

"PREPARING THE WAY-- WILL YOU RECEIVE THE CROWN?" (PART 2)

REVIEW OF PART 1

In our last writing, we shared that we, as sons and daughters of the King, have "royalty status" in the Kingdom of God. As a result, we, too, wear a crown, and Scripture supports this spiritual reality (see 1 Tim. 4:8, James 1:12, Rev. 2:10, 1 Peter 5:4, Eph. 2:6, Heb. 2:7-8). I (Jerry) also shared a personal experience in which the Lord exposed my heart concerning my own difficulty in "receiving the crown" He had for me. We concluded that writing with a question to our readers—"Will you receive the crown He has for you?"

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH "RECEIVING THE CROWN?"

The primary reason that we struggle with "receiving the crown" or accepting our identity in the Kingdom is that there are still areas of our hearts that haven't fully accepted the truth of how God the Father sees us. In other words, there are places of distorted beliefs (lies) that exist in our hearts, and these beliefs are in opposition to God. We frequently share with clients that we are called to "love what God loves and hate what He hates," and when we get that mixed up, we will have spiritual conflict and things will not go well. This applies not just to issues or people external to us, but just as much to how we view ourselves. In our experience of working with hundreds of people over the past several years, the most common issue that hinders believers in living fully in the Kingdom and fulfilling their destiny and calling is the inability to love themselves the way God the Father loves them. I (Jerry) was surprised at how quickly the feelings of discomfort rose up inside when I became aware that the Father was placing a crown upon me (or reminding me that He had already done so). My mind knew the biblical truth, but my heart still had areas that needed "convincing." It's also important to share here that when we don't love ourselves, we have a greater potential to hurt others through our sinful words and actions—but the fundamental problem is still an inability to love ourselves the way God loves us.

WHERE DO THESE LIES COME FROM?

We believe that God assigns every parent with certain responsibilities in raising up a son or daughter, and although no one will ever do this perfectly, God will provide the grace to accomplish this (if parents recognize their need of Him and if they allow Him to also work in their own hearts). These responsibilities include meeting the child's needs for love, affection, protection, a sense of belonging, appropriate freedom and limits, and emotional and spiritual guidance. When these do not occur, either in families where they were simply omitted or in families where negative words and actions occurred (including overt abuse), children begin to form distorted beliefs about themselves and others—including God the Father. They often develop a "shame-based" identity, in which there is a fundamental belief in their core that "something is inherently wrong with them." As a result, they develop various ways to cope or deal with those core lies and the associated pain, and these defense mechanisms hinder them from experiencing the fullness of life in later years—even after becoming believers in Christ.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LIES . . . AND RECOGNIZING THEIR IMPACT

You may have heard the saying, “there’s a little truth in every lie.” This is how the enemy often trips us up in that he will take something that actually is true and convince us that it means something else that is NOT true. For example, a child who never experienced any love and affection from his or her father, and maybe also heard only criticism or correction, believes early on that he is not worthy of love or loveable. The “truth” is that he didn’t receive love and affection from his father. The “lie” (false conclusion) is that he is not worthy of love. These distorted beliefs can become established at a very early age and can hinder us over our entire lifetime. There is often a belief that unless we’ve been overtly abused or neglected as a child, the impact of childhood wounding is minimal or non-existent. We have seen that this could not be further from the truth! Although overt abuse and neglect is very damaging, it is often the omission of the critical needs of children mentioned earlier that leads to dysfunctional problems later in life. And this type of wounding (a form of emotional abandonment) is generally much harder for a person to identify.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

The first step in dealing with these distorted beliefs about ourselves and others is to recognize that they exist—to ask the Holy Spirit to bring revelation concerning these areas and how they connect with the “fruit” in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23). We then use the truth (Scripture) to oppose these lies, which starts a “renewing” process in our minds (Rom. 12:2). But in order for the fullness of healing and transformation to occur, we must invite the Holy Spirit to remove every form of protection that has been used to keep us from “seeing and feeling,” and ask Him to reveal the truth about the child within. This “child within” is the part of us that is ultimately alive, energetic, creative and fulfilled. Some also refer to it as the “real or true self” or the “inner child.” It can also be viewed as our “personal spirit” breathed into us by God at conception and which departs at death. It remembers everything, even when we cannot. Are you able to connect with the younger parts of yourself, and if so, do you love (and like) yourself at every age—the way the Father does? When the Father shows us those places of wounding, we must grieve those losses and invite Him in to heal those deep places. And we must truly start loving what He loves—US! It is only from this place of healing and loving ourselves that we can truly love Him WITH ALL OF OUR HEART and love others. It is the way of the Kingdom!

PLEASE PRAY WITH US . . .

Father, I need more of Your heart of love—for You, for myself and for others. I want to live with greater passion and life for Your Kingdom and I desire to fulfill the calling and destiny that You placed in me from the beginning of time. Please reveal to me where I do not agree with You as it pertains to my own identity. Please show me if there are parts of me—this child within—that I do not love, accept and embrace the way You do. I invite You to remove my self-protection so that I can see what You see and feel what You feel—for me and for others. I submit to Your healing love. Do all that you desire to do in me—ultimately for Your glory. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

From the Father's Heart,
Jerry and Denise Basel