



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

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Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing: Giving God Control

March 31, 2016 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

Last month we discussed who or what is in control at different times. This month we see that giving God control is good. His character makes giving control to Him a wonderful thing. In Acts 26:18 it says God told Paul he was being sent "to open their eyes so that they will turn from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan or power of the Adversary to God, and thus receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance, a place among the beloved, those who have been sanctified, set apart for holiness by faith in Me." (CJB & HCS)

Opening our eyes is a process God does & we participate in. Understanding complete forgiveness for ourselves and others, knowing we are accepted allows and even makes us desire to trust & give control to Him. Along with an intellectual, cerebral consent of knowing what He did

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Because of the timing of this being after our Easter Celebration I am not writing an article but because of the significance and because we celebrate eternally, here is a link to the song "He is alive! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIndrly40Ks>

Ted Deluca



Ted Duluca has volunteered at the Anoka County Jail, A.C. Work Release and the Washington County Jail for 14 plus years.

He has joined the ranks of intercessors and we welcome his prayers. He will be doing missions, church planting & other ministries, only ending his jail ministry because of health concerns.. He has learned that "praising God in all things means praising God in all things. This I learned from a Spanish lady who was working in the kitchen and serving so many people. She was ill and collapsed in pain but still everything out of her mouth was "Gloria a Dios", which translated means "Glory to God".

He came to Christ & jail ministry, "kicking and screaming" but after watching "my eyes were opened and I could see that I could not take credit for anything."

Ted doesn't want you to remember his name. He wants you to remember what Christ has done for him. "How many have stepped over to the other side and the Lord said, "Well done ... and showed them... [those who] they brought to Him. "Because of the miracles Christ instructed disciples to do -What an exciting world it is in Christ".

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for us, acceptance also brings experiential relationship. It is the process of trust & giving control to Him that leads us to being free from the negatives of selfishness to have the benefits of love. Often we perceive giving control as negative, but when control is given to good, good results. The greatest & 2nd commandments, to love the Lord our God with our all & to love our neighbor as ourselves are foundational. His words, prayer, worship & fellowship helps us do that.

Sometimes giving Him control is as simple as lifting the situation, our thoughts, emotions & relationships up to Him & letting it rest. Other times we need to cast our cares on Him. (I Pet. 5) or share our burdens. (Gal. 6)

Surveying the scriptures on control yields some principles. Knowing Him but not giving Him glory is serious. We may know that glorifying Him is right, but the extent we do so & the life it leads to are worth dwelling on. Our thinking attitudes & desires control & affect us deeply. Sin or Righteousness will prevail. Looking ahead to see the end of a situation, dying to flesh, being alive to the Holy Spirit, cooperating with others & faith or belief in Christ's authority determine much in the battle.

Knowing God, but not glorifying Him or thanking Him causes thinking to become dark, senseless & unwise. Placing other gods before Him causes cravings, impurity & degradation. Not thinking God worthwhile enough to acknowledge delivers a worthless mind, wrong morals & improper things which should never be done. (Ro.1) Hearing of God's standards without knowing His forgiveness & love causes fear. (Acts 24 re:Felix) Not having self-control is connected with being without love, not loving good, unforgiveness, slander, brutality, controlling gullible women, self-indulgence, being loaded down, & evil desires, (2 Cor. 11. 2 Tim. 1,3 & 4, Acts 24)

Seeking, knowing & loving Him is directly connected to finding Him & participating in good plans as well as living with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, gentleness & self-

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He remembers times in jail when people responded to the Christ's call. He could see & feel the Holy Spirit at work. On a mission trip to Mexico where he helped with a food drive and building campaign, God miraculously changed the course of a river and the building was preserved. It is currently being used for church camps, VBS, youth work and weddings.

Continue to pray with us for Ted and his concerns for ex-cartel members, people from San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and a church plant in Texas.

Sandy Hanson

Eagle Photo by Deb Rod

Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in Ministry.

This month MEC's shout-out is to

Freedom's Journey

Is a non-profit mentorship organization serving the incarcerated and recently released. They assist men & women in setting goals and finding resources that will set them up for success upon release.

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control. (Jer. 29, Gal. 5) Several scriptures talk about Christians & leaders having self-control & it is connected with love, holiness, modesty, living wisely, good reputation, dignity, faith & faithfulness, (1Thes.4, 1 Tim.1,2,3, 2 Tim.1,3,4 & 5)

Our thinking affects our desires & our desires affect our thinking. Thinking on good things & tending to our hearts desires cultivates the ground for good return. (Phil 4, Romans 8, Col. 3) In Ps. 51 David asks God to “Create in me a clean heart & renew a right spirit in me” This includes opening ourselves to the pain of conviction. The process of healing includes pain of grief plus joy of change. What we take in through conversations, media, music & reading is weaved into our development. How much time do we spend in an imaginary world & how does that affect us? Are we willing to pray the end of the chapter –see if there is any hurtful way in me?

Attitudes can control us. Eph. 4 tells us not to let anger do so & Col. 4 tells us to be controlled by the Messiah’s peace. Attitudes have roots. (Mk. 4, Lk. 8, Rms. 8, Heb. 12) Roots are alive & need to be eliminated or nurtured to grow. When we have cut off emotion, we need to recognize how accepting Christ means He is living in us, bringing about His healing, loving & giving character. Staying in His Word causes growth. (Duet. 8, Matt. 4, Lk. 4) Adding components to our faith helps.. (2 Pet. 1) Cultivating relationships is important. Participating in relationships is like putting Miracle Grow into your recovery, too much or the wrong ones will kill; the correct ones in proper amounts yield exponential growth.

Not giving into sinful desires prevents them from controlling us. Either sin or righteousness will be carried out. Which one, depends on what we offer ourselves to. (Romans 6) Our bodies are instruments or weapons in the battle against good & evil. What we do with them, what we give of them & what we offer them to, impacts us and others. (Romans 8, 1 Cor. 9, 1Thes. 4) Many struggle with unbelief because they witness evil and were hurt or disappointed with another person’s sin. This is reflected in Christ’s prayer “Father God - Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 10) Christianity becomes true as we practice it. We see more and He gives us strength., Doing what He asks brings good results, God is glorified. Some see & receive it. Others react out of guilt. (Jn.3) Coming under grace allows us to come out from under condemnation. Sin separates us from God, but it is God’s love that heals & calls us out, separating us from sin. Accepting His love & walking in what pleases Him & nothing can separate us from God’s love (Romans 8)

Looking ahead to see what behaviors & views lead to shows us which ones lead to life. Looking at consequences that result helps us see what Spirit those views operate under. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your



Eagle Photo Deb Rod

Dear Friends,

The last two days at HCADC have been filled with amazing evidences that God is at work and that the women have a desperate need for God to work in their lives. Several of the ladies attended both classes this week or have come back to just one of the classes again, some have returned to jail after being out and came back to the class(). One who attended last weeks Art class and prayed to receive Christ then needs affirmation that Christ is there. Thank you for praying for me and for them.*

Sherry

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Eagle Photo by Deb Rod

eyes to understand situations as you enter them instead of waiting for painful hindsight. Some things that are permissible are not helpful, especially, if we let them control us. (Prov. 1, Romans, 8 Prov. 1, I Cor. 6 & 10, Gal. 5) Sometimes we need a break from good things (specifically marital sex) & sometimes we need to participate in good things to prevent us from falling to temptation. (I Cor. 6 & 7) We have been given freedom from the Law & grace that allows us not to live by rules alone but in a way that makes us do better than just following the rules. Legalism leads to rifts with those who walk in Christ. (2 Cor. 11, Gal.

2, 3 & 4) The law is for the ungodly; Christ gives grace allowing those who accept it, the spirit & power to live right. (1 Tim. 9)

Deciding to come under the control of the Spirit means accepting forgiveness, receiving His power for discipline, self-control, controlling our bodies, dying daily to the flesh, but being alive to the Spirit. (I Cor. 9 & 14 & 15)

Cooperating with others who are led by the Holy Spirit, increases our effectiveness & joy. Paul points out that the team “does not have control” of the Corinthians’ faith but, “we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand by faith.” His letters are filled with love, mentioning individuals’ names. No one should have to tell us what to do, but we should choose to do what it right. (1 Cor. 14, 2 Cor. 1).

Finally, an undergirding principal is to understand & believe that He has the power & the authority to make these changes in you. (Matt. 28, Eph. 1) We wrestle with rulers, authorities, & powers who govern this world of darkness. But He has given us the armor & everything that we need to live a life of Godliness. (Eph. 6, 2 Pet. 1)

The Lord is good to everyone; His compassion rests on all He has made. (Ps 145:9) Not honoring Him brings destruction (Ps 145:20), but giving control to our God, who is good to everyone, (Ps. 145:9a) allows Him to do exceeding abundantly above anything we could even think of. (Eph. 3)

Karen Selby

His divine power has given us everything required for life & godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory & goodness. I Peter 1:3

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