

Responding responsibly in the crossroads of life

COMPROMISE CONFRONT OR CONFORM

4th February 2023

Responsible brotherhood in spiritual crisis

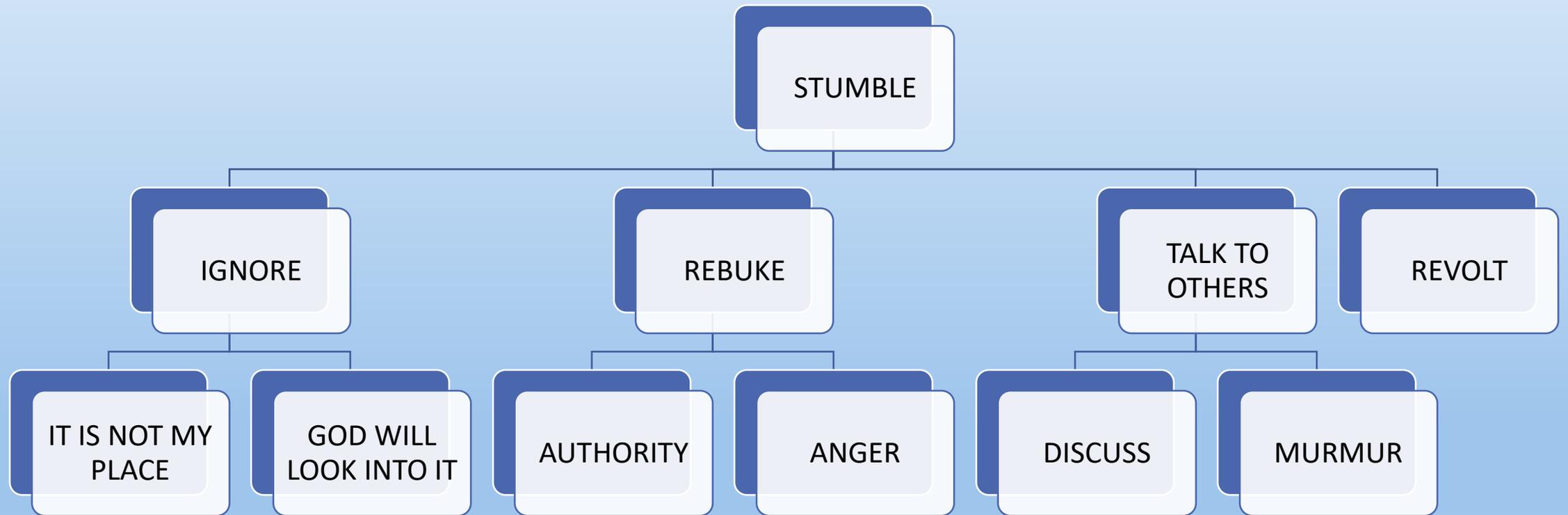
*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you **who are spiritual** restore such a one in a **spirit of gentleness**, considering yourself **lest you also be tempted***

(Galatians:6:1-2)

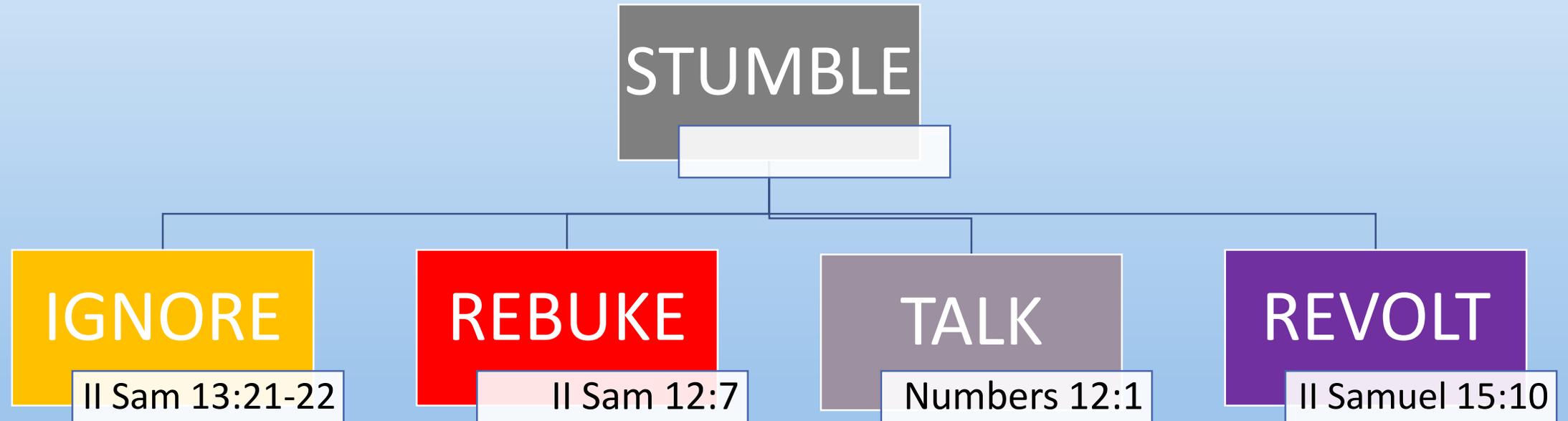
Trespases

- In a family there are going to be sons and daughters of different ages and personalities.
- The oneness is in the genes
- Christians are going to be of different level of maturity and personalities – The oneness comes in Christ(The touch, need and power)
- There are going to be stumbles in the process
- There is going to be need for restoration
- How do we approach it?

HUMAN RESPONSE TO A STUMBLE



Biblical examples



THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLES ARE HUMAN
RESPONSES TO A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM IN
MAJORITY OF THE INSTANCES

EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

From the scriptures

- Nathan the Prophet- In the kingdom of God
- The Parable of the prodigal son- The Father
- Barnabas in the case of John Mark
- Paul in the case of Philemon

THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

- RESTORATION IS THE AIM

If we destroy in the name of restoration, then we have failed

- Ignoring the problem is not restoration but irresponsibility

- We are called to be spiritual

- Spiritual parameters-

E.g. from the parable of the prodigal son

- What do we mean by spiritual?

- What may be misinterpreted as spiritual?

THE FATHER

- Allowed the separation
- Watched the son squander
- Waited for the son to return
- Accepted the son's repentance and restored him to the previous status

THE ELDEST SON IN THE PARABLE

- The brother hated or disliked his brother for what he did to the father and the family
- It was rational anger
 - It was the choice of the youngest brother
 - It hurt the father and he chose his friends over the family
 - He squandered his inheritance
 - Lost his dignity
 - Brought shame on the family

Discipline and Devotion – Eldest son

- Devoted to the father
- Righteous life
- Responsible worker
- Saved the name of the family and cared for the father

Dealing with a rebellious brother

- Who wanted to have his own way and give up on the role he has been expected to play.
- Father let him go and the brother watched him go.
- Brother was wasting his inheritance and was bringing disrepute to his family.
- Father knew about it but did not go after him.
- Father waited for him to return but the brother did not want him to come back.

Eldest brother

- Was busy at work
- Shared the vision of the father with regard to the field
- Did not share the passion of the father for his youngest brother
- He was unhappy about the treatment of himself at the hand of the father comparing to the treatment the brother got when he returned
- He did not have the heart to celebrate at the return of the brother

ELDEST SON

- He was the Eldest son but not the elder brother.
- He was devoted and disciplined but not graceful.
- He was arrogant regarding his achievement.
- He had a **different outlook about sin** that from the father.
- He was not involved with the father but was involved with work.

RED FLAGS in Christian walk

- How we restore reflect who we are.
- If we are careless and carefree regarding the lost, then we are disciplined but not devoted.
- If we are angry and irritable with regard to the restoration of a brother, then we are spiritually blind that we too can fail.
- If we are going to protest about joining the household of God, then we are self righteous.

How are we connecting to the body of Christ?

- Do we vibrate/resonate with the father or with our own fleshly ways?
- Are we unhappy with God about anything?
- What are we doing about it?
- How can we restore?

RESTORATION

- GOING TO GOD BEFORE WE GO TO THE PERSON
- RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
- KNOW THE HEART OF GOD AND BE TRANSFORMED
- RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT
- BEWARE OF TEMPTATION
- HANDLE THE PERSON DELICATELY