

Stewards of Grace Ministries Monthly Newsletter for February 2017



Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your

idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Ezekiel 36:25-27

Learning to walk with the spirit - Seeing this is still a different New year than we have ever had before, I will try to share with you the things the Lord has been putting on my heart. We know that the "Gospel" or "Good News" that Jesus brought, is Jesus restoring to mankind the relationship with the Father that Adam (& Eve) had in the Garden. This relationship was sustained with an unrestricted intimacy toward God and toward others. Now, with sin in our DNA we have become distanced and restricted from our Father. The door was opened by Jesus' death and resurrection, but many don't GO THROUGH that door; many just come up to it, and stand before it, still thinking that they have no access to all the promises and favor of our Loving Father. They have been blinded

and deceived by the one enemy of our soul who wants to keep this great discovery from us, and us from our Father. Are you hungry to find out MORE of what God has for you? Are you willing to take that risk and walk through that DOOR, not knowing exactly what is on the other side? The devil has whispered in our ears and convinced us that if we walk PAST the Cross, we will lose everything we have - our wealth; our friends; our jobs; our influence or all the "stuff" we have accumulated in our lives. But is this what God is saying? **Luke 18:29 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. Everyone who has left his house, wife, brothers, parents, or children for God's kingdom 30 will get much more than he left. He will receive many times more in this life. And after he dies, he will live with God forever."** But many of us don't really know - we have an idea, but are not quite convinced HOW to get through to the other side of the Cross. Coming "to the Cross" is described as repenting and confessing our sin and allowing God to take away our sin and wash us clean. But what then??? What exactly do we DO to get on the other side? The answer is SO SIMPLE!! It's just that **we START LIVING in the reality of what (we say) we believe in; what God's Word tell us to do!** The first we need to open the communication with your Father; and this what we call PRAYER. The question I want to ask you is are you praying effectively? Just what IS "effective" praying? Well, to begin with, most of us have been taught that we are "not worthy" to go to our Father, God and request favor. Show me, in the Bible, exactly where this verse is... it isn't! What it DOES say is: **John 16: 23 "... Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 ... Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.** and **Matt 6:6 ...when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place;** Another false notion that most of us have is that praying is asking God to do for us those things which He

said WE have the authority to do. Jesus' parables are word-pictures or examples of things He was trying to teach: **Mark 13:33 Take heed, watch and pray... 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants... Matt 28:18 And Jesus...spoke to them, saying "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them... 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** In these passages, Jesus is telling them that mankind's Authority - from the Father, is given back to them...not to rule over other men, but to rule over the spiritual world that seeks to deceive and control the thinking of men and persuade them to sin against our God - thereby keeping them captive to their "stinkin' thinkin'" We no longer have to live under the tricks of the devil who uses our imagination to convince us that we are nothings in God's kingdom - when we are His Beloved Children! God would do anything - except make up your own mind - to prove His love for you! He also allows you to believe whatever you want to believe... even if it's the devil's lies. **Mark 16:15 Then Jesus said to them, "So wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 "These are the miraculous signs that will accompany believers: They will use the power and authority of my name to force demons out of people. They will speak new languages. 18... They will place their hands on the sick and cure them."** We have all these opportunities to walk, talk and think the way God intended. Are you stuck in the bad habits of your past? You can take that one step... and walk THROUGH that door to the other side of the Cross and begin LIVING IN God's Kingdom. Ask Him to open your eyes and begin to see life from HIS point of view. The choice is up to you... no one can make this decision for you...**1Peter 1:17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God.** God will hold each of us responsible for the knowledge we have, especially if we don't DO ANYTHING with it! The Gospel is not about getting people to come to church (though it IS a good place to learn about God.) It is about LOVING, CARING, SPEAKING, ACTING...DOING exactly what Jesus would do under the circumstances... and He promises to provide what you need to do His will - after all you are a RE-presentative - a human being, showing what our God is like. **John 14:12 says, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father."** Is the way you live NOW, a true reflection of how Jesus would act if He were walking beside you now? **Isa 59:6" This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. 7 What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the ill-clad, being available to your own families. 8 Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. 9 Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'** We watched the movie "War Room" and if you remember that petite little woman went "to WAR" against the spiritual decay in the world around her? She didn't just ask God to do something, she came against the demonic forces that were influencing the people around her.

Find the REAL ENEMY: it's not the people, but the spirits influencing those people that is causing all the trouble - PRAY AGAINST the SPIRITS ruling the people. **Her Prayer strategy** starts with forgiveness to anyone who needs it - you set yourself free to do God's will without hindrance when you lay down all grudges; then there is "no heavy lifting" - God does all the work - working in the hearts of those you pray for - you don't need to fight against them, you just pray. The enemy tries to hide in the circumstances - ask your Father to reveal to you the true SOURCE of the problem. Begin to praise God and thank Him for hearing your prayers. Ask Him to shine the Light of the Holy Spirit into their lives, so they will see the way out of their dilemma and turn their lives back to God. And DON'T GIVE UP! God hasn't given us up on us, we shouldn't give up on others. God DOES answer prayer! **Lisa Bevere: Jan 2 2017- DAY 2: PRAY IT OUT.** *If you think you can coast into your "Best-Year-Ever" you have another thing coming. You will face all kinds opposition as you follow God's voice and seek to step into His call on your life. But rest in this—greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. You may wrestle with fears, insecurities, and doubts, but pray the kind of prayers that scare what is scared inside of you! **Don't pray scared prayers. Pray SCARY prayers.** Don't just make this a year of maintenance. **Make this a year of taking new ground by unleashing God's power through FEARLESS, FAITHFUL (full of faith), and RELENTLESS prayer.***