



WHOLE FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

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Encouragement for the heart from WFI

The desire for staying in touch with each of you is to help you wage the battle that rages around you with confidence and success. For the unsaved and the new Christian the prize of their heart is of great value for the enemy of our soul. For the more mature Christian the enemy's plan is to distract or render useless the purpose and calling to be used for the furtherance of the eternal kingdom here on earth. Therefore, I write!

The Finished Work of the Cross

First things First

Before I go any further, we must fully understand the only way to eternal life in Christ. There is no "good work" or "living right" here on earth able to earn us right standing or righteousness before God. Right standing before God was started, and completed for each human on earth by Jesus Christ. He is the only perfect sacrifice able to meet and exceed the standard set forth by God in the perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection. We can personally have eternal life as we receive by faith the finished work of the cross, and through conversion become a child of God. As we discuss the life, self examination and living sacrifice in the following paragraphs the truths in this paragraph must be established in our hearts first.

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Standing Before God

My great concern for the true Christian today is for them to have the right answers for Christ when they each stand before God and give an account of every thought and intent of their heart. Though the penalty of sin has been fully fulfilled by faith in the finished work of the cross, the consequence (not penalty) of unrepentant sin still affects the Christian their entire life. The actions of the individual Christian betray the thoughts and intents of our hearts from its core. Our daily examining of our lives should not be mere introspection. It must be honest self examination using the written Word of God by the Holy Spirit. We must closely scrutinize our own hearts checking to see if those thoughts and intents of even the last 10 minutes give the proper honor and glory to God. We will each give a personal account of how we honored and treated each of Gods children that we come in contact with each day of our lives. It does not matter what age Gods child is, be it just conceived or 100 years old. In marriage your spouse is Gods child first and secondly your spouse. The Holy Spirit that lives in you adores your spouse or your offender. Whatever it is in you that doesn't, or holds them to a separate standard than Christ, must be dealt with as sin. Each individual will answer to God for their treatment and disrespect of others starting with

Standing Before God *continued*

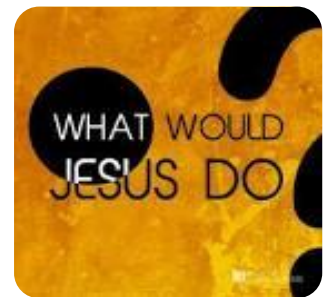
the thoughts and motives of that heart. When we are in pain we may falsely believe that God must agree with us and hate the one hurting us. If we do this our sin can unexpectedly become a blinding offense (bitterness). Most of the time, our offender doesn't know, or understand the pain they are causing us. In other cases they are glad they are causing us pain. To be free from pain the offender caused knowingly or not, we must be deliberate about focusing on our becoming a substitute for them in genuine forgiveness, therefore, releasing them from the debt that we feel they owe. This forgiveness must be the same as the same way Christ forgave us. Remember, flesh and blood are not the enemy but the enemy does function through the flesh as we give him permission to do so (Eph. 4:27). In order to slow advancement of the Kingdom of God, the enemy does not have to make the Christian wicked or evil to make him ineffective. Satan merely has to get Christians focused on our own pain when offended, or deceive him to believe and act on heresy, doctrines of devils, or the traditions of men. Some Christians seeking counseling only want comfort for the symptoms of pain they suffer and are unwilling to humble themselves before Gods to experience the lasting peace by dealing with the underlying causes. One must ask them self; just how much do you want to allow satan to steal from you? Don't look at your spouse or the offender. They are not the enemy. If you are out of the center of peace it is you who have stepped away from the Prince of Peace by becoming bitter, or proud in self-pity or depression. I'm writing this truth bluntly. It is not out of frustration, anger, or to shame you. My hearts intent is to be an instrument of God, to help you stop your pain. The only way I can do that is to help you live to Gods high standard: not mine, your spouses, your friends, your pastor, or even your parents. We answer only to the audience of one! As we learn to live to Gods standard, and intimately let Him have the pain we experience from others, then repent of our expectation for others to make things right with

us, repenting of bitterness, control, self-pity, depression, and other facets of pride, only then can we live the abundant life of peace Christ gives. None of this earns salvation. Salvation is already provided by the finished work of Christ on the Cross. But, it does allows us to live the abundant life that Christ promised and carry daily the easy yoke and light burden that never changes. Then we will also be able to live in harmony and experience the richness of relationships that God is using to make us most like Himself.

WWJD?

The phrase WWJD (what would Jesus do?)

has given many Christians license to walk in to deception and hurt that does not quit. This phrase leaves interpretation of the Bible open to opinion and commentary that may not be true. When first faced with Shirley's cancer I, through introspection and questioning God on seeming contradictions in His word spent all my time in pain and numbness for several weeks. When I finally came to the decision to trust God, even when he didn't seem to make sense to me, and get my thinking in line with the written word, I started to give thanks, spend personal time receiving from Him and serving selflessly again, my Prince of joy and peace returned to His rightful place. What I learned was to line my understanding up with the written Word and experience the Peace that the Word of God offers. After the 40 days of fasting Jesus defeated Satan using "it is written" we would do best to follow His lead! Thus the saying should be WDJS? (What does Jesus say?).



Testimony of healing

I had the honor of helping a young woman still living at home who was experiencing pain, misunderstanding, and rejection from her family. She had, with the help of her family, overcome thyroid cancer at her young age. She had not felt that God was with her. Through her much prayer and struggle, and having been taught differently, wanting to believe differently, she had begun to punish herself by cutting herself then also feel guilty for doing that cutting. As we made a safe place to meet with God and invited Him into the events. She found that Jesus had not left or forsaken her and through the miracle that He does in that little office she knew that Jesus cared about the pain and wanted her to give the pain to him rather than to continue to carry it. She was then able to forgive God, her parents, siblings, and herself for all of the hurt and misunderstanding that had been caused. The parents had come in for counseling with her and the young woman ask them to leave for a short time so that she could open and share all that was on her heart. The parents were then invited back in and without feeling betrayed the young woman was able to share openly all that could not be shared before. This all took place in only several hours. It is such an honor to witness what the Prince of Peace does so quickly in a pliable heart and as we choose to live to only His standards.



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

Thank you

Your prayer and support are so vital for us as a family and this message. One of the biggest fights that I still wage is the infiltration of secular teaching through best-selling books and other ministries, that do not bring true Peace to a heart and release /victory to the fight. I don't want to spend much time promoting my family/ministry and leave the more important work undone. I will continue to address issues that plague each saint in this day when there is a famine of the Word of God and such a need for unity in marriage and the church. Having said that I will take a few lines to thank you for your prayers for us through yet another training. Shirley is doing well with chemo, the first half of radiation behind us and hope, strength, and energy returning. I and the rest of the family have been brought closer together and more dependent on God through this time. And thanks to God Himself and God through you, all of the bills are paid and we look to Him to give us this day our daily bread. His hand to our mouths is enough!! We are still learning to ask specifically for what is needed so that He can show himself strong and then get honor and glory by our praise for every answer to prayer. Thank you also for bearing with me for being harder to reach during this necessary time when I have focused on the hearts of my own family through summer break, chemo, radiation, and preparations at home for winter.

Please continue to pray for the ministry and our family to teach only the purity of his word.

Please contact me at---wholefamilies@hotmail.com and set a time so that I can meet/talk to you. Or call 719-783-2545. If you have slipped back into old hurtful patterns or all good seems lost remember that usually within a few minutes by phone with moldable hearts all that seems lost can be gained back. Also we are working with the church here to offer refresher courses for alumni of this ministry.