

Newsletter July 2021

From Heaven's Heart

“Here's Proof...We Can Overcome”

Hope you are not getting tired of me talking about Darryl Strawberry.. Darryl Strawberry is a sports legend, a baseball icon, a world-famous success. He was an amazing right fielder for seventeen seasons of baseball for the Mets' the Dodgers, the Giants, and the Yankees. But it was in the batter's box that he won so much of his well-earned fame as a home run hitter.

He was an eight-time All-Star, four-time World Series champion, two-time Silver Slugger Award winner, 1983 Rookie of the Year 1988 Home-Run leader and Hall-of-Famer. I could go on and on about his awards and fame but I need to get to something else you may not be aware of. Darryl Strawberry was a broken man. Broken even before he started his baseball career. Underneath his swagger and success were a pain and a spiritual emptiness that fame, fortune, women, drugs and the love of the game would never satisfy. Money was flowing in faster than anyone could possibly spend it but there was this empty hole inside of Darryl that nothing could fill. Maybe you know someone walking around with an empty hole inside of them that nothing can fill.

Brokenness led to drug addiction and a long list of sinful habits he already knew were wrong and destructive. He said, “My pain led me to greatness and my greatness would eventually lead me to my destructive behavior. And it was my destructive behavior that would eventually lead me to hit rock bottom and rock bottom finally led me to the healing and salvation found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Amen! This my friends is what Jesus wants to do with every person alive on earth walking around with a hole inside that nothing can fill...but Jesus.

Darryl's story had a happy ending. He was reunited with his wife and family. As a Christian, his wife had never stopped praying for him and doing all one can do to save someone whose lifestyle would destroy them physically, emotionally and spiritually. But we all know, our addictive behaviors do not always end the way we want them to end.

A temper out of control can lead to abusive behavior. I'm not going to list all the things that can little by little destroy relationships with others and with God. But the bible tells us that no matter our bad choices, our Heavenly Father never stops loving us. Never leaves us. We may not feel His presence but He is not the one that moved. He's still as close as we will allow Him to be. He never loses His power to bring us to our knees, at

rock bottom. Rock Bottom is many times the place we find ourselves...on our knees seeking God's help. Some people believe, "He never responds, It's too late, I've run out of chances". But His faithful response, like with Darryl Strawberry is this. "My Grace Is All You Need". And it was for Darryl and it can be for you too.

Darryl said, "I knew I was a heathen, I was a liar, I was a womanizer, I was a cheater, I was an alcoholic, I was a drug addict...but I was a sinner saved by grace. God's grace is sufficient. No matter who you are, he still has grace for you. No matter how far you go down, he still loves you and has a perfect plan for you". Is this not the greatest way to end this true story...with the story of God's love for all of us. No one is left out.

It's never too late to turn your life, your season around. There are more home runs left in you if you'll turn or return to Jesus Christ. There's a reason He is called our Savior.

With my deepest gratitude to Jesus for Saving me,

Pastor Steve

PS This story is proof positive...with Jesus, we can overcome anything. Amen!