

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS

Vision: The call of the hour is righteousness and holiness in all things spiritual and natural.

I received an email last month from an irate reader that basically said, and I am paraphrasing, “How can you judge? You are fat.” (I do not hold any condemnation for her opinion). She also said my newsletters were too long. Hmmm, I have heard that part before.

Well, this is true, unfortunately (on both counts). But in case I have given anyone the wrong idea, God is convicting me of my own attitude and how easily it slips into the negative. This comes, without question, from my upbringing. My mother was a super-critical woman and I WAS immeasurably wounded by pretty much everyone. I have excuses, but excuses won't cut it on Judgment Day. The Lord will reveal the ugly truth, which is, that all judgment comes from unforgiveness.

If you think Judge Judy is harsh, Judgment Day will be more so when we realize that we have been forgiven for only those sins for which we have sought forgiveness. There is no excuse for those offenses we still hold.

Philippians 4:4-9: Rejoice in union with the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice! Let everyone see how reasonable and gentle you are. The Lord is near! Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. Then God's shalom, passing all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua. In conclusion, brothers, focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy. Keep doing what you have learned and received from me, what you have heard and seen me doing; then the God who gives shalom will be with you. (The Complete Jewish Bible)

I always thought this was sort of a wimpy attitude. One should stand up for what is right...always. But I have a long way to go to meet the guidelines of Philippians 4. And I don't say these things to put myself down, but I do say them to be truthful. Most, if not all, Christians really struggle with the distance between where they are and the reality of where they should be...Christlike. I have just voiced it for my own benefit. Please don't feel these newsletters are directed at everyone else and not myself. Each one has dealt with an issue in my own life that the Lord is dealing with or has shown me in vision.

I often wonder how many people think of me as reasonable, as gentle. Certainly my friends, who have seen me in action at a restaurant or a computer store, know me as not quite there yet. I am to be a representative of the Lord, Jesus Christ. He is near to others through me. Perhaps I should be a little more reasonable and gentle even when my computer has caught fire for the third time. Because really, it doesn't matter.

We are not to worry about anything. How can it help to worry? It really doesn't matter. Nothing really matters. We think it does because it is important to us. We are in the midst of the situation. But what if we step out of the situation for just a moment? In the bigger picture, what really matters? We can't take anything with us. Everything we accomplish on this earth will disappear. Build a skyscraper, it will be thrown into the Lake of Fire at the end of this age if it lasts that long. Build a 4,000 mile wall, it will be thrown into the Lake of Fire at the end of this age if it lasts that long. We can do nothing lasting. All will be destroyed.

The only thing that will last throughout eternity is relationship; our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will last for all eternity as will our relationship with any person on this earth. Relationships are eternal.

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What did Jesus do? He had nothing. He built nothing. He wrote nothing. He spent his time building relationships, first with the 12, and then others. He took everything to His Father in prayer and petition, not browbeating an issue to death and not begging for things, but to bring it to the Lord's attention...and then shalom, passing all understanding, kept His heart and mind in safe union with the Father. We have that same opportunity. We can have our hearts and minds safely in union with the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit...if we follow the simple prescription. Don't worry about anything but take everything to the Lord.

Consider the moment in the Garden of Gethsemane when He was facing imminent death. But worse than just a horrible death that He knew was coming, He actually knew the scriptures. He knew what it meant to bear the sins of all of fallen mankind – billions and billions of people. For what? To restore that relationship between man and God. His words were simple: If at all possible, take this cup from me, but primarily, Your will be done. He placed Himself in the safety and protection of the Lord even though it meant a most horrible death. Why? Because He trusted the Father to raise Him up again.

The most important prayer of His life (based on human understanding), was this simple prayer bowing to God's will regardless. Jesus didn't beg, plead, threaten, cajole or try to manipulate God's will. He trusted God's way and will, regardless.

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I thought that thinking on the things listed above made me weak, vulnerable. But I visited a friend of mine, a doctor, who told me that to think about death, for instance, or the news, causes stress to the body. So, it comes down to what is healthy...think about those things. It is a matter of survival to think on things that are true, noble, righteous, pure, loveable or admirable.

It is the same principle with forgiveness. We do not forgive someone because what they have done is acceptable. No, our forgiveness does nothing for the other person. We forgive them for our own sakes. Unforgiveness is the root of most sins (translate demonic spirits), if not all. If we hold any unforgiveness in our bodies, make no mistake, we are the ones that pay the price. It is the first step, followed by anger, hatred, resentment, wrath, vengeance, in the bitterness family of spirits, that ends in murder or self-murder (suicide, or disease).

We are called to a higher place of righteousness because of whom we associate with – Jesus Christ. That means we are called to a higher place of cleanliness/holiness, inside and out. That involves our attitude, our demeanor and our bodies. Yes, I have an attitude problem, and I am dealing with that. Recognition is the first step to deliverance. I am forgiving people and situations as often as the Holy Spirit brings them to mind. Yes, I am fat and I am dealing with that. I have been dealing with that for years trying to find the spiritual and natural cause of my excess weight. It is much more involved than just over eating.

Whether we are fat, have an eating disorder, or an addiction, we are all the sum total of our life experiences and generational spirits. When we accept the total sacrifice of Christ and impart that sacrifice to our lives, we are allowing God to come into our life where we are. Then it is a process of releasing Christ's sacrifice to every area of our lives. Not because His sacrifice was insufficient for total and complete instant healing, but because we are unknowledgeable and submerged in worldly concepts

and so do not apply His sacrifice to every part of our lives. The fault is not His but ours. We are slow to take advantage of everything He has done for us on the cross. We are slow to partake of all the life He has imparted to us.

We need to replace our misconceptions and the lies we have believed with the truth of the gospel (and that includes both Old and New Testament). That is not as easy as it sounds, but a great guideline is that God's way is a simple way. The devil's way is complicated and weaving. For more in depth discussion on the topic see www.aftapm.com EXPOSING THE TRUTH.

Since I have no intention of pointing fingers, I always choose to point at myself. As so eloquently mentioned earlier, I am overweight. Well, after years of searching, failing, and traveling the loose/gain merry-go-round, I have discovered some solutions that are both spiritual and natural.

Spiritually I need to deal with why I eat. I need to deal with the issues of lack of nurturing, abandonment, safety etc. And naturally, I need to look at the physiology that governs fat storage in the body. Fat is produced by the body as a protective defense against destructive things we ingest...acidic drinks and food, chemicals and additives that would do much harm if allowed to be free. So the more fat we wear, the more corrective cleansing is required.

This brings me to the SECRETS OF LIFE.”

1. WE NEED TO BE SPIRITUALLY CLEAN. By now you are all familiar with the need for spiritual deliverance to ensure nothing stands between us and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He requires a holy dwelling place in all areas of our life.
2. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE HEAD AND THE BODY. Last month I discussed the relationship between the Holy spirit and the balance of the 1st vertebrae (atlas). I have since discovered that at death one leg is 1.5 inches shorter than the other due to the misalignment of the atlas bone during the stress of dying...ie spirit separating from body, and after death goes back to proper length. This is a fascinating picture of His intricate care and involvement in our lives. The natural head/body must be in relationship as well as the spiritual Head/body.
3. CREATE THE OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENT. This brings me to the newest discovery. Alkaline water and foods. We are to provide God with a resting place...the Holy of Holies.

The human body should be at the optimum pH of 7.365 - slightly alkaline. The average person is acidic because of our diets. Lucifer has turned our processed, overcooked food, especially in North America, into an acidic death . Preservatives, chemicals (like Aspartame) and additives for color are all harmful agents. Even our water is acidic. We are killing ourselves with the very food we eat which is supposed to nourish and sustain us. Could this be a result of corporate unforgiveness that leads to suicide?

North America is becoming an obese nation at an unprecedented rate. But besides that, it is a nation of death and disease.

The vision keeps repeating: We need to go back to the Garden of Eden and look at the life of Adam and Eve. They ate “finger” food - vegetables, fruit, nuts, and seeds many times throughout the day, leisurely. They ate as they went about their day – not a quick run through McDonalds, but nibbly snacks as they went. They walked in the Garden every morning with their Lord. They entertained angels and learned of

the Lord. They sat beside the rivers and played in the water. They shared what they ate, building an enviable relationship. They were in relationship like no other humans have experienced relationship.

They ate the perfect diet. They had no stress. They did not have demonic influences until the unfortunate incident with the Tree and the serpent.

We need to watch what goes into our bodies regardless of the entry gate. We all are responsible to guard those gates...mouth, nose, ears, eyes or any other gate/opening. We all want to present ourselves holy before the Lord. I stand convicted before my God who is pure and Holy.

Father God, I ask You to forgive me of my indiscretions. Lord, direct me. Lord, teach me. Lord, help me to learn and understand the way in which I should walk. Forgive my sin. Forgive my ignorance. Lord, help me to realize just how holy You are and just how righteous we must be...clothed in Your righteousness. Lord, I cover every sin by the blood of Jesus. If I have hidden sins, Lord, expose it, so there is nothing hidden. Lord, let me be totally transparent so all that is seen is You in me. Forgive my attitude and all the unforgiveness I have shown. Lord, I forgive everyone, and if I have not specifically forgiven someone, bring them to my remembrance so I can deal with the issue. Lord, I want to walk as You did. I want to walk as Adam and Eve did before they fell. Lord, I want that innocence and purity in my life. I rededicate myself to You, in Jesus' name, amen.

God bless you all
Jessica and Susan