



Relationship w/Jesus

ARTICLE

intentional

out of the ashes . . . Beauty

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"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." Isaiah 61:3

"Out of the Ashes . . . Beauty"

Why do we think it unusual to have a problem? We squirm, fuss and avoid problems and troubles as much as we can. . . . At least I do.

We want to be "Happy". Everyone just wants to be happy. If you are experienced in the Lord, you know that happiness is an emotion. What we need, is to seek Joy. Because joy is internal peace; Given from God. We don't have to pretend we are happy in the midst of trials and tribulations, however we can live joyfully **in the midst**.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psalms 23:5

When a problem rises up, we are in so much dismay, we even question the Lord, "Why me?" Why is it that we do that, when life, in its very essence, is full of trouble.

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:34

"Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Job 5:7

"2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4

What do you want? What is it that hinders your peace?

"12Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:12-14



Pain, sorrow, struggles, they are designed to reconnect us to our Creator. Moreover to strengthen our connection, our relationship to Jesus.

"I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living."
Psalm 142:5

"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [2] For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[4] Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. [7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. [8] He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. [9] And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth." Isaiah 53:1-12

This Isaiah is talking about Jesus. Jesus wasn't desired, He wasn't the popular one, He wasn't the one the masses would have chosen. He was lowly. He was alone. He was broken. He was contrite. He was human.

He knew, oh, He knew. Brokenness is the way. Brokenness is always the way.

Notice the repetition in these verses? Anytime anything bad happened to the Lord, something good came out of it for others.

He was perfect and going through trials and tribulations for us. How much more shouldn't we go through trials and tribulations for Him and for others?

So, this is how it went . . .

They both went to the altar. One woman was all alone, seeking God, no one was around her.

The one woman had the attention of most of the church. I have no idea why no one thought to pray with the other woman. Perhaps the one woman was related to most of the church, or more popular or, perhaps everyone thought that this woman was more able to get the Holy Ghost. We will never know what those people were thinking that day. But that one woman was clearly the people's



choice that night.

The other woman: undesired, unpopular, not noticed, not favored, prayed by herself.

Jesus also wasn't desired, He wasn't the popular one, and He wasn't the one the masses would have chosen. He was lowly. He was alone. He was broken. He was contrite. He was human.

But God had a plan. No one there knew what God was doing. Strange how the Lord's plans were not revealed to those in company. Oddly enough, yes, God had many things going on at the same time. When the people were seeking God, God was seeking them.

I remember my Sister telling me about this event. I remember the dismay in her voice that those people didn't gather around her to help her pray through to the Holy Ghost. My Sister was disheartened as she too was new to the truth.

Not that she was bitter as she went through all of this. On the contrary, if anything, my Sister knew she was set apart from the others for a reason. She just didn't know why. Like anyone, when you have been pushed aside and set apart from the others, and you keep your spirit right, you will be used of God in a unique way. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

My Sister was left to herself to seek the Lord and be filled with the Holy Ghost; just her and Jesus. She didn't have the fanfare that the other woman had. She sought the Lord, and knowing my sister, she was weeping: Weeping because she figured that no one cared about her, weeping through the brokenness, and weeping through her own failures. And, ultimately, weeping because her Creator was seeking her. You see, Jesus Cares.

In the midst of her tears an intimate relationship with Jesus was being birthed.

She was burning off a few things. Burning off self-will, burning off unhealthy rejection, burning off pride, burning off dependency. God knew what He was doing. The more she wept, the more she became a Spiritual burnt sacrifice. She started the process of being refined for the Lord.

My Sister received the Holy Ghost without anyone around her, for a reason. Years later, the Lord revealed unto me the understanding why she was left to herself and no one came to pray for her: at that time, it was for that one woman.

God needed brokenness to move in that church. He needed brokenness to allow His Spirit to move upon that other woman. The people around that woman supported her, cheered her on, and coached her. But, she wouldn't have been able to get the Holy Ghost without the Spirit of God being drawn into that situation. With the help of my sister, that other woman received the baptism of the Holy Ghost that same day.



You see, God knows what we need and what is needed. That is why there is no one around when you feel as if you need them the most. During those dark hours where you wish you had a friend to talk to, that is when Jesus is seeking you. He wants you to talk to Him. Jesus wants your brokenness. Jesus wants you to be broken to grow, broken to your self will and broken to your personal dreams to realize God's plans.

"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. [16] For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. [17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:15-17

"When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." Psalms 27:8

There is life in brokenness. Brokenness is healthy. Brokenness is humility.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Matthew 23:12

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:10

That day my sister was broken, and she didn't know why. My sister went on to be with the Lord many years ago . . . and NOW, she knows.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" 1 Peter 1:6-8

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" Philippians 1:29

