

# Obstacle or Tool?

Have you ever had to deal with a difficult person in your life that possibly made you forget all about loving neighbor? Did you feel that Satan was tempting you through this person? By the power of the Holy Spirit, God, in His great mercy has given me a different perspective on such people/situations in my life.

Recently one of my children has been dealing with a peer in their class that decides to challenge them on religious topics on a daily basis. Every day, my child comes home and tells me about their debate. Some days, several other students also agree with the other student, leaving my child to "defend" his faith alone. If you are a parent you can probably imagine how this feels, to hear your own child discuss the topics at hand. Often times I would feel upset and think, "I am going to have to go in there and defend MY child." Thanks be to God for my husband and his holy logic, because on those days when I was most tempted to do something or say something, he would tell me, "Babe, don't be mad, God is preparing our child for their future vocation." This would diffuse my anger because I knew he was right.

The other day, I was contemplating this during my own frustrated moment when I felt that I was being attacked and underappreciated. I was huffing and puffing and going on and on about how I was feeling and suddenly the Holy Spirit reminded me about a talk that our Bishop gave during the Lenten season about the blind man who was healed by Jesus. (John 9:1-38) After the blind man was healed, the pharisees questioned him over and over, "Who is this man?" to which the blind man first replied, "He is a prophet."

The gospel continues: "A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Each time they questioned the man it caused him to have to dig a little deeper into what he believed, all the way up to the point



that he was hurled out of the temple. By the time he encountered Jesus, he was ready to believe in The Son of Man. "Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him."

I began to realize that the things that we see as obstacles are not obstacles at all, but rather are tools that God uses in order to lead us to profess who He is! I have wasted so much time on meaningless quarrels, thinking that I was being "attacked" or that my child was being "mistreated", rather than realizing that God was simply helping us to profess our faith with our actions. No longer is there reason to moan and groan when those people or situations that rub us the wrong way test us beyond our comfort zone, we can now rejoice in knowing that God is preparing us to surrender our will, our defense, our pride, our need to be right, our judgement, our pain, our sorrow, our anger, our frustration, our "poor me" spirit and stand up and profess who Jesus is! He is all knowing, all powerful, all merciful, all loving, He is our creator, He is the alpha and the omega, He is the beginning and the end and there is NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING, that is outside of His control.

He sees every inconvenience, every injustice, every, heartache, every desire, every single part of who we are and who we wish we could be, and He loves us to the point of guiding us as every good father does. This past Sunday, at mass, Father said that the crucifix is the fire where gold is purified. Did you know that the blacksmith knows when gold is purified because he can see his reflection in it? As we go through those difficult moments, let us remember that God is seeking to see His reflection in us, but in order to do that, we must pass through the fire. It will burn, just as when Jesus died on the cross and at the very last moment, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." We too, should at those moments when our flesh must be crucified, turn to the Father to surrender our entire being so that in turn we can be resurrected with Christ Jesus. Thank you so much for taking time to read these words from your sister in Christ.

I pray that as you read this, that you would prayerfully consider attending one of the upcoming retreats, especially the Resurrection of the Self-Image, as we could all use a resurrection after being bombarded with all the noise of who the world thinks we should be. Come, accept our Blessed Mother, Queen of Mercy as she invites each of her children to come and spend time in the safety of her mantle. Until our eyes meet again, I pray the she would cover you in her mantle of Mercy and teach you the ways of her Son, Jesus.

## Resurrection of the Self-Image Retreat

**You are a unique, one-of-a-kind, masterpiece, child of the Most High Living God. Come into the fullness of what God has planned for you!**



**"I have seen persons come to a retreat broken, hurt, lost or confused. But when it's time to go home at the end of the retreat, you see the transformation in them that you know in some way God touched their hearts to get closer to Him and/or received some kind of healing - physical or spiritual. Highly recommend this place!" Nina Torres August 31, 2018 (from Facebook)**



**Practical teachings on healing, forgiveness, mercy, family, and understanding the love of God!**

**Register Today and Save!  
October 18-20, 2019**

## 90<sup>th</sup> Men's Retreat November 1-3, 2019

- Accepting the Purpose for Who God Created Me to Be
- How to Recognize a Wounded Family & Bring Healing
- Getting out of Desperation
- Is Your Addiction Leading Your Life?
  - Overcoming Your Physical Sickness with God's Mercy
  - Is Your Sickness Running Your Life?
  - Overcoming Addictions
  - Come Experience God's Love



**Join us  
For a weekend  
that will  
change your life!**

## Women of Power Retreat Unified, Dignified, Sanctified

### November 15-17, 2019



#### Possible Topics Include:

- **Unified Under God’s Mission**
  - Working in the Same Mission & in Unity
  - What is My Mission?
  - Work for What God Wants Us to Do Together
- **Dignified by the Image of God in Me**
  - How Do I Treat Myself and Others?
- **Sanctified by God’s Grace:**
  - Become the Woman God Called You to Be

*For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil; then the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet.*

*Romans 16:19-20*

#### Featured Speakers Include:



Mary  
Constancio



Jessica  
Mendez



Brenda  
Garcia



Corina  
Constancio



Carolyn  
Huntzinger



Kathy  
Gloria



## A place of Healing & Renewal

#### Private Retreats

AS INSTRUMENTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE ARE CALLED TO PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN, AS IN THE WOMB OF THE BLESSED MOTHER, FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HEAL, FORM, AND TRANSFORM GOD’S CHILDREN WITH HIS LOVE, TRUTH, AND POWER. AT THE AMBASSADORS OF THE FLAME OF MERCY, WITH GOD’S GRACE, WE USE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BRING SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING.

Call to arrange your own individual retreat with us. We’ll pray for you and with you for your specific needs. Come just for the day or stay as long as a week. We’re ready to soak you in God’s healing love. Call Carolyn to make arrangements at 806-773-5147.

## Raffle Drawing!!!

**This Car Could be Yours!**  
Help Support the Ambassadors!

**AFM Ministries**  
**LOUIS LIFE CENTER RAFFLE**  
Prize • 1979 FIREBIRD PONTIAC  
VALUE APPROX. \$30,000



**DATE OF DRAWING: TO BE DETERMINED**

**\$100.00 PER TICKET**

Drawing AT RETREAT • Winner Need Not Be Present

Maximum of 600 tickets will be sold.

Tickets may be purchased by stopping by the ministry or by calling Kathy Gloria at 806-445-1440, Eleaser Perez @ 817-495-2386, or Howard Huntzinger at 806-831-3176.



- ◆ **Resurrection of the Self Image Retreat**  
October 18-20, 2019
- ◆ **Women of Power Retreat**  
November 15-17, 2019
- **Macho Men of God Retreat**  
November 1-3, 2019

Retreat Registration Fee: \$175.00

Register today online: [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com),  
Email: [Admin@flameofmercy.com](mailto:Admin@flameofmercy.com),  
or call the office at 806-832-4243



The 89th Macho Men of God Retreat - September 2019



**Daughters of the King Women's Retreat - September 2019**  
**Retiro Mujeres de Hijas para El Rey - Septiembre De 2019**



**The Ambassadors of the Flame of Mercy** Ambassadors of the Flame of Mercy, Inc. is a 501(C) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt Christian organization. Copyright © 2019  
P.O. Box 1707  
6927 Hwy 84  
Shallowater, Texas 79363  
Phone: 806-832-4243  
Email: [Admin@flameofmercy.com](mailto:Admin@flameofmercy.com)  
Website: [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com)

