



Sisters In Christ

Newsletter

September/October 2008

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Words from Sherry

Hello friends,

In our area, near the Gulf of Mexico, it is hurricane season. Last week, tropical storm Fay dumped lots of rain on us, and today, less than a week later, hurricane Gustav hit the Gulf Coast. Now three more hurricanes are brewing in the Atlantic. The constant talk can be unsettling, especially when one has been in the path of a great storm before.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus has something to tell us about storms: ***“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”***

For many years, I was a sand dweller. When the winds blew, sometimes I fell into pits, and sometimes I nearly drowned. Maintaining long-term stability was impossible. I was always working on damage control and damage patrol.

Figuratively speaking, the final storm that sent me collapsing before Jesus was a true calamity, sending me into a state of deep distress and misery. I perceived that all that was left to me after a life of 35 years could have fit in a coffee mug. The crazy thing is, I was always searching for the right foundation. I tried college and earned good grades and high praise. I tried to fit into the corporate world and present a professional image. I tried living in nice houses filled with all the beautiful adornments I could afford. I drove nice, new cars and put my children in private schools. I even attended church. But through it all, I never understood or realized that I was living on sinking sand.

For the majority of my life I knew who Jesus was, but I did not personally know Him. I did not realize that hearing His teachings about truth and applying them to my life was the secret to a satisfying life.

I had searched everywhere for satisfaction, and I always came up empty, distressed, and weary.

After what I thought was the worst storm of my life, I turned to God and became a seeker of truth. I delighted in my new relationship with God. I loved the changes taking place in my life. I no longer slipped into sandy pits and collapsed under the storms of life. I had no idea that the biggest storm of my life was on its way.

Three years ago, my precious daughter of 28 years died as the result of a tragic car accident. She was 7 months pregnant and eagerly anticipating the birth of her second daughter and my 7th grandchild. What began as an ordinary day became an extraordinary day. That mighty storm blew in, threatening to demolish me. I was traumatized and overwhelmed. While clinging to the bedrock of my life, Jesus Christ, I am forever grateful that my heart could echo the chorus of a beautiful hymn that goes like this: *On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

The only stable ground is found in Jesus and His teachings. This is why Sisters was created and exists for post-abortive and sexually abused women, men and teens. The lives that are changed through *A Journey to Grace* touch the lives of family, friends and community exponentially. Please continue to support us with your prayers, encouraging words, gifts and finances. Together, we continue to be on mission for Christ. May He richly bless you for blessing us. Without your help we cannot do what we do.

*In His grace,
Sherry*



Excerpt from *A Journey to Grace*

Week 3: Looking at the heart

Day 5: The need to mourn

III. The Value of Life

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous-how well I know it, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born...How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! Psalm 139:11-16a; 17

In response to this passage of Scripture, a participant was asked this question: Do you believe God greatly values your life? After many years of hiding from God, she wrote the following:

Adam and Eve were the first of many things. Notably they were the first to think they could not only hide their sin from God, but that they could hide themselves from God as well. But the LORD found them out, and He called them out, just as He does with each of us.

Psalm 139 is an amazing Psalm of David, a declaration of God's all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful presence! God, who in one moment breathed life into things that had previously never existed, knows us. He is with us and His great gift is in allowing us to know Him! Yet often in those secret and shameful things we believe we can hide from Him. In our time of greatest need, as we are withering and dying in the sin of abortion and its effects or the wounds of sexual abuse, we believe the lie that we not only CAN hide from God, but that we need to. In that hiding we come to believe that we are not known by God, that somehow He has overlooked or forgotten us.

In the passage above, from Psalm 139, all of the words that have to do with our creation involve an active participation in the forming and shaping with purpose, the object of creation, US. In the creation account of Genesis, God spoke creation into being. In the creation of each of us, He was actively involved, a very hands on Creator. He is engaged and personally involved in, not only, our initial creation, but also in the purpose and the fashioning of each and every one of our days. Our very personal Creator became involved with us and aware of us before we breathed our first breath, and He continues in that awareness and desire for involvement with us beyond our last one.

During my journey this was such an amazing thing to me. I believed for so long that if I didn't acknowledge my sin to God and didn't share my pain with Him, then I could successfully hide it from Him. As I pondered these scriptures in Psalm 139, I was reminded of the feelings I felt for my children as I carried them within me. I remembered the questions my husband and I would wonder out loud about each of our children, the hopes and dreams we had for them before they were ever born.

This led me to wonder if God, my heavenly Father, also spoke of His hopes and dreams and plans for my life as I was growing in my mother's womb. As He put his hands to the work of forming, not only, my physical body, but the purposes of each and every moment of my life, did He whisper his hopes and dreams to my newly formed ears? What wisdom and desires did He wish to speak to my tiny heart as it began to beat within me?

As the Lord began to pour all of these things into my heart and spill it out onto paper, I realized He'd given me a letter much like the one I wrote for each of my children before they were born. He tucked this letter within the pages of my healing journey just as I'd tucked the letter for my children within the pages of their baby books. Each of those letters contained hopes, dreams, and prayers for children yet to be born, for children yet to experience the pain and the wounds of sin. Each of those letters came from a heart of love for the child to know that when the pain and the wounds of the sin of this world do come, that there is only One who can ease the pain, heal the wounds and redeem the sin – Jesus!

God still searches us out and calls us out of hiding today. For the women and the men who have been wounded by the sin of abortion, victims of sexual abuse, or suffocating in sexual addictions there is often such a strong belief that they too can hide from God and that He will overlook them and eventually forget them. To be forgotten by God is often far more desirable than to be found by Him. The weight of sin, guilt and shame that is endured every day erodes all hope that there can ever truly be freedom and life. But everyday on *A Journey to Grace*, women, men and teens are now seeing that to be found by God, to receive the greatest gift of knowing and being known by God restores hope and brings freedom and life.

He whispers to each of us now as He did when He put His hands to the task of our creation – “I can make you whole!” What did He whisper to my newly formed ears? “Look for me. I will be there. I will never leave you.”

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- Financial Support
- Ink Cartridges for Printers: Lexmark X85 & Cannon: Bubble jet BJC-4304
- Printer/copier paper
- Stamps
- Flowers, candles and grocery store gift cards for *A Journey to Grace* groups

We truly appreciate all of your support!

Thank You

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Also, we will send a note of acknowledgment to whomever you designate, letting them know of your special recognition!

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Memorials and Honorariums

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