



CRM MINISTRY: **INNERCHANGE** | TITLE: **AM I DAVID OR JONATHAN?** | STORY OF: **JOHN HAYES**

IN MY SHOES: AM I DAVID OR JONATHAN?

Phil jumped up and said earnestly, "This is great! We're just like David and Jonathan!" We were in a corner booth at Cocos in Santa Ana, late fall, 1986. I sensed Phil's enthusiasm was an affirmation from God of the discipleship work I was doing with Phil and I exulted inwardly. Phil was the youth pastor at Templo Calvario, a local Latino mega-church we hoped would one day impact Minnie Street. Several months earlier I had been asked to train Templo's lay leaders in several departments. The work with Phil's team had grown into personal discipleship with him and we had forged a very close bond. It was easily the most exciting discipleship relationship I had experienced up to that time—Phil was a quick-study and was eager to apply what we were exploring together. In addition, I was helping Phil in a Christian club called "Saints Alive!" Phil was running at Santa Ana High School. Much fruit was coming out of our partnership.

I began to wonder... "Who does Phil consider to be David, who Jonathan?" I knew who I considered to be David. I was fresh from being used by God to start InnerCHANGE from scratch, was in and out of Cambodian homes like a son, and was even a bit of a celebrity at Templo. In short, I was a key player, a leader... And I was leading Phil. Furthermore, David had been my favorite Old Testament character since childhood and was becoming an important historical mentor. I appreciated the Jonathan character in I Samuel as an empowerer, but I didn't really identify with him personally.

Gently the Lord whispered to me, "It doesn't matter who Phil thinks he is. Who do you think you are? And more importantly, who have I made you to be in this relationship?" Suddenly I was ashamed. As a missionary I realized my role with Phil was to be his Jonathan, to 'give him my armor' as Jonathan had done with David, to empower him as a leader. - John Hayes, 1986