

Not Obsession, But Intercession

by Linda DeLea



Paul began each letter giving all credit to God because without the Holy Spirit there would be no inspiration. We know nothing of the spirit except for what God teaches. Through many trials I learned much about my relationship to Christ, but also how much I needed to improve. As Christians one of the hardest trials we deal with is offense.

At one point in my life I became obsessive with an offense related to rejection. The Holy Spirit corrected me first by saying "stop" and then "be patient." Patience is the first thing to go in an attack. We want to fix and control and put an end to the pain ourselves because we think we know what we are doing with our hearts. As Christians the first step is to be patient, then to do Romans 12:14 "Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them." This allows one's heart to be open. The next step is to humble yourself before God. Pride will stop you from praying for others, especially those who have offended you. Ephesians 4:2 tells us to always be humble and gentle with the words "be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. As Christians we should ask God for what we need, and thank Him for all He has done.

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My struggle was not easy. The next day the pain returned and I started thinking about the same issues again of being misunderstood, rejected and ignored. Nothing had ever gripped me with such pain as this. I knew I had a real heart problem. This had not been dealt with since I was an adolescent. At that time God reminded me again that I needed to pray for this individual. There was nothing I could do about it but to pray, I was unable to even talk it through with the person. Many people go through the same experience, where they do not even know what caused the other person to be hurt. Honestly one of the worst feelings I have suffered in life is offending someone I love with no recourse. These situations however, God allows sometimes to teach and correct what is wrong in our hearts and draw us closer to Him.

The Lord said, "Stop chasing her. She is mine." So I agreed with my Savior and began intercession. At any given time after that when my mind would wonder into the pain I would lift this particular situation up to the Lord. I kept this up all day and the next day. I spoke the opposite over our relationship. I spoke that we are bonded by Jesus' blood. That we have a destiny together that is powerful. That God's love will keep us safe from the enemy. This was working. The peace I had about the situation returned. God always has surprises up His sleeve. The next day I was encouraged and reassured. I met with an old friend who became very busy with a new job and lost touch. I was always the

initiator in the relationship but this time for the first time ever she initiated a meeting at the park. She told me she needed my friendship. She had not connected with anyone at her new church and she needed someone who knew her intimately. It touched my heart and I really felt the love of God saying that He was restoring relationships. I was so encouraged. Moreover, the next day I went to a women's prayer meeting and two women prayed over me without knowing a thing about my obsessing and God broke off all rejection. I was set free. I have His peace and I continue to pray about the situation without the pain of rejection.

God has shown me His heart during these times of struggle. Christians sometimes become overly spiritual about misunderstandings and just walk away from relationships that are growing in intimacy. Because of deep wounds from our past we tend to back up from confrontations. Some of us even shake at the thought. God wants us to grow closer. What the devil means for harm God uses for good. None of the things we disagree about are too big that love cannot change the situation. Often we find ourselves obsessing without knowing it. However, when our thoughts are not His thoughts for a blessing and a hope for those we know then evil has invaded. Some of the most seasoned Christians have justified themselves in leaving some people out of their prayers because they have given up on them ever reconnecting. I would have liked to have not been the one who did not have to pray because it is still sometimes painful. But now through prayer I am free to love and support them even if they choose to not have me in their life.

Prayer always sees you through to the other side to God. We breakthrough to His care and love through intercession. I can say I am enjoying this time to simply pray blessings and freedom instead of obsessing on how to fix the problem. It is surely in God's hands now. So when we get to the place where we cannot shake a thought and we are mulling it over and fixating on it over and over that is a sign of obsessing. Our own intellect will torture us with endless resolutions that will never work. We are capable of being stuck in the same situation for years because we simply had not prayed. The obsession could start with something as simple as a small decision or a great loss. The end result is that God will use it to strengthen your faith, show you the joy of answered prayer and do a new work in your character by producing patience. Honestly we really know we are healed when we truly cannot remember the pain of the offense. Remember, "... all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" when we intercede in the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:28



Praise Reports

A few weeks ago my son was physically, mentally and spiritually attacked. I must add he also made some wrong choices that did not help his problems. He had zero hope. He told me that it would be better for his family if the Lord would just take him. RDM and many other saints joined in prayer. God in His goodness and mercy has healed him. He now is stronger than he has been in a long time. God has been giving him revelation of His word. We at RDM prayer group pray God's word, then the word goes out and accomplishes what it was sent to do on our behalf. All Praise to the LORD. N.S.



Our eight year old granddaughter was admitted to the hospital as an emergency. She was bleeding internally and was hospitalized for a week as they ran tests to determine the cause. I immediately called Rivers in the Desert Ministry for prayer and it is with a grateful heart filled with thanksgiving that I offer up praise to our God for His faithfulness to hear and answer prayer and for His gift of healing. Thank you Rivers in the Desert for your beautiful love and prayers and for standing in the gap. P.S.



I'm thanking the Lord for RDM's "Song of Solomon" Bible study. It has awakened in me a deeper and healing realization of God's love for me, and His commitment to me as His bride. His love enables me to shine for Him. R.L.



Although I was not there from the beginning of the Song of Solomon Bible study, I realized that the part I was able to enjoy gave me insight and understanding I didn't see before, especially on maturity and our Beloved Bridegroom Jesus. J.P.



One evening at the Song of Solomon Bible study, as we were soaking to exquisite violin music, I saw Jesus as my Bridegroom. We danced, and it was the most romantic beautiful time in the arms of Jesus. I will always carry that with me. I am His. R.R.



At the last RDM Glory Watch, when the Holy Spirit was moving, I sensed the Lord tell me to get down on the floor. I came into the meeting with back problems, but when I obeyed the Lord, I was immediately healed. The pain left. Praising the Lord. K.P.



The Lord blessed my niece's husband, Robert, with a job closer to home and he no longer works out of state. Robert is able to be home everyday with the family! Praise the Lord! S.D.

Wake Up

By Rosemary Bendler



Christians need a new mindset. For far too many years the Church has ceased to be the powerful trendsetter it was in the past. The culprit? Christians have stopped being focused on Jesus and instead focused on themselves. As Christians we must stay focused on Christ. We have to put aside our self-focus. We need to listen to the Holy Spirit when he nudges us to spend time with him. Are you spending too much time on yourself and not with God?

Christians are soldiers in God's army. But in order to be a good soldier, we cannot be lazy. We need to know God's word. Moreover, soldiers do their work immediately when requested by their superior. If Jesus asks you to do something for His Kingdom, do you respond right away or are you too busy? The Word of God tells us we know His voice and the voice of another we will not follow. Be obedient and do what Jesus asks you to do. Follow your orders. He will lead and guide you along the way.

What orders did Jesus leave us with when he ascended into Heaven? First, we are to love Him with our whole being. Second, we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This means more than just smiling and saying "hello" to a stranger. In order to love our neighbor we must deny ourselves and follow Christ's leading. We must be selfless in our relationship to others. Do you really take time out for your family, friends, and strangers? It could be as simple as sending a kind note, but do you do it and practice what you preach as a Christian? Another important aspect of being a Christian is prayer. We must pray for those that we know in our lives, whether Christian or not. Lastly, we must share Jesus with others. Whether this is directly witnessing to a person, or witnessing through your actions or life, your enthusiasm and love for others should stir their curiosity to come to know God.

This is no time to be a closet Christian! Be Bold! Ask the Holy Spirit to embolden you to speak what God has given you to say. Don't worry about what "they" will think, be more concerned with what Jesus will think. Let the love of Jesus and the joy, and peace flow out of you to others.

You may say, I work and have no time to spread the Gospel. Let me tell you whether it's the lunch delivery person, coffee vendor, person in the next cubicle, the kid stocking shelves, the granny slowly pushing her grocery cart, they all need Christ. This is your harvest field. Right where you are now. God positions each of us where he wants us. For many years the Church in America sent people to other nations, and while this is some people's calling, where you are locally is just as important. Ask the Holy Spirit for an opening to talk to the people in your life. He will give it to you. Don't be ashamed to share the love of Christ with others.