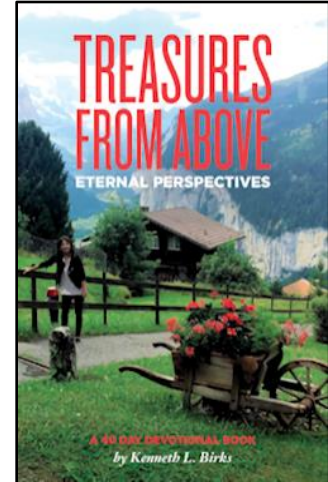


Clearing the Clutter of the Past

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*

As Christians, most of us are still carrying some clutter from the past. God desires that we would rid ourselves of all the clutter in our lives so that we are free to pursue the destiny and purpose He has charted out for us.

For many of us, when we come to Jesus, we are filled with joy and anticipation of what our new commitment holds. However, as we press forward in this newfound faith, we realize we have weights holding us back. Our past bondages prevent us from moving forward. Before we can partake and enjoy the wonderful treasures from the Father's great treasure house, we realize how important it is to deal with our past.



Before coming to Christ, our lives were littered with all kinds of clutter that must be removed. Whether it was sexual impurities, failed marriages, financial blunders, addictions, unforgiveness, broken relationships, divorce, emotional wounds, abandonment issues, various abuses, disappointments, or whatever, we need freedom from all that oppressed. Jesus came to deliver and set free those taken captive by Satan and his devices.

Luke 4:18 *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to the brokenhearted, to preach to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”*

To get free from our past, we must believe Jesus desires to heal and set us free; otherwise, our history remains too cluttered. The Bible says that it's our faith that overcomes the world.¹ Therefore, for the healing process to begin, we must believe that Jesus desires to heal and make us whole again. Mary Magdalene's story is a beautiful example of Jesus' compassion towards those who have been wounded from the cruelty the world is capable of dishing out. Jesus totally set her free from the agony of her past and helped her to have an extraordinarily successful and rewarding life.

Much of the clutter filling our souls are strongholds God desires to tear down. We have been given spiritual weapons that enable us to clear the clutter or the strongholds in our lives so that we can receive the healing and restoration that God desires for all of us. Let us begin to pursue the recovery God has for us so that we can be all that He has ordained us to be as we give ourselves to His purposes.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

¹ I John 5:4

When strongholds of the past clutter our lives by not dealing with them, we become agitated in the spirit. When agitated, it becomes difficult to focus on the present. For example, whenever I sit down at my desk to work, I find myself first wanting to clear all the clutter out of the way so that I can work from a neat desk. If I don't do this, I become somewhat agitated and have difficulty focusing on what I'm supposed to be doing.

All the areas mentioned above produce wounds in us, of which Jesus desires to heal. For the healing to begin, we must be courageous enough to open the wound and take a good look at it. It is imperative that we understand the destruction wounds cause when we allow them to fester. Once we know the injury, identify it, and where it came from, we invite the Holy Spirit, who is our helper, to deal with it. We then submit to Him in the process as He shows us through the Word what is required. No matter how painful it may be, we must embrace the healing balm the Lord wants to use for our spiritual therapy. The book of Hebrews gives us some great advice on how to go about this.

Hebrews 12:12-13 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Making straight paths involves different things based on what your wounding may be. In many cases, it starts with forgiving the offended party. Then, it means doing what is needed to bring healing and restoration to broken relationships; addictions involve seeking and confessing the help you need to get free. Finally, it simply means godly sorrow with true repentance in many cases.

Whatever your therapy, allow the compassion and mercy of Jesus to touch your wound today so that the healing process can begin. Allow the Holy Spirit to burn the clutter and chaff from your lives. He's faithful and incredibly competent in doing so.

Prayer

Father, I come to you today for the help I need in clearing all the clutter that keeps me from experiencing all that You have from Your great storehouse. I submit myself to the work of the Holy Spirit as He burns the offending chaff in my life.



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