, but these things had been revealed to him, and he rejected them.

Illustration:

Living in sin will cause us to miss the warnings and red flags that God may be showing us. **Sin will cloud our perception of red flags. You need to quit living in sin.**

Example: Amber Guyder a former police officer in Dallas.

She was in an adulterous relationship with a married police officer. She confessed it was wrong and that she knew it was and was ashamed of it. One day, as she was talking to him or texting him, she went home, and after that conversation with him, she could not think straight for some reason. She missed all the warnings of error, going in the wrong direction.

First, she parked on the wrong floor 4 rather than 3—**she missed that**. This floor was obviously different from the 3rd floor, where she normally parked—**she missed that**. She walked in on the 4th floor, which was not her apartment floor—**she missed that**. She missed

that all the doors that had a four-digit number on them, yet her apartment had a “three” on it. She walked past unusual and outstanding exterior apartment decorations like flowers, doormats, and so forth that were not similar to the apartments on her third floor.

She then walked into an apartment that was not hers. The door was not completely shut, assuming she shut and locked her apartment door when she left in the morning—**she missed that**. This “4” something apartment had a bright red doormat that she did not have in her apartment—**she missed that too**. Lastly, when she got the apartment while at the door, it was not set up as her own—**she missed that**. It stunk with marijuana (weed)—**she missed that, too**.

She walked into the wrong apartment and shot a man whom she thought had broken into “her apartment.” She was found guilty and sent to jail for 10 years.

My point:

Sin blinded her ability to discern all the **red flags** when she was headed in the wrong direction. She did everything wrong, and she could not recognize that she was doing all these things wrong. Sin is not Smart.

There is a link between her missing all these warnings and the adulterous immorality she was engaged in with this man she knew well was married.

She was on heat and missed God’s direction and red flags that were unhidden right before her eyes.

Conclusion

All these problems could have been avoided because God had spoken to Rebekah that Esau would serve Jacob while they were still in her womb (Genesis 25:23). All the problems that followed this event were completely unfounded. Rebekah and Jacob should have trusted God and believed the word He had given them about the older serving the younger.

As we walk or drive, we need to be aware of red lights. Some red lights are temporary (It is not time to go yet), while some are permanent (never go). Some red lights are for a season, and they will turn green. However, some green lights can turn red. Just because you have a green light, it does not remove your sense of Judgement. Some people run red lights and can crash into you.

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