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Spiritual Awakening – Lessons Learned

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(All Scriptures are taken from The Amplified Bible, unless noted.)

One of the tools we used in human resource consulting was to do lessons learned. The purpose was to know what to start, stop, or do differently to move forward.

This paper aims to assist anyone who desires to grow in Christ. There are two prerequisites:

- A desire for truth.
- To be or become responsible and accountable for your behavior.

I firmly believe that circumstances are not the architects of our destiny; instead, they are mere mirrors that reflect our current growth and maturity.

In **Psalms 51:6**, David said, “Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart.”

Proverbs 24:10 (various translations):

- NLT – If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small.
- MSG – If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn’t much to you in the first place.
- CSB – If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited.
- AMP – If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

Matthew 7:14 reads: But the gate is narrow (contracted by pressure) and the way is straitened and compressed that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

John 16:13(a) – But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth).

Socrates said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” **2 Corinthians 13:5** – Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you, not yourselves, realize

and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you – unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?

Ah, it is so easy to blame others for our behavior. We turn the mirror on others because we fear seeing ourselves in light of the revealed truth.

Beginning in 2019 and lasting near the end of 2022, I encountered adversity. I felt as if I was in a battle for life. I was misunderstood, lied to and about, and labeled. I never stopped seeking God despite the pain.

It was near the end of 2022 and entering into the year 2023 that the Holy Spirit asked me the question:

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCES?

I learned that when He asks a question, it is more effective to tell the truth. He is never interested in what someone did to cause the adversity; He is more interested in how you handle the adversity. God loves to receive glory.

I removed myself from the inner pain and began to write down what I felt was revealed about “me.” What had I learned? It felt more discouraging than my circumstances. We tend to think we are “somewhere” in our deceived minds, yet the revealing says, “You are not where you thought you were.”

I accepted that truth, and at that moment, the Holy Spirit immediately came to my aid. He began to show me the truth of my heart – where I was in my growth and maturity. I had not accepted who He said I was. I wanted to condemn myself, but He wouldn’t allow me to. He gave me the scriptures on page 1 of this paper. He reminded me that God allowed my circumstances to bring me where I needed to be to represent Him on earth.

I began to experience the depth, width, length, and height of His love. I recall Him saying, “Ruth, you matter to me.” He began to teach me what His Son’s cross had done for me – it was beyond all I could imagine – beyond salvation – but real life that is only in Him.

I was in the School of the Holy Spirit – the Potter’s House and loved every moment as He went deep into my heart to bring true transformation. In the Bible, John calls it “fruit that remains.”

He took me from conditional happiness to unconditional happiness. He broke me and then put me back together.

He showed me how I contributed to labels and false perceptions. As of this writing, the Holy Spirit points out behaviors and says, “This is an example of what I revealed to you—stay mindful that I have set you free.”

The most important thing the Holy Spirit revealed was that I was still a captive of my past. I found that interesting because the foundational scripture of the ministry is **Luke 4:18**—Jesus came to set the captives free. It is easy to “talk” when you have who and what you determine is essential in your life.

God opened heaven to me and began to open my understanding of scripture in ways I had not seen or experienced. I was (and continue to be) learning His ways and thoughts.

Victory in Christ is not about the circumstances or those around you but your relationship with Christ. Until that relationship is authentic, you blame others and your circumstances for your behavior.

Here are a few examples:

- Adam in the Garden – Satan existed. God gave Adam instructions to follow.
 - The spirit of looking “out” started in **Genesis 3:8-13** – Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.
 - God asked, “Where are you?” He wasn’t looking at the circumstances; He was after “position.”
 - Adam’s position should have been one of responsibility and accountability – he wasn’t where he should have been in obedience to God’s Word.
- Israel and the Red Sea – God wanted the Israelites to trust Him. They blamed Moses for their circumstances.
- Joseph was sold into slavery – terrible circumstances, yet he continued to trust God.
- Elijah is hiding because Jezebel threatens his life. God wants to know “why he is there?” Again, it is a matter of position. Elijah allowed fear to override his faith in God.

These are just a few examples of circumstances and those around you that never factor in experiencing victory. God is not a God of defeat. God demands obedience from every believer and will not accept blame or finger-pointing as justification for our behavior.

We put ourselves on a 40-year journey that only took 11 days. We find it difficult to look at ourselves, but we allow our circumstances to keep us in a defeated position.

I learned a painful truth – Jesus came to give us life; He instructs us to enter the narrow gate to have life, but few of us find it. Why? Because life is in Christ Jesus – the Spirit of Truth. And until we become truthful about ourselves, we will not experience the life He has for us.

I encourage you to open your heart and answer the question – What have I learned from my experiences? You may experience pain and tears, but you will experience God’s love and freedom from the problematic issues in your heart. From your heart, you will say that you love God because He first loved you. You will start on a journey of authenticity and intimacy with God. You will learn what it means to hear His voice and not a stranger’s– starting with yours!

I learned another painful truth—the body of Christ does not love with God's kind of love. Our love is volatile and conditional, while His love is unconditional. He forbears – we don’t!

God looks at the heart, and we look at appearance. Knowing a person by the spirit takes time, but the Word of God says we should. We must use the keys of the kingdom, bind the spirit of blame, and lose the spirit of love. We must become responsible and accountable for our behavior and stop looking at others. The Spirit of Truth awaits a heart that desires the truth.

Philippians 4:5 indicates that we, as believers in Christ, should let all men know our forbearing spirit – let our forbearance be known to all.

The Lord instructed me to write my second book – A Forbearing Spirit – Loving with the God-kind of Love. You will learn how God conjoined love and forbearance. You can purchase it on Amazon.

I continue my journey inside the narrow gate. I am enjoying life in Christ with no other variables. My one constant is to live by every word that proceeds from His mouth.

I enjoy experiencing the Holy Spirit's lead. I know experientially that He is the Spirit of Truth – my Comforter, Advocate, Teacher, Corrector, Lover, Friend, and so much more that is indescribable.

I give energy to His warnings and listen as He provides an excellent way to manage life challenges.

My determined purpose is to express Him on this infinite journey of life. My new mantra in my life toolkit is, “Be it unto me according to Your will.”

I had finished this paper. Later in the morning, I asked the Lord why we, as believers, struggle to look at ourselves and admit the truth. He responded, “People do not walk with a spirit of humility – we are not humble.” I shared this with my husband but did not write it down. Approximately 15-20 minutes before my Facebook Live, the Holy Spirit reminded me of what He spoke about and instructed me to define humble/humility. He wanted me to share it on my Live and to include it in this paper.

HUMBLE/HUMILITY

This virtue, a fruit of the gospel, exists when a person, through genuine self-evaluation, deems himself worthless. It involves evaluating ourselves as small because we are so. The humble person does not stress his sinfulness but his creatureliness, absolute dependence, possessing nothing, and receiving everything from God.

You aim to continually listen, receive, and respond with generous openness to life from the deep conviction of God's lovingkindness and goodwill. Spiritual humility relies upon the God who is “other” than us. He is most often known in ways that include and yet transcend our physical senses alone.

Indeed, humility is our greatest friend. It increases our hunger for God's Word and opens our hearts to His Spirit. It leads to intimacy with God, who knows the proud from afar but dwells with him “who is of a contrite and lowly spirit.”

True humility seeks to bring glory and honor to God and looks out for the interests of others.

(Humble/humility taken from the Concordance and internet commentaries).

Please study the following scriptures:

- Philippians 2:3-8
- Colossians 3:12-14
- James 4:6-7
- 1 Peter 5:5

Dear friends, I encourage you to ensure that you live as God intended – a life filled with His Holy Spirit. You do this by settling (in your heart) **Galatians 2:20** – I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**IT IS TIME FOR BELIEVERS TO HAVE A MINDSET THAT PLEASURES GOD IN EVERY AREA AND
RELATION OF LIFE.**

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