

Cyber Truths By E-mail

8.Addendum: God's Will For You (May 16, 2005)



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Dear Friends,

This is a two-part email.

First, we both appreciate the feedback we've received from our last email, God's Will For You. And, thank you for the wonderful kindness of you who have offered to proof our revised and expanded Demolishing Strongholds. It's getting very close to completion! One thing we both recognize is how much the Holy Spirit has shown us since we first wrote Demolishing in 1995. We've included other strongholds of which we've become aware and some new symptoms to ones we've already included.

Also, the last part of the book has been expanded to help you walk in godly ways after you demolish the strongholds. We've done this because we have observed over the years that people lose the freedom they once experienced because they don't "fill in the ruts" of their sinful choices with ways our Lord intends. We expand on the biblical foundations that will not only help you stay free but grow in your service to Jesus Christ. And isn't that what our life on earth should be, serving our Lord in loving gratefulness?

Second, A Little More On the Why

As a result of some feedback from our prior e-mail, we wanted to write a little more about how important the question "Why" is over "What". We want to affirm that your answers for the why's in your life have far more eternal consequences than any of the what's .

Let us give you some examples and questions to consider that will help you in your determination to press on with Jesus:

1. The crucifixion of Jesus

You know the "what" that Jesus did on our behalf through His sacrifice. It's plainly spelled out in the Gospels and somewhat more in the Epistles.

But can you articulate WHY He became incarnate and died on the cross? We don't mean the pat answers like, "He died for my sins." The answer to the why is found in the Older Testament in the 333 prophecies that pertain to our Lord's incarnation, death and resurrection! In our almost 3 decades of following our Lord, we've found few "Christians" who have truly sought as a treasure the tremendous significance of why God became man to be crucified by His creation.

Please note this observation: To the degree to which a person understands why, is the intensity with which He clings to Jesus and serves Him rather than himself on earth. When you get the why's answered, you'll gladly embrace the freedom and boundaries of God's commandments. The why greatly increases your appreciation of Jesus — out of love for Him you want to apply His Word to your life and bring glory to our Father.

Sadly, so many "Christians", especially those in the mega-churches, are guided away from knowing why. As a result they are deterred away from walking in obedience in God's commands into a life of "greasy grace" ("I'm forgiven by grace, so I don't have to be concerned with all those bothersome laws."). Such a deceptive so-called "good news" is actually "bad news" which leads to a greasy hell. They're taught to live lawless before God. However, the truth of the Bible is, "The opposite of the law is lawlessness"

We know from the Word that all

humans are born with a propensity for sin. And, the Law makes them aware of their deep desire to sin!

Man's sin-bent nature loves this easy-believism of lawless-preaching by clergy who need warm bodies to pay mortgages. Entertaining preaching lets sin-bent people think they can be "Christians" without any personal cost or change in their lives. They don't have to fight their sin nature, because without the law, there is no sin. Paul certainly appreciated the law, as he expressed in Romans 7: "Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law; in order that sin might be recognized as sin... so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful; For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!".

Jesus never removed even a "jot or tittle" from the Law. Rather, He revealed its true purpose, "Don't think that I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them" (Matthew 5:17).

We're never justified by God for keeping the law. On the contrary, we keep His commandments out of love for Him and our fellow man. "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus warned everyone who would teach His Word for all ages, "Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19);

"If you want to enter life, obey the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). And again, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching" (John 14:23a).

Closely examine Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and you'll see that He deepens the Older Testament commands for a life that pleases His Father! Those aren't just suggestions! And He also knows that we must wholeheartedly depend on the power of the indwelling Spirit to walk these out day to day. And it's as we walk out His ways in obedient trust that we grow more in His character and bring praise to Him as we stand out as light in the midst of the dark lawlessness all around us.

2. Your family

When people call or write us with problems they're experiencing in their family, they talk about what their family members and relatives are doing. (Yes, a certain amount of what is necessary to understand the nature of the problem.) But the solution, God's solution, will NEVER come about if you don't find out why they are doing what they're doing.

Twenty-seven years ago we attended a Basic Life Principles Seminar for the first time. The teacher, Bill Gothard, pointed out that there were three root causes to why people sin: Bitterness, Temporal Values, and Moral Impurity. Bill shared that the why behind all sin people commit are found in one or more

of these three motives.

Over the years we've found that Bill was right, as far as he went. But we also discovered that demonic strongholds in the souls of people induce them to sin. That is why we wrote *Demolishing Strongholds*.

In the book we write about generational strongholds. Why? Because so many people today are captive to certain patterns of sin that have been passed along for generations in their family. In both Sue's and my families the strongholds of Rejection and Deceit have hurt so many for generations. The demonic stronghold of Deceit kept us from fully acknowledging our deep sense of rejection. And, Rejection influenced many among our relatives into alcoholism, promiscuity, and doggedly pursuing the things of this world rather than God. We sat in churches every week, but were no closer to God for doing so. None of us experienced His love, but we were quite religious.

Why?

As much as our family and relatives repented and confessed their sins, we couldn't get out of our captivity — the demons in our souls imprisoned us because we gave way to their lies. When Sue and I learned about the influence of the strongholds of deceit and rejection, and renounced them in the Name of Jesus, we were free. As we learned about the seven needs God created all humans with, and began to have them met His way, we began to live as a couple free in Jesus.

Take some time and answer these questions for yourself:

- Why would God give you each parent you have, each sibling you have, each child you have? Can you explain to

Him why? Your answers to these questions will help you appreciate your Lord more and help you discover His sovereign purpose for your life. Then you can cooperate more fully in His plans for you within your family.

Sue and I have had to ask why about our marriage many times so that we could update God's purpose for us. Over the years His purposes have changed as He has sanctified us. We strongly encourage you who become grandparents to answer why. Grandparenting is a whole different world than parenting, and many fail to impact their grandchildren with the Living Jesus because they didn't learn why from God. We encourage you to take time away with your spouse, even if only a walk, to pray and find out why.

- Do you know why you aren't experiencing the victory and freedom that Jesus promises His own in the Bible?

- Why do you think Jesus says, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:13,14). When you truly answer why, you will live differently here on earth.

3. Why Are You Going Through Your Struggles?

Every one of you who has sought to be true to Jesus and follow Him no matter what it cost has endured struggles you never experienced before, including isolation. We want to encourage you that what you are going through is God's plan for you at this time. We hope you've gotten onto David Wilkerson's mailing list to receive his monthly mailings. Here is an excerpt from his latest

letter, "It's Harvest Time: Tsunamis, Earthquakes, Drastic Weather Changes —What Do These Have To Do With You?":

"The truth is, if we're not capable of reaping souls — if our lives don't reflect the gospel we preach — then we have discounted ourselves as laborers. Our walk with Christ should offer proof to the world that God's promises are true.

As laborers, we are the harvest instruments in the Lord's hand. In the days of Christ, such an instrument was a scythe, a long, curved, single-edged blade with a long handle. It was forged by a blacksmith, who put it into the fire, then placed it on an anvil, where he pounded and bent it into shape. Then the whole process was repeated again and again, until the cutting edge was filed with a rough-edged surface.

The parallel is clear: God is forging laborers. He isn't just pounding away at sin. And his forging process explains why the laborers are few. The majority of churchgoers are like the thousands who volunteered to go with Gideon in the Old Testament. God saw fear in many of them, knowing they wouldn't endure the fire, the pounding, the hard times. And out of the thousands who followed Gideon, only three hundred were chosen.

The same thing happens today. Those who are truly called to harvest are called to endure refining, shaping fires and the continual hammering. Yet not many do...

Dear Saint, Jesus knew what we were going to face in these last days: a generation steeped in sin far more than any other...stress and loneliness such as has never been experienced by man...financial disasters, rampant divorce, militant homosexuality, immorality that would

bring a blush to even the worst sinner just thirty years ago.

This is why Christ seeks laborers who have submitted to the fires and forgings. He wants a people who'll stand before the world and proclaim:

God is with me! Satan can't stop me. Just look at my life. I've been through fire after fire, pounded again and again. But I've come through it all more than a conqueror through Christ, who lives in me."

We encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit for the joy you need to endure the fires and forging you're going through. No, it isn't easy to find joy in suffering! But your suffering has a divine purpose, and that's why you need to find joy in the midst of your refining. Have confidence in this!

Use this time to find the answers for why God placed you in your workplace, why the friends you have, why your neighborhood, and why your faith community. If you do this in earnest, the Holy Spirit will guide you into our Father's perspective of those around you. Ask our Father to do whatever is necessary in you so that you can truly represent His loving concern for the people around you as His agent. Isn't that what He wants for you — to be like His Son, Jesus, and lovingly representing Him so that others will find eternity in heaven? That's why...

Why do Sue and I do as we do?

1. In our spirits our Father has given us a perspective of life that looks back at it from the Judgment Throne. We know from His Word what He will require in order to welcome people into heaven. And, His requirements for being welcomed are more stringent than the false so-called gospels call for. He has also bur-

dened us with the eternal outcome of those who are walking in the Hebraic truths He revealed to us in Israel — truths He's quickened to others around the world. They and their families mean much to us! If only you could hear our list of intercession! What joy to entrust their lives and needs into His faithful hands!

2. It isn't what we do that matters to us, but why. Our Father commanded us in Israel, "Share this message!" When you think of us, now you know why....

We want to close with this word of encouragement from a devotional that has been ministering to both of us, God

Calling:

"Your motives and aspirations can only be understood by those who have attained the same spiritual level (i.e. have embraced similar fires and pounding). So do not vainly, foolishly, expect from others understanding. Do not misjudge them for not giving it. Yours is a foreign language to them."

Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz