

The logo features a stylized yellow cross with a circular base on the left, followed by the word "TRANSFORMED" in a bold, yellow, distressed font. Below this, the text "DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is dark blue with abstract, leaf-like shapes in a lighter shade of blue.

# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"**

*2 Samuel 12:7*

## Conflict Avoidance

*The Question: I've decided not to talk with my friends to avoid conflict. It is better for everyone, right?*

Not talking to your friends when there is conflict between you is definitely the easier option, but is it really the better option? Is it what God wants you to do?

Nathan was a prophet while David was king of Israel. David created conflict with God, and it was up to Nathan as the prophet of God to resolve it. David wanted another man's wife. He had sex with her. He lied and tried to cover it up. When he was in danger of being discovered, he had her husband murdered. In the end, David looked like the good guy because he took the mourning widow into his own home as his wife. God told Nathan to confront David about his sin.

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. Put yourself in Nathan's shoes! Nathan was to confront the king with what he had done, though David could easily have him killed. David had already shown that he was willing to murder to cover up his sin. Would Nathan be next? It would have made sense for Nathan to avoid the conflict, but he didn't. He went to David and said, "David, you are the man. You are the sinner, the murderer, the liar." Nathan addressed the conflict head on. Why?

Nathan loved David so much he confronted him with the truth. God's people are sometimes called not just to do what is safe and easy. They do what is best for others. David's eternal life was at stake due to dangerous, unresolved, and unrepentant sin. Nathan put David before himself and confronted him.

That is what God wants you to do in your conflicts. Avoiding conflicts may at the moment be the easy way out, but it doesn't make them go away. Confront conflict! Love your friend. Put them first just like Nathan did his king, like Jesus did for you.

**Prayer: My Father in heaven, I experience many moments of being weak and afraid. Comfort me with the assurance that you still love and will always forgive me. Reach down and take hold of my hand and lift me to a higher level of strength. Give me courage to speak when I should, and to know when best to be silent. Give me wisdom so that your will, not mine, be done. Use me to accomplish your purpose in Christ. Amen.**