

“REPAIRING THE BREACH, RESTORING PATHS TO DWELL IN”

A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE WITH THE LORD

A couple of years after giving my heart to Jesus, which is now over 20 years ago, I (Jerry) had a very profound experience that I will never forget. We were living in Houston at that time and I remember one morning while in the shower that I “heard” these words: “a repairer of the breach, a restorer of paths to dwell in.” When I say I “heard” these words, I am not saying that it was an audible voice; however, it was such a strong mental impression that it seemed like it was almost audible. Some would refer to this as an “internal audible voice.” When I heard these words I thought that it was most likely from Scripture, but I had never read that before and I had no idea what verse it might be. I went and searched in my bible and found that it was from Isaiah, chapter 58, verse 12. Here is what is stated in the Amplified Version: “And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of [buildings that have laid waste for] many generations; and you shall be called Repairer of the Breach, Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.” The New International Version says it this way: “Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”

A WORD FOR THEN AND A WORD FOR NOW

When I initially had this experience and heard these words from the Lord, I knew that there must be a good reason. This just doesn’t happen every day (I’ve never had that same type of experience in that way since) and the words seemed important. I understood that Isaiah was prophesying here to those who would one day return from exile in Babylon. He was describing the physical rebuilding and restoring of the walls and the temple in Jerusalem that God’s people would undertake (documented in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah). But why share this with me? What message or interpretation was I to take away from this experience? Although this experience preceded any counseling or ministry training, we believe the Lord was already placing that desire in my heart and wanting me to know that this was important to Him. Denise and I are choosing to share this with you now as we both have sensed Him reminding us of this Scripture. However, we believe He is doing this not only to encourage us, but to again emphasize a message that remains strong in His heart . . . our need as people to be restored and to be restorers of others.

THE NEED TO REPAIR WHAT IS BROKEN . . . SO THAT OUR FOUNDATION CAN BE SURE

All of us have broken places within, since we have grown up in homes with varying degrees of dysfunction. We have “breaches” or “holes” in our hearts from wounds that have occurred—wounds resulting from actions that should not have occurred as well as wounds from the lack of things that were needed as children. Some of these “broken places” have “laid waste for many years and have been passed on for many generations within families.” But the words spoken long ago are still being spoken today . . . the Father wants to repair these broken places and to restore a place for us to flourish (a path, street or home). In a time when the world around us is very uncertain and unstable (i.e. economically, politically), He desires that our “foundation be raised up and secured” so that we can stand in the days ahead. How can we do

this? . . . by allowing the Father to show us our hearts and revealing where we are broken and where we need His healing. Then we can live more fully from a secure place in Him. When we allow this rebuilding and restoration work to occur, we are then able to turn and help others—to be the rebuilders and restorers He is calling forth in this hour.

PLEASE PRAY WITH US . . .

Father, I desire to have Your heart to help those who have broken places within and to help bring healing and restoration. Yet, I also need more of Your healing and restoration in my own heart. Lord, help me to see what I need to see at this time—the condition of my own heart and soul—and to invite You in to those places in me that still need Your touch . . . Your love. I give you permission to repair and rebuild those places in me that are still in a state of disrepair. I welcome Your work of restoration in me, so that I am able to love You more, receive more of Your love, and give it away. I, too, want to fulfill the call to be a “repairer of the breach and a restorer of paths to dwell in.” In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

From the Father's Heart,

Jerry and Denise Basel