

Below is my Blog in chronological order for 2015:

Thursday, January 1, 2015

Hurt hurting others!

Shame and punitive forms of correction are counterproductive...and do more damage than anything else! This is very true in the case where the person who is being shamed in an attempt to correct him or her has a history of hurt, rejection, being treated unfairly, or had injustices visited on them that they never properly dealt with. Shame in the worst sense says there is something wrong with us...not just with what we have wrongly done. People who have not dealt with their wounds have their conscious awareness complicated and confused by having to deal with negative feelings that result from insults thrust on them and attempts to correct them via shame by those who think such punishment is the best.

Jesus feels what I felt. He became hurt but never hurt anyone out of that hurt. They tried to shame Him...but He knew his identity.

I remember having no friends at grade school a long time ago...and desperately wanting to change it, and not make it worse. I was hurting...and hurt my brother out of my hurt by rejecting him on school grounds with the hope of finding acceptance from others. Then getting into trouble for what I did to my brother...and being shamed by a teacher who wanted to make an example of me by sticking me out as an object of ridicule. Lord God I forgive through Jesus help that teacher for jumping to conclusions... and not taking time to talk with me...to find out where I was at...and why I did what I did (not that it was right)...Lord Jesus I renounce the shame directed at me and stand in the identity, care, and love you have for me Lord God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I know now more than ever before that change in my thoughts and therefore feelings, attitudes, decisions, and actions is possible and a reality through relationship with Jesus Christ. I have choices in every situation...and I don't have to defer to default settings that only perpetuate hurt, helplessness, dark forebodings, and prisons of despair.

I am expecting to learn new things: nuancing old views, rejecting old lies or half truths, and embracing new and healthy thinking/attitudes...because this is the path God has put me on!

I have a relationship with God yet I have hurt people dear to me. Others have no relationship with God yet don't hurt others. I need God to change this...and change is happening...but I have no right to judge those who don't believe in God. They can and often have valid reasons for holding their beliefs. Such as having met people who abuse, are hypocrites, are greedy for money, are uncaring, and hurt others (and won't change because they claim they never intended to hurt) yet claim to have a faith in God.

All truth and beauty is a preparation for the good news that God is love! Jesus meant it when He said judge no one...and judging is what I did to those who didn't believe in God...! There is sacred ground in each heart...I need to respect that...the goodness in the hearts of all atheist is what can prepare them for God's love!

I wholeheartedly believe that no one is evil the moment of conception...and even at birth...if we don't believe in and care for people they can go to a place of rejection, anger, resentment, bitterness, hostility, and hatred...with no intimacy, no warmth, wall-ed in, and may not care for others because they claim no one cares for them. If we believe in the goodness of people they sense it...and may warm up to it...the Hitlers and Stalins...and whatever other monsters there are were slowly engineered by Satan over time (they didn't start out bent)...but Jesus comes to undo the works of the devil...no one is wholly evil...evil needs goodness to exist: sort of like rust on a car; rot on an apple... but spiritually speaking! That vestige of goodness is sacred...and a safe place that can overthrow the plots of the devil...when goodness, caring, compassion, empathy, belief, love and warmth touch it!

Saturday, January 3, 2015

I know that when Ken Blue taught at the overflowing Grace conference so many years ago before my Dark Night began my one complaint was: but if I sin and if I stop loving I'll go to Hell. I was fearful that I wouldn't be motivated to love if I accepted grace the way Ken Blue presented it. At the time I overcame some of my fears...but my spiritual pride grew to unhealthy proportions really quickly... interesting thing is that God did command me: "to feed His sheep" back then as I lost more and more ground to the devil. Truth be told I do want to love and will love by abiding in the True Vine and that means continuing on the learning curve that God has put me on that renews my mind.

Some people want to do everything in obedience to God. But there are many good things we willingly do without consciously thinking we ought to be obedient to God's will in doing them. Granted we want to be obedient to God. But God has put much in our hearts that we do that are good, natural, healthy, and peaceful...and not always because we don't want to offend God. Doing stuff out of obedience is often difficult...and I am glad that there are some things that come easy!

Another thing I learned today is that I can't ask another person to do what I won't do myself. If I do then I have hypocrisy in my life. God wouldn't ask us to do stuff that He wouldn't do himself. God is no hypocrite!

I have heard of people that are angry with and won't believe in a god that some religious sects claim to know. They don't care if they spend the rest of their lives in Hell if God is like these religious sects claim. I know that I have had all sorts of fearful ideas of a cold, dark god and Hell at different times. I have seen the heart of God...but there is so much

out there that is unknown...so much that is hidden...and it is the unknowing that in the right circumstances gives these horrible fear ideas power during psychosis. I know that God lives...so I do want to serve Him. If He isn't good, righteous, caring, and compassionate then I got nothing to live for. There are periods of great torment for me just before the lies I believe surface into my consciousness and are unmasked.

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Today I read from Derek Flood's blog during my lunch at work. It talked about how two different parts of the brain exercise different aspects of how we treat people and situations. One part of the brain deals with how we treat socially people with kindness, and the other part deals with survival; the second one overriding the first depending on different situations. And that made sense to me.

So I prayed into it because I saw how powerful my impatience and need to control people and situations still was. The Scripture that came to mind was: "Whoever tries to save his life will lose it", and I interpreted this as: "Whoever tries to save his peace will lose it." I prayed that Jesus would show me how He thinks so that He is patient in everything he does and I trusted Him to show me how.

Later in the day I walked with our dog and a traumatic memory came back to me of when I was a child in SA where I was to compete in a relay at a big stadium. I went off to buy some pop without knowing that my race time was very close. As I waited in line to get myself a pop... to my surprise a BIG fuss was made by my parents about my race starting very soon and how the coaches were looking for me...and I got so afraid I'd miss my race...that I began to ball my eyes out! My parents rushed me onto the track field and I ran my leg of the race still crying and emotionally disturbed. I think this is where I embraced the lie that I needed to be extra early in everything I did otherwise I would miss out on things important to others and me. I have prayed through it...and feel more at peace. Thank you Jesus! Amen!

Friday, January 9, 2015

Repenting in faith with Jesus help in prayer from being committed to: "An eye for an eye; and a tooth for a tooth" is very important. If we are committed to the philosophy: "An eye for an eye..." we basically believe that a person either deserves grace if he or she is good; or deserves judgment if he or she does bad things. This should not be so. "An eye for an eye..." is an OT limitation placed on revenge. Jesus perfects this by commanding us to use non-violence (which does not mean doing nothing) as a pathway to healthy relationships and peace and patience. Kindness goes further than being anal.

I know we can have strongholds within that push, and pull us in the wrong directions something awful (even though we don't like it), and they help to ruin many relationships...or prevent them from blossoming or healing. I did not know I was committed to, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" mentality until today. I just knew that my anger was intensely black...and that I fell into judging others way too

easily... it wasn't what others would call normal concupiscence! One can liken it to an addict, alcoholic, glutton...etc. They have a stronghold that others don't have and that was the way with me. Today I was drawn to reading the Sermon on the Mount and I came across, "An eye for an eye..." that Jesus talked about. And I remembered what Derek Flood said about Jesus and Paul how they weren't fundamentalists and how they read OT Scriptures not always agreeing with it. Then on the Bus I noticed that I was getting annoyed with a passenger taking his time getting off the bus...and I was enraged at how slow and uncaring he was not caring for other people's time...and then it hit me: I believed that a person either deserves grace if he or she is good; or deserves judgment if he or she does bad things... and that was when I saw the stronghold of revenge for what it was within me. I also noticed/remembered that Jesus didn't agree with the, "An eye for an eye..." command either, which says that He is grace driven; not anger/revenge driven...and that came from reading Derek's Blog and also His book Healing the Gospel...besides listening to some of his podcasts. I know this lesson/insight isn't the end... humble people are always learning...so I expect to learn every day. Perhaps there are more strongholds to uncover...but when the time comes...I am committed to listening to the Spirit in others (believers and unbelievers alike)...because that way I won't get too proud about the revelations God gives me if they were to come directly from Him all the time.

In the parable of the unmerciful servant (Cf. Matthew 18:31-35)... Jesus shows us that we ought to forgive...He also shows us that we can't pay for God's forgiveness... in fact no one can: no one can earn God's forgiveness (the servant could not pay for the damages he had made). God doesn't want payment from anyone not even Himself to let us go free; His forgiveness is total, genuine, caring, compassionate, and graceful. God is so generous. He cares for us (not living for, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"- revenge thinking because Jesus doesn't) and much more easily forgives than we do because He is much slower to anger than us. We do reap what we sow unless grace comes our way. Merciful people can receive mercy because they understand mercy; whereas unmerciful people don't understand mercy and therefore do not value it; and so don't hold onto it. God's grace can never be bought. Because it comes from love: God gives out of love: He is not a demon deity that demands pain/ ridicule/ spitting/ mocking/ suffering/ and death in order to find favor. The cross is not about penal substitution; it is about restorative justice.

Sunday, January 11, 2015

On deserving forgiveness

I don't deserve forgiveness! But God has forgiven me anyways! I deserve the wages of my sin or put another way the consequences of my sin...in fact what happens to me because of my sin is the punishment visited on me! Put another way: sin is its own punishment! Put another way when I choose sin I say no to God's perfect will and so distance myself from Him. Isn't that punishment enough; guilt and all?

So why do I feel or expect others to treat me the way I treated them in the past? Do I have an attitude of entitlement when it comes to being forgiven? That seems to be my default setting: If I forgive them then I expect them to forgive me. But this is complicated because the language of forgiveness is different from person to person. I know I ought not expect it. But if it seems declined I go to a place of hostility. But I know I have a choice each time I feel this way: when the way of expectation is declined. I also know that I need to change my expectations. And set people free to do as they wish. No one owes me forgiveness. That is a good thing. I need to change my default expectation. I don't want to have a poor me attitude.

I can only do as much as depends on me to foster peace in my relationships. The rest I have no say over.

Confronting Fad thinking?

I find that certain things seem to have a short shelf life with me...even when my heart says they are foundational to my existence. Fear of being laughed at, not taken seriously, being a bore, and not impressing anyone linger in the background as I weigh what to share with others.

Also when I have mastered some new concept intellectually...I easily have contempt and scorn for those who mention the idea yet again as though: "Come on; that is so simple...just catch up to me!"

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Just because a child disagrees with her or his parents vocally, passionately, loudly, stubbornly, or un-wisely does not mean the parents have lost. It is normal for children of all ages to disagree with parents in these ways. When I was a kid I had disagreements with my parents and now as a stepparent I have disagreements with my step kids. I realize that I need to set my step kids free to feel passionately about their beliefs and desires and requests. But I also get to make up my own mind about my desires/ beliefs/ feelings/ and attitudes too... and as my step kids live with my decisions I live with theirs. I don't lose by them disagreeing with me. I have not failed as a stepparent because my step kids don't agree with me or do what I ask.

My dog is aware of my negative energy when I have it. I have negative energy when I resent the dog for not doing what I want it to do. This attitude re-enforces the dog's commitment to not do what I want it to do. If I don't make time for the dog then, he will feel neglected and withdraw even more. The dog's reaction to me is a good thermometer on where I am at during my time with him. People are also good thermometers of where I am at when in their presence. This does not mean that I become a slave to the dog's treatment of me or for that matter a slave to a person's treatment of me. But reading another person's attitude towards me helps me know myself better if I have the wisdom to use it for good.

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Survival & Justice

Survival and Justice are core values God puts in all of us at conception. They are good, healthy, and needed. But they can grow into selfishness and revenge when we believe lies about others and ourselves. This is what I mean when I say evil lives off of the good in us; sort of like rust on a car, or a sickness spiritually. Survival and Justice don't start out as selfishness, animal, or evil and they are meant to serve good purposes: showing us that God wants us alive, and that we are designed to love and not to take revenge but to feel each other's pain and help to restore broken lives. But when we believe lies about our values of Survival and Justice they become warped and get at odds with our relational and social sides which are geared towards warmth, kindness, friendship, community, and solidarity with all people. Warped Survival and Justice also leads to intolerance, judging, and "my way or the highway" commitments, thinking, and acting: which are totally opposed to how God designed us as relational beings.

I remember many years back looking at the cross of Jesus and thinking that the crucified Jesus' flesh represented our selfishness that needed to be crucified. Only problem is that Jesus' flesh is not selfish. Jesus is both perfect God and perfect man. No sin can be found in Him.

So what is the flesh that Paul alludes to in Scripture that fallen humanity is plagued with? The flesh is our attitudes of sinful independence from God. The flesh's foundations are the lies we believe about our identities, how we see others, and God. These lies warp our understanding of Survival and Justice into selfishness and judging, and revenge.

The only way to reverse this growth is to change what we believe and how we think about what we believe. Analyzing what one believes all by one's self won't bring real and lasting change...we need Healing light to expose and restore things for what they are: Jesus is that Light. He does this in the context of relationships (with Him and humanity)...with us tuning into hearing His voice and following the directions He is leading us in.

The flesh can't submit to God. The idea that it can be crucified and bring life is a fallacy. The only way that the flesh dies (our sinful independence) is by becoming dependent on God through trust and grace. Focusing only on the flesh-dynamic gives it power. Focusing on God's voice and believing in His healthcare, promises, and listening to Him while walking with Him will enable Him to heal us gradually...by renewing our minds from dead codes and dead attitudes! This doesn't happen magically...but through trial and error, two steps forward; one back...etc.; or like waves coming in land as the tide rises...and it starts with the patience we already have and builds on that. It isn't a sprint, but a marathon. No one has arrived! The patience we have is a gift from God; all the natural loves are gifts deposited into us by God. Where they live is sacred ground and are preparations and fore taste of the relationship God offers us.

Tuesday, January 20, & Wednesday, January 21, 2015

A hypocrite is one that says: "Do such and such" but doesn't do it him or herself. Again a hypocrite is the one who says: "Don't do such and such" but does it him or herself even though they are free to say no to it.

Jesus expects me to follow my own conscience; no one else's. He does not expect blind obedience by which I mean He doesn't expect us to follow a moral command when we don't understand its purpose. Blind obedience ends up hurting people. We can't keep a command if we don't understand how or why it works. Saint Paul does not condemn those who disagree with him on some issues. He does say that God will eventually give them understanding. Jesus expects truth in the inner man; following what someone else says when it's not consistent with one's conscience means one is not living in the truth. I now know that the terms: enemy love, non-violence as pathways to peace, non-violent resistance, turn the other cheek, and pacifism all can mean different things. Enemy love can be expressed in many of these ways...and all of these ways are not always wise to express in every situation...so they are context specific. Caring for and wanting to protect people from violence is good: the way we go about it may differ from one situation to the next. The whole approach is not meant to be a weight or LAW to conform to. Non-violence does not mean we do nothing...but it does mean that we attempt to de-escalate volatile situations reduce harm and minimize pain. Derek Flood's blog is a gold mine for those who have struggled with Jesus call to turn the other cheek, or to not resist a violent person. Realizing these things gives me clarity, peace...and understanding. Being rejected yet deciding to love despite the pain is a sign of a person who is maturing. I am that person. Thank you Jesus for promising me that I would love some day. Amen! In order to feel and listen and enjoy certain music compositions one needs to be able to feel pain emotionally.

Friday, January 23, 2015

Today I realized recently that I still judged leaders, and had unhealthy expectations from them. I gave up this unhealthy garbage in prayer and felt a load of cynicism drop from my shoulders. I feel more at peace now!

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Today the Holy Spirit revealed to me (thanks to Derek Flood's Blog) that I still tried to put angry pressure on myself to keep Jesus' commands, but what's more is that I wanted to defend His commands by wrongly judging those who might oppose them as though they were evil in the popular sense. Both are wrong! Jesus does not need defending in this way nor do His sayings. As for the angry pressure I was putting on myself I realized it was wrong when I saw that I was hardening my heart in loyalty to all of Scripture...but in doing this I was neither able to keep the commands, nor able to love those who seemed to question those same commands. The commands were meant to protect people, care for people, and bless people. By wanting to defend the commands I was actually gearing myself to convict people of supposed sins whereas this role actually permanently belongs to the Holy Spirit who convicts people for real sins. Also I was a hypocrite because with

my self-appointed role of moral policeman I tossed God's words behind me by not being docile to the Spirit who wanted me to use Scripture to love not hate. What a warped and blind mindset I had. I guess I had the cart before the donkey. Strange how something that was intended to bring us closer to others was twisted around and used for evil. Thanks Derek for setting me straight!!! I was told a long time ago by a preacher that we all had a few hundred things wrong with us. At the time I could only count one- or two-dozen things if that...but thankfully I'm on a journey...and have known for some time that I was messed up really seriously. But it is not God's intent to only point out wrongs...He is into restorative justice too...Amen!!!

Sunday, January 25, 2015: (Pride is oh so sneaky!!!)

Lord God I find myself with a sea of pride within me. It bluntly and proudly asserts that I am better than those I judge; whom haven't I judged? Lord God I need to see myself the way you want me to see myself. Yes I do sin: grievously, stubbornly, angrily, uncaringly, hatefully, smugly, proudly, selfishly, and greedily. Is the antidote for curbing pride focusing on my past sins? I do see some merit in this...but what happens when through the grace of Jesus I overcome more and more sins...then I might still want to boast more because I have less sin to reflect on...continuing in this line of reasoning...what happens when I overcome all sin...then the pride would explode violently. Fact is: all the good I do have comes from you the Living God. Do I really believe this so weakly? Pride grows because I have believed lies about myself, others, and God. Truth is what will set me free from the sin of pride!

Jesus said: "You cannot serve two masters at once: you will either hate one or despise the other: you cannot serve both God and money at once!"

Pride believes that we have something to boast about before God; to fight this I have been told a healthy tactic is to admit how ridiculous this actually is! In that vein:

A little while ago I realized again that we all give accounts to God of ourselves when we die. At the time I told myself that I did not fear this because I had tried so hard to overcome my sins with pain and failure being my wages. I thought at the time that I had done my best and that God could not find fault with that. Problem is: God rewards faith not pride. God wants us to care...to care for others...! Fact is I am making progress but only when God grants it. Yes there have been a lot of failures...but also a lot of battles won through faith in Jesus. He gets the praise, the glory, and the booty.

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Humility & Pride:

Lord God...I want to thank you for the next phase in my journey. We are finally dealing with my pride and lack of humility...and you have given me some weapons to counter the sea of pride and insensitivity in my heart that is anchored in my mind and wrongful understanding of how things ought to work. Please Lord God show me your ways and help me to live more humbly in thought and action and emotion and worship. Amen!

In order to grow in humility one needs to discard certain values and appropriate healthier ones. Values that need to be discarded are ones that are self-centered, self-focused, that lead to selfishness and being uncaring for others, they are cynical, hateful, and see oneself as strong when one isn't; or they magnify our attributes and minimize everyday people's and God's attributes. These values need to be replaced by seeing how foolish, childish, and skew the old values are...and invoking God's opinion when we are tempted to compare or judge others by our crooked rulers.

To worship God is to put our selves in our proper places and to attribute with conviction God's superiority in all His ways with praise and thanksgiving. Pride thinks that we aren't like other people. The way we conquer this is to see how ridiculous this actually is in the presence of God.

Thursday, January 29, 2015 (Tying Some Things Together)

Pride tries to control or manipulate things and people. Therefore it looks for signs in ones circumstances for optimism or confidence that it's manipulating is going well. Only problem is circumstances change all the time...and people often don't give us what we want. Circumstances can have a lot of cons besides pros. So circumstances aren't a good place to find hope or security...so we feel insecure cause we don't see the sure thing in our circumstances. To counter this we need to look for hope in God not our circumstances...this requires faith and trust. Negative thoughts can enter the mind and make us feel down and insecure which re-enforce the negative thoughts that in turn re-enforces the negative feelings...etc. We got to renew our minds with correct thinking and right believing. Not all thoughts are to be trusted. Truth sets free in thoughts and beliefs to love. I think this paragraph ties together pride, insecurity, hope, thoughts, and belief. From it a strategy can be used to fight the devil and his lies. Oh yes where there is pride there is judging...do a Google search on "how to kill pride" I did and found some good pointers on how to fight pride too.

Saturday, January 31, 2015: Hurts

It has been said that those who have been hurt often hurt others. This is true. I was attempting to listen to a sad Michael Card song called, "Come Lift up your Sorrows" when my pride and insensitivity gushed within my consciousness to my surprise. I prayed about it and I realized what I was saying through the pride is: "I am stronger than those who appear weak and fragile, and that no one will ever see my weaknesses", which is utter bullshit. I am not stronger or better than others when it comes to dealing with my wounds. I choose to feel my wounds and be healed by Jesus. I have oozed forth with hurt and pride for decades...and in this season of restoration God is seeing fit to heal me and help me dry up my sea of pride within one bucket at a time. Thank you Holy Trinity!

Sunday, February 1, 2015: On not having to have all the answers:

I now realize that I have set my heart on coming up with all the correct answers or ideas to all problems I am asked my opinion on by those close to me. In the cards are fear, pride, rejection, insecurity, and the lie that others see the answers clearly so why don't I. This was true in my academic life many moons ago and has been true in my relationships as far as I can remember. People often ask questions because they don't know the answers. Only professors ask questions in public that they know others don't know but they know because of their research. For a long time I wanted answers out of fear that I would look bad or be rejected if I didn't. But now I know I don't have to put pressure on myself because when people ask questions it is a healthy thing and shows humility; and it is humble to admit one does not know the answers when this is the case.

There two ways to view people together with their actions. The first is to only see their actions as right or wrong and to harden ones heart (in an attempt to defend the Bible) to the persons who do the wrongs. The other is to not judge people like Jesus commands and to feel compassion for people. I am slowly transitioning to the latter path.

Monday, February 9, 2015

When we have an attitude that would birth pride if we were to be given a gift from God, then God in all likelihood will withhold that gift. For instances consider: the gift of chastity, or the gift of wisdom, or the gift of self-control...etc. then these may be withheld because the cure is worse than the disease. The problem comes from not understanding what good is and what evil is. Goodness has to do with functionality, healthiness, doing what it was designed for; whereas evil is dysfunctional, unhealthy, and frustrates what it was designed for. Good and evil as defined in the more popular sense leads to pride when embraced. When we see ourselves pursuing a holy gift from God with ungodly motives (such as pride)...God won't give it to us...more to the point we push Him away thinking He is the devil, and think the devil is Him... all in the effort to get what we think will make us better, smarter, and wiser than those bums over there. This is what an OT Prophet has God saying:

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water (Cf. Jeremiah 2:13).

Many people think that they have not forsaken the spring of living water in any area of their lives...and really believe that they are not digging their own cisterns. But their methodology may betray their faith. When we are motivated by unhealthy pride then judging and anger are the fruit...and we will see what we covet or the gift as something to be used to look down upon others. In this case the gift will never be given to us by God. When pride motivates our obsession for perfection we won't find relief all by ourselves. How do we know we got pride? When we are forever judging others. Our pride needs to be killed. Check out the essay on Humility from this Website for ideas on how to kill pride. Killing the pride will kill the judging...and this allows the fruit of the Spirit to grow. One may aim to stop the judging by looking for counter truths that defeat

the judging but it won't put an end in the pride or the judging because there are always new circumstances that present themselves for judging. It is helpful in renewing the mind by looking for arguments that take a compassionate view of people instead of mockery. But the only strategy that will get rid of the judging is to kill the pride. Killing the pride will allow humility and love to grow.

Yes God does give grace to the humble. But fighting pride is something done together with God in relationships, it is not attained by following clever rules. God opposes the proud. To be opposed means to be against or work to overthrow. God is against our pride...and works to remove it. Jesus came to undo the works of the devil. The devil builds people up so he can tear them down. God tears people down so He can build them up.

Friday, February 13, 2015: Love does not compete!

Love does not covet another's position or place or place of endearment.

Pride comes from fear! Fear of loss. Fear of not being number one...fear of losing...fear of the unknown...fear of not being loved!

Last night I found a wall going up inside of me with my soul gearing to be hateful and wanting to use a dark unkind energy that would surely push those I profess to love away from me. I managed to suppress it last night...but after encountering it I first panicked but then realized I had tools to deal with it...moreover Jesus had not abandoned me...and promised to destroy every weapon fashioned against me.

This morning I felt overwhelmed by my negative disposition/attitude after I awoke...and realized that no amount of analyzing would bring relief. So I resorted to prayer. I confessed my pride and the methodology this dynamic/energy used...and I asked God to heal me...to come into the dark/melancholy/ sad/depressed/ desperate/ vacuum within and help me to respect God's boundaries, and those I profess to love's boundaries too! I was never created to be number one in the lives of those who know me a little or a lot. When I covet this then I disrespect the feelings, will, dignity, personhood, and desires of those in my life. People sense this attitude or disposition in others when it operates...and those who do discern it pull away from those infected with it. Even dogs can read this energy and also pull away when this dynamic is operative. Competing for the love of others does not respect who they are and is a form of manipulation. It might work for a while but people get tired of trying to earn love...and it actually backfires never bringing peace, warmth, relationship, and community.

Sunday, February 15, 2015

Lord God I think it possible that proud people despise humble people. Moreover I know that in myself that I struggle to do the humble things...and often fail because I prefer the proud, dominant, in-your-face-f—k-you-justice mindset reaction. Lord God humility comes from you! Please help me to renew my mind; I repent in faith from this horrific

attitude/ disposition/ insanity/ and inconsiderate way of life. Please change my heart and grow in me the practice of humility... for apart from you I can do nothing.

Wednesday, February 18, 2015: Biological illnesses & Sin & Endurance:

In the Gospel of John Jesus says that illnesses, deformities, diseases, and disabilities are not punishment for the bearer's sins or her or his parents' sins. If we do have these burdens God uses them for good and stuff that is too wonderful for words.

Thinking that allergies are a result of sin can make the allergies much more difficult to bear. Like trying to punch out of a box one will struggle with and make the allergy's symptoms more and more like a prison sentence and more burdensome if we think it is a result of sins. The person will try to repent from imaginary sins to no avail. Relief only comes when the biological option is accepted.

God can give us burdens that are meant to grow us like He gave me schizophrenia with the promise that it would break me into freedom. My schizophrenia was not and is not a punishment from God. It is a gift.

When I finished seeing the Star Trek episode called "Dagger of the Mind" yesterday I got so angry with the villain in that episode that for a while I felt his punishment fitting. Today I realized that such feelings come naturally...to all of us. If we were to go by feelings alone we would all be blind and toothless. The thought that came to me today is we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God! I don't say this to you but for my benefit...I can't hold onto judgment and revenge because I deserve likewise. I don't have to beat myself up for feeling indignation, and wanting to make things right through revenge...but these feelings ought not be the "go ahead" or "permission" to embrace them as fuel for revenge and violence: verbal or physical in nature. The truth is not all feelings ought to be embraced because they can at times lead to unhealthy actions that hurt people. By unhealthy I mean unmerciful, prideful or self-righteous judgmental thinking and actions. Enemy love is the mindset that needs to be embraced in the context of non-violence and these don't mean I am supposed to do nothing. It means looking for words that are non-judgmental, kind, and only focus on my choices and actions in the matter on hand and give the benefit of the doubt to those we suspect of willful wrongness. The devil is the one that loves to put lies about others into our minds and suggest that they are true when they are actually lies meant to trip us up.

I always thought that it would be a horrible fate to be good in the face of pain, suffering, and hurt if it were visited on me for eternity and if the only way out were to do something evil. Some how I desired a way out even if it was evil. Now I see things differently. I know that a clean conscience is a pathway to happiness even if it means having to face captivity, hurt, suffering, and pain for eternity. The ability to bear pain and hurt comes from God. He won't forsake us or leave us. I am human, weak, and frail. God has promised rest to those who repent and believe the Good News...for that I am thankful now and forevermore.

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Lord God I want to thank you for the insights you have given me thus far in my journey...two-way-prayer is the key to overcoming my challenges. I realized today that I was envious of a person at work and the only way to overcome this is to thank you the living God for your generosity towards the person. I really like this person.

I therefore see that envy sees God as a withholder of good things...it sees God as miserly...it sees God as unwise, unfair, and someone to be rejected for failing to be just. Praying in a way that holds God as generous, kind, benevolent, and patient is key to overcoming envy that is rooted in pride.

Immaturity>>>Maturity

I saw some dear person's immaturity in me few months ago, but today I saw my own childishness...and it was an all or nothing thinking that says: "Give me what I want or I'm going to go elsewhere..." I remember this stinking thinking in SA as a child...on the playground when I was rejected and so gave up humility in exchange or envy rooted in pride through the wound of hurt/wound/or rejection.

I know that there is a sense of entitlement involved here too! Praying through these things will bring further maturity and health.

Recently I have been think/meditating on what gives meaning. I know that when I came to Christ in 1989 in AB I wanted something that would give me meaning and that meaning giver became God, His love for me, and me wanting to imitate Him somehow. But I was really very weak at love...and it would take until 2015 for me to see that I don't have to view each day's work as hard, undesirable, taxing, and something that was grueling to bear for nine hours straight each day only to find relief after each nine hour-shift until it starts again the next day. Jesus is showing me that I can change my thinking, attitude, and energy in how I tackle work. I am no longer stuck in the ruts of my past thinking...and I'm seeing things in a better-more-reality-based-healthy-mindset thanks to God leading me in the way who is Jesus.

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Lord God I want to thank you for loving me. I now realize that there is at least two fronts that war is fought on in my life: Envy that leads to anger and greed; and lust that leads to gluttony and sloth. But the mother of both Envy and Lust is pride. Kill the pride then kill its offspring. When I go by feelings: wanting to be gratified then lust is born...and sloth and gluttony grow. But if I determine to live by truth it kills the lust. But the Envy that leads to anger/judging is a really difficult one to kill...it is like a cat because it has more than nine lives...! On the other hand the not going by feelings has its on and off reigning too...and feeling good at all costs is also a formidable opponent too.. So pride is the cause of envy and lust...but pride comes from fear...and fear comes from separation from God. Two things are in order when it comes to pride: repenting from all judgments made...and

standing on the truth that one understands...not putting stuff into boxes...but respecting the truths in all traditions...because all truth is a preparation for the Good News of Jesus.

End of March:

I learned so much that I made a new chapter called "Killing Pride" to read it click the link: <http://www.brokenintofreedom.ca/PDFs/KILLINGPRIDE.pdf>

Wednesday, April 1, 2015:

I was sitting at lunch today and a certain co-worker came and sat down as I wondered how could I get a softer tongue like she has. So I thought maybe I needed to repent in prayer in faith from despising soft and gentle words as weak... remembering times back in my youth when I used mocking, rude, filthy, hostile, angry, toxic, scoffing, cynical, rebellious, dark, conceited, pompous, and horrible language in humor, talking behind other people's backs, gossiping, and being altogether hateful. The prayer worked I began heartedly to appreciate my co-worker's speech even more genuinely.

Then on Thursday, April 2, 2015 I realized that a major impediment was removed from me when it came to being able to talk like my co-worker...but there was still a reluctance that I realized needed to be dealt with but didn't know where to look. The following day I prayed about it and a memory came back to mind that the Holy Spirit wanted me to deal with.

The Memory: when I was a sixth-grader I was challenged to a fight after school by a boy named Ricky. I said yes and later that afternoon found myself wrestling Ricky with a loud crowd cheering. I won very easily and Ricky gave up...only to be tackled by a girl. What ensued was traumatic. The girl wrestled with me...and I began to cry because I didn't want to fight a girl. The crowd laughed at and ridiculed me. I showed my virtuous side by not wanting to beat up the aggressive girl, along with crying tears and crying pleas that went un-answered. I came away with a new code: don't show that kind of weakness anymore to anyone otherwise I will never be accepted...so I didn't. Today, Friday, April 3 I prayed to Jesus and He led me through a healing session. I came out of it changed...willing to be vulnerable again. That softness I admired in my co-worker now felt natural to me now.

Sunday, April 5, 2015

Humility

Humility is more than being able to see certain moral truths and obey them. If we don't communicate them in healthy ways we defeat the purposes and nullify the supposed humility in each context. An ugly, dark, judgmental, angry, self-righteous, dirty laundry, abrasive, unhealthy pattern/ tone/ attitude of communicating makes all truth no matter how true indigestible.

So to practice humility one needs to focus on delivery as well as content.

The Scripture: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" is meant to be held-onto, believed and prayed in the moment in our weaknesses/temptations. The devil tries to take this truth that leads to grace away from us by making the promise debatable in a weak-foggy-future-focused sense that stops this truth from immediately creating dependence on God and His grace.

In dismantling the tree of knowledge of good and evil we will find grace that leads to much inner healing.

Sunday, April 12, 2015

I'm done riding waves because they always crash. Every wave eventually crashes. I will take things as they come: case-by-case; context-by-context; and moment-by-moment. I choose to "be"! I choose to be me. I choose to be who I am in Christ. God is good to me; and all of His creation. He made each and every person for Himself.

I started to practice a technique called EFT or Tapping. Thanks to Anita I now have a way to deal with blockages to life following through me. It also helps with removing baggage that is not resentment-related but still lies. It helps me get in touch with those wounds, and mismanagement of life's affairs. It helps to move truths from my head to my heart. If anyone is curious or interested in Tapping click on the link below or copy and paste it into your Browser:

<http://www.thetappingsolution.com/screening/movie/see-the-film2.html>

Note this is a very effective technique...but it won't solve all of ones problems. Balance, perspective, awareness, listening, and focus need to be practiced. It is true that we love because God first loves us. But...God can't make us love ourselves...He expects us to love ourselves...and EFT or Tapping helps to move this head knowledge to the heart and helps us to be connected to God, people, and ourselves.

Tuesday, April 21, 2015: Living in faith

Living with faith means we believe there is a way through each challenge. All we have to do is trust God for wisdom, guidance, and have open ears and to listen when He speaks. Bono from U2 has said that musicians live off of faith: they have to believe they will hear the next note. This is true for spirituality too. If we don't believe, patiently wait, perseveringly and gently search we will suffer much pain, experience much fear and lose battle after battle and come to resolutions rather bumpily.

We don't ride out waves or principles until they crash. Each principle has its own limitations and we need to be mindful of this and respect it too. Truth sets free. And Jesus gives wisdom wisely. Trust is key...and this helps us to not worry as we work through each process to resolution.

Moreover the devil loves to throw stuff at us that puts fear, anxiety, and worry into our minds...and often it is just a smoke screen meant to waste our time and also to discourage us. We need to choose our battles wisely.

Thursday, April 23, 2015

I can't let the devil set the agenda. I need to take the fight to him cause he is afraid that after no BIG catch all night long (Cf. John 21) I will throw my net in the right spot and catch so much life that the devil will never toy-with or confuse me again. The devil knows that the harder he can hit me the more he will get me off focus...and my focus is to do the Lord Jesus Christ's will. The devil wants nothing more than to make us feel and believe we are victims, powerless, negative and at the mercy of others no matter what. When we are powerless like the devil wants us to believe we can beat ourselves up over and over again. This is what the devil wants and the more successful he is the happier he is.

Jesus was right! I got my BIG catch. I now know I took on a victim mentality and owned it with an attitude of malice/ scorn/ pride/ envy/ judgmental-ism/ sadness/ accusation/ insensitivity/ mockery/ apathy/ and hatefulness mostly suppressed. It took Tapping to get down to this bitter root. Felt like I was hit by another bus...the tears flow deeply now...along with empathy and feelings of compassion. Thank you holy Trinity! Amen, and Amen!

Monday, April 27, 2015

I know that wherever God is so is love. I have heard it said that if all we seek to do were to first love ourselves we would never get around to loving anyone else. This shows a fundamental misunderstanding of what love is. Yes there are those who love themselves with a selfish-love and never love others. But we are called to love ourselves in healthy and gentle ways just like we want to love others, namely: God and people. Some people will wrongly feel guilty because they are focusing on self-love while processing feelings doing Tapping or EFT, but this is an attempt by the devil to use false guilt to stop them from loving themselves. If Tapping were selfish then yes we ought to stop it. But, Tapping is healthy self-love and wherever healthy-love is, so is God. Therefore we ought not doubt the practice of and the benefits of Tapping together with prayer.

The way I use Tapping now is to tap while saying some variation of: "I feel _____ but I choose to abide in the true vine Jesus and accept myself completely and fully".

I use this saying because Jesus Himself said that we couldn't bear good fruit unless we abide in Him.

Wednesday, April 29, 2015: Hard on self and others!

When I am hard on others (stuffed, or boiling inside, or processing) then if I go to those feelings inside of me I will realize that I am hard on myself with the same energy and intensity. Refusing this dynamic and choosing to be kind, accepting, and gentle with myself will unravel those negative feelings...and enable me to be just as kind to those I was previously wanting to be rough with.

Hard on self and others are two sides of the same coin. If we have this coin we have projected it onto the person we call God. Only in God is this undone.

I have recently noticed that I had a mean messiah complex operating within me. I wanted to get people to do what I saw as fair...and I'd start out by being hard on myself and get even harder on myself if I failed or made no progress.

I now know I have been angry with myself for years and that I used anger to motivate and achieve projects and stuff...no wonder I was apathetic, and slothful in my past life.

Monday, May 4, 2015

Lord God I confess that I have made you in the image of myself...that I have projected myself onto the image I have of you in my mind. For me, life since my youth has been primarily about loyalty...and commitment. Those who aren't loyal or don't remain committed to what I considered important I have judged...and condemned without trial or knowing the facts...yet Jesus your Son said not to condemn and not to judge. I repent in faith from judging and condemning those who did not fit into the boxes I neatly made over time.

If my theology is leading me to judge and condemn then how can all its sources be wholly true? If what I believe leads me to harden my heart in an "us" versus "them" mentality how can I conscientiously hold onto the lies behind that same hardness? The line between good and evil does not divide culture from culture, church from church, religion from religion; political party from political party, or race from race...but it rests in the heart of every fallen human being. Yes we all do indeed have healthy and unhealthy spirituality in our hearts and minds and wills.

We have all been disloyal to God. We have all failed partially in our commitments. How can I throw the first stone?

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

I now accept myself as God's gift to me, the world, and God. This helps clear up the devil's taunts that Tapping is not from God because love isn't that we first loved but that first God loves us. I also realize that there are contexts where I do love myself, contexts where I do love others, and contexts where I do love God; and one does not rule out the other. God wants me to love myself. When I accept myself low self-esteem dies. When I accept myself then my self-pity slowly dies too. It also dies when I pray in faith with Jesus help to repent from it.

Friday, May 8, 2015: Idolatry of pride...

I have bought in to the idolatry of pride...thinking freedom is doing as I please...getting what I want...in doing my thing when I so desire...this needs to be watched and put in check daily!

I have repented more fully in faith from my awful unkind attitude towards Mormons who go around and preach that they will be deity someday.

More often than not God does not meet us where we want to be...but where we are at right now.

Repenting from self-pity in prayer...together with getting in touch with those feelings of self-pity and processing them in healthy ways (i.e. through Tapping)...and confessing thankfulness for God's generosity to all form a powerful cocktail that helps to kill envy, love turned inwards to selfishness, and pride.

Compassion can be stolen in two ways: (1): by not wanting to feel other people's negativity because then we don't want to land up feeling our negativity, or (2): inappropriately expressed loyalty. By this I mean one sees an "either-or" scenario when it comes to loyalty for people or Scripture and not both at the same time. This happens when we fear we might love people over God's word. And this may make us wrongly harden our hearts wrongly thinking it is only way to remain loyal to Scripture. In other words insensitivity is a result of abusive and misguided loyalties. Love is not motivated out of fear...but warmth. Compassion wants the best for people.

I am reading Brad Jersak's latest book: "A More Christlike God: A More Beautiful Gospel"...and it is a very good read thus far! I like the idea that God has a servant-heart, is compassionate, is not lazy, and is humble...and that He did not leave behind these attributes in ascending to His glory after the Passion. That brings tears to my eyes. God is not like human Kings who lord it over those they rule. This makes me want to be more like Jesus...and does not have me crying out "unfair...unfair".

I have repented in faith of disliking repetition...God does things over and over and does not get tired of it. I am made in His image. In doing this I am enjoying things more and more...and my cynicism, scoffing, and laziness have been dealt a BIG blow. I remember voicing this attitude in high school and it grew from there.

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Today I realized that I still felt that God was unfair in how I lived my life...and how the world operated. I was able to process this feeling with Tapping. I also had a deeply emotional freedom released when I processed my hurt feelings from a conversation I had with somebody.

Monday, May 11, 2015

I now realize that dependence on God is multifaceted. The True Vine narrative in John 15 is pregnant with meaning. I can't bear good fruit apart from Jesus. I don't bear good fruit in order to abide in the Vine (Jesus). I abide in the Vine to bear good fruit. But how do I tap into the True Vine? Through faith in, relationship with, trust in, and dependence on God; believing that God will provide while seeking to do His will is where it starts. Blocks to love also need to be dealt with and using Scripture to unblock them so love will result is key. But also becoming dependent on wholesome community, and wisdom literature helps to fortify and keep us in the Vine.

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Listened to a sermon from Lazar Puhalo on the clarion journal found on the web at: <http://clarionjournal.typepad.com> and got hit right in the face with what I used to be like. I started out so well early on in 1989...but then all my dirty laundry never got dealt with

and my tongue was putrid, and horribly poisonous from years of judging...no wonder my misguided loyalties and lack of wisdom made me so hateful, full of malice, and so un-Christ like in my attitudes, relationships, and theology.

Monday, May 18, 2015

Yesterday, I received the revelation that I still viewed sin in a penal/law focused way. For a long time when it came to me trying to stop judging others I tried to say that things were relative...that the more blind a conscience is the more limited the amount of guilt and penalty payable by God was. In reading Brad Jersak's latest book, "A More Christlike God" I am starting to realize that sin is its own punishment (God does not add to this His wrath); that the real consequences of sin are its own punishment. So instead of being saved from God's wrath (as a penalty for sins committed) we are saved from sin, its own consequences, and the guilt we feel because we have sinned, and all of this "saving" is a gift from God through Jesus' love.

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

I now know that sin kills us, not God. God does not punish us with death when we sin. When we sin we pull away from life either a bit or a lot: that life is God. Knowing that Jesus did not save us from His Father's wrath, but that they come to find who is lost, heal who is sick, and bring life where there is death; gives me a new focus away from compulsively judging others. Abiding in Jesus the True Vine does help me to stay away from sinning. This insight that "sin kills us; not God"...thanks to Brad Jersak's book helps me view God more realistically...and I no longer fear God's wrath...it also helps me to abide in the True Vine: Jesus and fellowship with God. I also have a new appreciation of wanting to stay away from sin because of its consequences. Now that I see God in this new light I also want to imitate Him...and I don't feel the compulsion to be overly angry and abrasive with others as much like before.

Moreover I no longer focus on the possibility of punishment as the only deterrent to not sinning. Seeing sin and its awful consequences is more of a deterrent than fear of Hell. One starts to care about others more instead of whether one is going to hell or not. With this paradigm: (Sin kills us; not God) one has all fear cast out of oneself because God no longer appears to be the enforcer, policeman, jailor, and torturer; but is LOVE itself. The devil is the one that comes to kill...God gives life: Jesus came to give life. People who are condemned condemn themselves...God only reaches out to them in kindness; God does not condemn.

Sunday, May 31, 2015

It is interesting that God said He was digging tunnels of love in me...not building muscles of love in me so long ago...the former gives God the glory the later would have birthed pride. I'm like a glove and God is the hand; or God is the Vine and I'm a branch.

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

I have been dealing with a lot of psychosis of late...and this has worn hard on me. I remembered my pompous, proud, and boisterous claims of wanting a tough life, one

with constant challenges, much suffering, and much authority in the church. Yes I got a lot of pain, suffering, confusion, and challenges because of the gift of schizophrenia. But it has been brutal for so long a time now...that I didn't know if the rest of my life would entail such brutality/psychosis as my due.

I know that God's mercies endure every morning. That it was my pride, insensitivity, hatred, and contempt that prompted God to give me schizophrenia to cure my spiritual wows. And much healing has occurred. But the brutality I have experienced lately made me wonder if I asked for this and was it a gift from God? I know that when I chose my sins they had consequences that allowed the dark side into my life. I really hope that I don't have to suffer the rest of my life from these dark forces that mock, make fun, tease, ridicule, and hate me; and play horrible games in my mind.

Sunday, July 19, 2015

Lord God I now realize that: "let go and let God" is weaker than "let go of your code of conduct and trust Jesus to enable to love." Why? Because Codes don't give life. Yes the real thing can look like a code but codes like the LAW are not capable of giving life. Yes love lived out will look like the LAW...but the LAW makes nothing perfect.

Friday, July 24, 2015: The Problem of Hell!

For such a long time I have felt deathly afraid of my conceptions of hell. Even with healthier ones I was still so afraid of it that I would weakly jump from any ship aiming for the destination of hell. I say, "weakly" because I was trying to save myself and cared less for those still set on staying on such boats. Jesus did not jump ship, and Paul did not jump ship either. They stayed on those ships hoping to win those who knew no better. I still got iron in my heart. I still got pride. I don't want to land up in hell because the Bible warns us about it. But I don't want to see anyone permanently in hell. With Jesus strength and wisdom I would go there so that those there might embrace Heaven. If something is not done in love then it is not worth doing. I can't love supernaturally without Jesus...so He is coming with me cause He knows best and I am useless without Him.

Thursday, July 30, 2015: Pride

Why is my foremost attitude: "impress me" and not, "I care for you"? The former value system is devoid of humility, love, care, kindness, and compassion; the latter is the gift of God!

I just realized that I was grumpy, resentful, frustrated, and angry with God as though He were responsible for my shit and lack of love. I then realized that I'd never get anything from Him if I believed it was His fault. I was prompted to have an attitude change realizing that my shit and lack of love was a work of the Devil in conjunction with me. It was my fault I had all these negative attitudes in my heart. So in a prayer I prayed to God and found freedom to love!

One does not have to go through some convoluted mechanical hidden mysterious circumlocution to get God to answer ones prayers. Fact is we don't have because we don't ask...and we don't get because we ask demandingly haughtily proudly angrily as though God owes us. Admitting our part in getting us to where we are in a contritely humbly believing way will get God answer the best way possible.

Years ago I read a book on inter-relationships with family members. One thing that they said was if someone does something wrong or annoying to us then we ought not say to them, "You made me feel such and such when you did such and such". What we ought to say to them is, "I feel such when you do such!" Now there is something important about this! No one determines our feelings but us alone. We decide how we feel when others interact with us, not them. That puts power into our hands...so we can stop being hung up or blocked or blaming others for supposedly making us feel horrible. When we take our past or present feelings to God in prayer, owning them and discussing them with God then they will be dealt with.

Conviction says what you are doing is unhealthy...bring it to God in prayer, own it, ask for forgiveness, wisdom, understanding and freedom and Jesus will show you the way and restore you eventually. Condemnation says what you are doing is wrong, vile, and evil (how could you?), you are shameful, you can't quit and it's too hard to quit...and if you continue and God won't love you anymore...you are on your way to hell anyways! Condemnation is when we sentence ourselves with self-hatred. Fact is God's love for us is independent of our actions: God's love is unconditional.

Saturday, August 1, 2015: Strong vs. weak

A strong person is committed to the best interests of those in their lives; whereas a weak person is more interested in saving his or her ass! Thanks for pointing this out to me Sophie!

Monday, August 3, 2015: Progress...

There is no spiritual progress possible with a bad or sour image of God in our minds. When we accuse Him or blame Him for stuff in our lives that we don't want then He can't help us!

Progress and growth in a relationship between two people is halted when there is blame, and dredging up of old hurts that aren't forgiven.

Supernatural love cares for everyone for all eternity. The lost even when they remain lost...the hurting, the deceived, and the suffering, the crooked, the despised, the foolish, and the angry. God cares for all in: earth, purgatory, hell, and heaven.

Saturday, August 8, 2015: Rejection & Jealousy...

I have never forgiven myself for the genesis of my peers' rejection in SA of me so long ago. God would not reject me...He did not! In being rejected I also rejected myself: my identity, worth, warmth, joy, and need of forgiveness. I have forgiven myself tonight...I no longer hold it against myself praise be to God! I forgive myself for lying too. And I accept myself in Christ Jesus fully! Amen and Amen! Need to forgive myself for trusting a certain lady who was not worthy of my trust. Done!

Felt tons of jealousy within...had it all these many years without being aware of it...it grew and developed over the years...starting with coveting Leonard's ice cream, gifts, toys...etc! I need to own this sin, and confess it to God! Envy is wanting the attributes equal to or better than the person we envy. Jealousy is when we want or covet the possessions from another person. How does one conquer jealousy? Own it for what it is, and confess to God the exact nature of it along with its history, ask what lie or lies began it, and then ask for what truth(s) will set you free! Reject the lies one believed and humbly accept the truth. The truth sets us free.

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Healing Rejection (From June Hunt's eBook called: Rejection (Hope For The Heart)):

The rejection by somebody we love does hurt: even Jesus hurt when we rejected Him and took Him to the Cross. But He dealt with it in a healthy way unlike the way so many of us have dealt with rejection. What we do with the hurt through a darkened mind can have very negative repercussions. Below are two things that June Hunt recommends to those controlled by fear of rejection:

1. Fear of rejection controls those wounded by past rejection and lack of wisdom. So remembering the times of rejection from our pasts we should speak: "that was then, this is now: I won't let the pain of my past determine my present and future"!
2. Release each painful rejection to the Lord. "Lord Jesus, I release my fear of this pain into your hands."

I feel like baggage has been dealt with yet again. Thank you June and thank you Jesus for bringing the right nourishment at the right time yet again.

Anger has four roots: hurt/injustice/fear/and frustration. For me rejection caused me to feel a lot of hurt...and that made me angry with my peers who rejected me. I was also angry with myself and that made me hard on myself too. Lord God I have forgiven my peers and myself just now for the hurt/rejection I felt and my anger is gone in this context.. And now I feel joy again. I was nursing the hurt/ depression/ negativity I felt all these years with food/pop/and ice cream to the point of addictions. These addictions

have fluctuated: weak one period...and strong another depending on what God or I have been doing. I still feel more needs to be dealt with...

Friday, August 14, 2015

Lord God here I am. Broken...and lots of kaka coming out of me. I have a history of jealousy and envy. I own it...but I want to give it up. Please Lord God heal me of my spiritual vows! I am a sinner and I need your help. Lord God what lies am I believing? The lie is: "I got to have it now...immediately...without waiting for it...give me; give me, and give me; it is mine...ye mine!"

Lord God I repent in faith from having to get everything and to have it all the time, immediately, and at any price...so long as I get it. I guess prayer: honest, to the point, and humble prayer together with reversing bad actions with good actions is in store for me if real change is to take place.

Sunday, August 16, 2015

I am more and more experiencing God as a gentle shepherd like the 23rd Psalm invites. When I feel beaten, exhausted, buffeted, empty, and hopeless and when I feel isolated; embracing my faith in Jesus gently moves me into a place of hope and life and joy. God does not give up on us.

Sunday, August 23, 2015

Lord God here I am where you want me and I rejoice in it. Thanks so much! Amen, and Amen!

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

When it comes to expectations they can often be just desires or just rules. One important principle when it comes to our relationships is to give up some of our rules and accept them as desires instead when we ourselves can't enforce the rules. Also if our desires aren't met then we can go on living only having to deal with disappointments (which is easier than landing up judging others because of broken rules)...but if the desires were rules then the temptation is to get angry and judgmental each time the rules are broken and that means an emotional roller-coaster with negativity, and the need to process the anger over and over again. Moreover, the rules often have a hardness to them and jade our experiences of the people in our relationships. Seeing that we can't always enforce our rules, nor should we always try to enforce them, the healthiest thing to do is live and let live. Living with unresolved anger is very unhealthy. Moreover, we might seek to manipulate others into keeping our rules (been there and done that oh so often and not realizing it) so that we can seemingly be happy...but with desires no one is absolutely expected to follow through on the said desires each time: this is freeing for all involved. This is the difference between law- and grace- mentalities or approaches to life.

Moreover when we have desires for people to do this or that in our relationships we are kinder, more caring, more friendly, and more compassionate towards them than having rules to obey. Whereas when we hold onto the rules we will often hurt others, be a stink in their nostrils, and care more for the rules than the people we are called to love.

Saturday, August 29, 2015

I am again employing a strategy of being thankful for all things, and giving praise to God despite my circumstances. This too has an effect of making me more positive, less likely to be judgmental, less negative, less full of self-pity, and less angry; and therefore less hurtful towards others and self too. Also when I'm not thankful I get an attitude of self-entitlement (thanks Jeremy) that is most unhealthy; and it makes all things look hopeless... whereas when we give thanks to God He shows ways through circumstances that otherwise would appear as dead ends. Thank you Jesus for giving/reminding me of these insights.

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

"I have to have my way period!" Has been one of my life long desires...

...and has taken root into my heart warping my energy, and filling me with malice so that I land up hurting people...especially those close to me. Lord God I own this spiritual sickness and ask you to heal me from this and instead fill me with wholesome energy, kind attitudes, and peace...I therefore repent in faith from my sickness and ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen and Amen!

Sunday, September 6, 2015

What's the New Testament for?

I used to approach the NT as a tip book on how to improve on near perfection. Now I see it as a book written for those who are honest about their "sin" or spiritual maladies! The whole book can't be mastered in this life. Change involves a process and a journey. I don't have to chase that elusive ideal of perfection that is so often preached by some, or that I had set my heart upon up until a little while ago! I had no idea how unhealthy my heart and mind were ten-fifteen-years ago. God has not cleaned me up all at once. To be born from above or again is a process not a one-time decision. It does start with a commitment to Jesus but it involves a journey that often involves pain that is sustained by ones commitment.

I know I got a lot of legalism in my thinking and only grace through Jesus can set me free like God promised me! I got lots of sin in me: by that I mean unhealthy stuff in my heart. I am a sinner and that means I am far from perfect and will be imperfect my whole life long here on earth.

Grace as defined in the New Testament means: God's empowering presence and also as undeserved favor upon us. Grace in the first sense is how God empowers us to bring restorative justice to the world; whereas grace in the second sense is how God treats us. God is first and foremost into restorative justice. It is an attribute of His mind, will, and heart. It is how He wants to treat each and every person. Restorative justice is right, just, good, wholesome, healthy, healing, caring, compassionate, and peaceful. It is not an "eye for an eye" or a "tooth for a tooth" motivation. Grace means we not only work towards accepting the wrongs others have visited on us, but we also aim to learn to love them more and more deeply as time goes by.

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Fear is a killer of (natural and supernatural) love. Fallen angels try to motivate us through blind obedience to the powers that may be; and when we are in their grips it dries up our love and warmth. God does not motivate us through fear: Perfect love casts out all fear. Jesus taught to never give absolute authority/honor/respect/power to anyone when that authority alone belongs to God. If we give such power to mere humans then we will invite fear, blind obedience, and a hurting conscience as we are torn between what fallible people expect, and the truth in our hearts. Blind obedience makes us hurt others. Blind obedience kills intuition.

Thursday, September 10, 2015

I have been under some great delusions: lies, that had been laminated onto some of the Scriptures found in the Bible. With a clearer mind, and re-reading Scripture the Holy Spirit is overthrowing lies that made me fear-based in my theology and my life. I actually have the joy of God's Salvation in me again. He is the joy of this man's desire and life. The Gospels introduce Jesus as a meek and gentle Shepherd; one whose rod and Staff isn't about beating up His sheep or threatening them with blackest Hell if they don't keep certain-man-made-rules. God isn't always rule focused; He also has desires and doesn't threaten Hell when they aren't met all the time. He is Big enough to handle rejections...and non-compliance...our slowness to act, lack of understanding, wrong thinking, sinfulness, failures, and childlikeness. He knows what we are made of...and that we often have to go through learning curves. We all see unclearly in this life and stumble often. God still embraces us because He is love and is slow to anger. If we only see God in terms of having to keep rules then we destroy His personhood, His grace, His mercy, His kindness, and His compassion. God only cares about rules when they protect people. Love does no harm to ones neighbors. Relationship with God is much like that between a wife and a husband. The husband may have a desire but can accept that his wife is not on the same page yet. If he is wise he won't make his desire a rule because he cares for his wife and wants to win her, care for her,

and be kind to her and not be selfish towards her. God is the same way with us...He doesn't always get His way, and that is fine with Him because He isn't selfish.

I think it very important to keep the four Gospels front and center in our minds and hearts because they are the clearest pictures of who Jesus is. The Gospels are not like lawyer documents...but they paint pictures of Jesus and what He values. Therefore Paul's letters and the Rest of the NT need to be interpreted in this light. The Gospels show the joys, passions, and sorrows of Jesus as well as what is important to Him. Meditating on them by imagining the scenes and stories and accepting Jesus' love will open up our hearts and slowly renew our minds and actions.

The Church is not a bunch of clever principles, theology, or dogma that we give our whole lives to... case closed; but the Church is a collection of people with many human-facets. Principles, theology, and dogma are only important to the degree that they help us love the Church and those outside the Church. Jesus died for all of us...not for just a bunch of rules. Some people go to Church to build their theologies and give their whole lives to such endeavors. But we are called to give our lives first and foremost to those we are called to love.

Thursday, September 17, 2015

I recently realized that I resented and felt wounded by people in the past who did not bother to try to explain to me what I did that was wrong and why it was wrong each time before punishing me or dishing out the consequences. Putting things into boxes and punishing people because they break rules is not restorative justice and often does more harm if not properly processed. Here is a case in point:

It happened at Pine Grove Elementary School in SA when I was a child. Because my peers rejected me...I would do anything to increase my chances of being accepted again. So when my brother showed up and wanted to hang out with me I rejected him (thinking he would lower my chances or making friends) and we landed up getting into a tussle with me pushing him onto the ground. He promptly told a teacher and I got into trouble. Instead of finding out why I did what I did I was judged as a bad apple and made an example out of through shame. They never asked questions, probed, or cared about what I was going through. Now I know what I did to my brother was not acceptable but retributive justice did not make this right or healthy again. I have forgiven the teachers for this...and realize that I too can learn how to not judge so quickly...and instead learn to ask questions and understand people more before speaking one way or another.

The idea that punishment is going to correct a child does not address what is going on in the child's heart and mind: my story above shows that kids often do bad

stuff not because it is just fun or rebellious; but out of rejection or hurt. Talking with the child before disciplining is wiser and does not put behaviors and people into boxes.

Another lesson from this situation is that the victims learn that retributive justice is the only way to deal with conflicts or bad behaviors. The only way to deal with this false notion is to forgive those who promoted this mentality and to see the true image of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) by peeling off the lies the enemy tries to laminate onto our minds/ consciences/ hearts/ and our understandings. It is the kindness of God that leads to renewal/ health/ and peace. How much more does kindness lead to friendships with others and healthy relationships? If it works with God...it will work with us too.

Dealing with this theme in my relationships through forgiveness and renewal of my mind has made me feel much closer to God the Father.

Quotes:

Every day I get to choose my attitudes and self-esteem always in the vein of caring for others as myself.

You know you love someone when they change and still you love her or him.

Saturday, September 19, 2015

I now know that challenging rules, and commands can be a very good thing. If the only reason we obey these rules is out of fear then challenging the rules will help us understand them in a better light. We will either see why they are true, or why they only have power because of the fearful threats those who teach them make. We can't just follow stuff all the time blindly; if we do, then we have no understanding and we will hurt a lot of people.

People often approach spirituality the way they approach their life that comes from what they learned from parents, teachers, peers, media, books, trades, sports, or from the philosophies taught them in colleges or universities. I know that I approached the Bible like a mathematician for a long time. But such an approach is not what the writers intended. One can try to read the Gospels trying to get some great maxim or insight from them: but that leaves one disappointed because we are looking in the wrong way. Jesus is the good news...when we get a glimpse of Him then we connect with Him and that is far more profitable. To know God through Jesus is where it is at. Jesus is far more interesting, meaningful, loving, caring, joyous, peaceful, and wiser than maxims. He offers relationships and won't ever reject or leave us. He empowers us to love and fulfill the moral law.

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Being quiet, and asking Jesus for wisdom is the path to take, not trying to reason vaguely, or argue quickly and therefore blindly and independently one way or another. Real change in thinking is done being dependent on Jesus, Holy Spirit, and God the Father. Trying to go quickly invites doubt, unbelief, anxiety, distance from God, and fears. Patiently waiting in conversation with Jesus leads to peace, perspective, and reasonableness. The Scriptures are not meant to be approached as a math or philosophy book. God is the only absolute...!

I am beginning to discover the beauty of Scripture again. God is speaking to me through the Bible again in a much deeper way because there is power in it and I am taking it seriously again and I'm seeing it more applicable than ever in my life. Music that lost its punch for many years is becoming meaningful again (because it is birthed from wrestling and embracing Scripture).

Being strong is where things are at. Thinking one is vulnerable because one is having a pity party impresses no one; not even God. The, "oh poor me"-attitudes...lead to insecurity, further weakness, uncertainty, and plenty of doubt. Deciding to be strong in a wise/ gentle/ caring way leads to security, courage, and perseverance. The Book of Joshua in the OT has God saying to Joshua that he needed to be strong in conquering the Promised Land. In conquering the depths of our hearts and all that God has for us is going to take being strong in Jesus.

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Have to stop beating myself over the head for sins I committed in the past...there is forgiveness....and no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! Amen!

Realized today that fallen angels have determined the agenda when it comes to the topics of my thoughts and the direction they have been taking. Also realized thanks to Joyce Meyer that I can determine the agenda and direction of my thoughts instead of them. The safest places right now for me are to meditate on Scripture, what I studied in books, bible study, and focusing on God's promises not the devil's lies. My wife once made the comment to me: "why do you go there?" She knew she could determine her thoughts I didn't at the time...now I do!

Friday, October 2, 2015

I finally know that I have been a complainer, murmurer and whiner most my life and that it is a pathway to judgmental ism and insensitivity. When something disagrees with me I have escalated it in the twinkling of an eye to hostility using the phrase: "fuck this" and by default bypassing the kindness and reasonableness that God has put into my heart. This bypass paints the world rather black and white with no feel for the color in between: one is at either extreme with no sensitivity in between. Paul makes it clear that we ought to be pure, clean, and

holy or healthy when it comes to what we think and speak to others, ourselves, and God.

When we are complainers we will question the goodness of God when circumstances are dark and God seems silent because complaining leads very quickly to anger and judging. So we will feel anger towards God and justified in it in such circumstances. The Bible says that we ought not rely entirely on our own understanding when things are chaotic about us because God cares for us even when it seems like He doesn't. Things can really seem horrible, make perfect sense but be totally horribly wrong. Perseverance, patience, and faith are keys to getting through such trials: patience pacifying escalating anger; hope that gets us through the bends on the rough roads, and faith that grounds us with a healthy view of God and reality that sets us straight for future challenges and gets us the promises of God! The Bible says that it is through faith and patience that we obtain the promises of God (Thanks Joyce Meyer) and that patience is not just the ability to wait, but to wait with a good attitude.

In considering First Corinthians 13:1, I made a BIG error with interpreting it as a young Christian. It says that, "though I speak in tongues like men or angels but am without love I'm only a resounding gong or clashing cymbal" and I wrongly interpreted this as saying that only truth is important and it didn't matter much on how it was delivered...think judgmentally/ angrily/ insensitively/ and self-righteously. But I know now that this is totally erroneous. Soft respectful tones, tenderness, patience, care, compassion, and tears are far more important and a harshness with an angry face saying: "I'm right and you are wrong and this is all that matters" needs to be jettisoned.

Saturday, October 10, 2015

In the past when something I disliked happened or was inconvenient and came my way I'd cynically and immediately say: "I just don't understand" and this would fuel the negative thoughts, anger, abrasive ness, poor me thoughts and judgmental ism I struggle within my mind. Fact is love tries to understand, be reasonable, tolerant, caring and, gracious. We are all human...and allowances need to be made for this. Yes when shit happens the devils will try to plant negative, malicious, and volatile codes into our minds that will make us feel stuff that we don't want to feel. Just because the thoughts and feelings are there don't mean they are true or reflect reality or that we are bad and shameful people. When such thoughts come to mind we don't have to own them if we don't embrace and act them out.

We are not save by Jesus unto the Law. We are saved by the forgiveness of our sins. We are not under the Law, but under Grace. Jesus didn't save us and then

give us Law that if we fail to keep we land up going to Hell. We are saved by the forgiveness of our sins. All who land up in Heaven do so because they are forgiven their sins. We are saved unto good works...we don't do good works in order to be saved. We are saved unto freedom. God did not die for us and give us a rule book in His place with Him leaving us alone. We are made for relationship. The Law only points out sin.

There is no other name by which we must be saved but by the name of Jesus. Not the Pope or a Bishop or a Priest: only Jesus. God is all that matters!

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

More things are coming into focus for me! Been on one hell of a trip lately! Definitely a lot less paranoia now...but the trip I was on took me to places I'd rather not have visited. I'm getting more proficient at staying away from the devil's sucker punches! Prayer, God given wisdom, a community of believers, and Scripture are helping me to fight back against the devils in my mind! I don't know what the future holds...but even though I went to my personal hell on this trip...I learned stuff that is fundamental to a healthy Christian walk. Thanks to those who have been instrumental in putting up with my rubbish and bad attitudes that needed to be transformed into healthier stuff.

So how does one deal with thoughts that makes one feel insecure, weak, fearful, angry, judgmental, needy, disrespected, or guilty? On one level these thoughts/feelings could spring from personal baggage from our pasts, or they could be lies that devils have just put into our minds to sucker punch us. First off we can determine the agenda for what goes on in our minds and not wrongly give that power to others: namely devils. If we can re-focus on what is pure, holy, of good repute, peaceful, and beautiful...giving us wholesome positive feelings then the thoughts that were in our heads are lies; not baggage from our past. On the other hand, if we we can't find rest no matter how much we struggle or try to focus on truth, beauty, and kindness...with no wholesome feelings being manufactured, then this is a sign that we have baggage from our past that needs to be dealt with. Dealing with this is a process done in prayer, meditation, patience, a community, wisdom, kindness and perseverance. Moreover, if God shows us that the negative stuff is no ours then that will give us permission and freedom to not listen to it and not focus on it. Often we focus on stuff only because we think it is ours. Knowing it is not ours lets us set the agenda for our thought lives.

Friday, October 16, 2015

Well things are getting much better for me in the mornings. The Paranoia is gone. Knowing the origin of my thoughts, the devils' tactics, and learning how to

approach life in a healthy way is key to my recent stability. Thank you Jesus for never giving up on me. I have so much to live for. I am stronger than I thought. I don't need others to love me for me to commit to loving them. God operates the same way. He loves us before we are conceived, before we become His, even when we are His worst enemies, even when we reject Him or fall into serious sins; even when we are apathetic. God is love...and His burden is not heavy. He does not bully us. He does not expect us to beat ourselves up. But the devil cultivates this in anyone who is susceptible to his cunning.

I have a smile on my face more naturally during each day's passing. People are giving me encouraging compliments. I am having rich conversations with people. I don't know where I am going. But that is par for the course. I commit all into God's hands.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

People who are judgmental may vacillate between "poor me" and "revenge" attitudes and in either case they will only measure out love less than or equal to what others measure out to them. They are insecure and choose to not love those who don't love them. They are insecure, motivated by fear of rejection, and have low self-esteem. They don't know their worth in God's eyes. They have believed lies that make them more like parasites than lovers. They are motivated by a selfish kind of love. They hunger for power to control people, the present and the future. Therefore they seek knowledge in these areas either from the occult or in prayer to God. Saving face is their goal. They often view God's love as conditional, God as hard to please, and God as someone who only loves you if you belong to Him, or you got your theological ducks in a row. They may believe God only starts to love you once you give Him reign over your life. They also believe they ought only love others once they belong to their brand or denomination. The judgmental often feel they aren't respected when people don't always do as they please. Their efforts to get respect always fall short because they act from the flesh (weakly or strongly) and people sense this as inauthentic. Judgmental people blame, blame, and blame.

Non judgmental people are stronger and love lavishly even those who treat them like shit. They are not insecure...they have hope...and believe the best about everyone else. They do not see themselves as being at the capricious or fickle mercy of others...there is no struggle for power in them. They are not motivated by fear. They are not motivated by fear of rejection. They aren't attempting to use God as a good luck charm or as someone with a crystal ball that predicts the future conveniently for them so they can safely navigate tricky relationships or economic uncertainty. They trust God with the future and live as much as possible in the present. They view God's love as unconditional, that He is merciful to both

the righteous and the wicked; the knowledgeable and the ignorant. Non judgmental people love, love, and love.

Grace means that God loves us unconditionally. Not as we deserve. Lavishly. Patiently. Caring. Forever.

We are all like lame, sick, or diseased people spiritually. The only way to get healthy is through the great physician: Jesus. If we learn to trust Him He can mend us or do surgery and therapy on us and so eventually heal us...but if we do not trust Him we will forever be lame, sick, or diseased. Such a situation is a hell in it self. We need to be healed; we need Jesus. He is the way. Being healthy spiritually means we are holy and in Jesus.

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Convicted by the Holy Spirit of more hypocrisy in my life. I realized that I judged certain people by how they slowly got off the bus and held up the rest of us passengers aiming for home or work. I thought I was better because I always tried to get off the bus quickly. Now I realize that I got off early purely for selfish reasons; and not because I cared for the other passengers. Realizing this gives me the opportunity to grow more in love for others and die to more of my hypocrisy.

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

When one is intolerant of, or judges harshly another person's conduct as "deeply sinful and unacceptable" (rightfully or wrongfully) that one happens to do one self (knowingly or unknowingly), then this is hypocrisy. The behavior will not be repented from successfully/ removed/ healed/or cleaned up until the hypocrisy is repented from or dealt with successfully. It is so easy to compartmentalize stuff, and when we do so we become blind and will hurt a lot of people when given the opportunity to do so.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

When we have any dark criticism towards God it gives Satan a stronghold in our minds/ hearts...that can only be removed with God's leadings and our co-operations. We don't always see just how wrong and judgmental, condemning, and intolerant we can be. But when we see Jesus loving on someone whether in the Gospels or in our communities, then we are in a position to see the errors of our ways when we aim to be conscientious. Yes, there are many things that one can use to malign God (like fiery darts from the devil who makes accusations based on lies fabricated out of our ignorance/ unknowing and senses of injustices) ...but rushing into critiquing God's ways is folly. God's timing is something we need to respect and not throw shadows upon. Yes, we can feel like God has abandoned us. But when we ignore the visible goodness God has visited on us in our pasts and

begin to darkly question Him in pressing areas, then we are foolishly playing into the devil's wicked schemes. This does not mean the devil has won...but it is not a good place to be. Sometimes the way is narrow. Supernatural love is a result in part of having a correct image of God in our minds/ hearts. Holding onto this with our faith in tact can be really difficult, and burdensome. I've been there and done that. There is so much bad stuff in the world.

Bad stuff is bad stuff, but God uses bad stuff to make good out of it in the end. His wisdom sees stuff that we are blind to. His understanding is precise, and exact. His purposes are often hidden requiring us to have faith, trust, hunger for righteousness, and commitment through the rough stuff and renouncing the seduction of the world. God can let things go on even when we scream: "Enough of this bloody sh--" because of our limited understanding, poor judgments, and desires for instant gratification.

We cannot participate in supernatural love when we darkly judge or turn our backs on God or anyone else.

Thursday, October 22, 2015: Hitting Roots

When one gets angry with others because ones' expectations are not realized pursuing forgiveness might be the red herring. I mean that if the expectation is based on selfishness then the selfishness needs to be repented from never mind forgiving others who did no harm! The selfishness might show up in anger but also in self pity and this also needs to be dealt with.

God's Timing

When we accuse God of being late and hold it against Him in an uncharitable fashion we lose out on so much! Yes, God can demand a lot from us...and it is OK to feel the weight of it...but to complain, bicker, whine, and criticize God is not healthy! If we don't expect God to show up on time, then we aren't believing that He is a reward-er of those who believe He exists and is good! Such an attitude goes against healthy prayer...and the only way to rid ourselves from it is to pray through it and deal with it until the burden is gone and then we have our enthusiasm is back!

Such negative attitudes pollute our other relationships too because if God doesn't come through when we want why should we be gracious when others want it from us too!

Don't focus on your weaknesses... don't indulge in it; instead believe you can do all things when it comes to loving those in your life! Don't focus on neediness or have a poor me attitude! Believe you are strong in Jesus and love deeply in the now! Tune out all that negative stuff and move in the Spirit! Healthy thinking, healthy

believing, healthy seeking, healthy doing, and healthy attitudes mean we are abiding in Jesus.

Sunday, October 25, 2015

How do I be an open person... a kind person? And not a closed person, not a selfish person? How do I be a warm person and a giving person; not a poor me person?

There is attempting to change a person

There is attempting to change how we see a person

Then there is attempting to change ourselves

The first is God's prerogative not mine

The latter will inform the second...

Not complaining leads to perspective, realism, non-idealism, patience and faith...and surprisingly trusting people instead of having fears growing out of insecurities because we no longer are looking for things to criticize and find wrong with people. Not choosing whining gives us a feel for people so we have an intuition, connectedness, a trust, a fellowship, a roomy relationship that allows for ups and downs and the ability to forge deeper and deeper commitments to each other. Such is living life and that means growth.

I got to stay away from the LAW in the sense of having the attitude, or motivation: I got to or must keep it. The Law makes nothing perfect. Trusting Jesus to save us from sin is key...that is where the grace is. I'm glad I went to church this morning. It was a good message. I am not under the Law. I am under grace. Thank God!

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

All the Law can give is us cold pride, hard guilt, or condemning shame. Jesus wants to give us warmth, comfort, forgiveness, and grace; and more so Himself. It's a no brain-er; I choose Jesus! Satan has power when we focus on the LAW as a means to righteousness. Jesus wants to give us rest and purpose, whereas the Law always asks for more and can't give us rest; neither can we satisfy its demands. The devil loves to ask questions that detract from the simplicity of grace and in that vein stop grace from being realized in our love lives. His questions try to give us the feeling that we are wise and knowledgeable but robs us of what Jesus seeks to give us. These question the devils entertain us with are theological quicksand...they suck the life out of us when we focus on them and don't realize that they are meant to immobilize us. It is good to not go too far beyond what is written or implied; and to stay away from trying to solve paradoxes. Now when I get preoccupied with a topic that seems to promise a lot of good, then I choose to ask myself if it is fruitful or just a technical waste of time and a waste of brain power.

Saturday, October 31, 2015

Yes, what exactly is confession? It is not just saying I am sorry. When I confess to God then I start by admitting in words to Him what I did and admit it's nature: bad, reckless, ugly, proud, or selfish whatever the case maybe... and also I may need to express just how much I knew or didn't know about how wrong it was; and whether it was done in freedom or not. Then I confess I'm sorry to God and I ask Him to forgive me as I resolve to repent in faith with His help from doing the same sins again. This silences my conscience and the fiery darts from the evil one meant to shame me. I then receive forgiveness and God strengthens and heals me to help me not go back to the vomit. This is the meaning from First John 1:9 which says: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" NIV.

Sunday, November 1, 2015

I'm now more aware than before that there are more ways of knowing stuff. Not all knowledge comes from our five senses together with our reasoning, intellect, understanding and conscience. I realize now that my spirit also has knowledge...it senses things that the other sources miss out on and often is at odds with what fallen angels want us to believe but is in sink with what the Holy Spirit wants us to know. Realizing this and confirming its witness to events through prayer will release us from many of the snares that the devil sets. Trying to trust people not using the intuition from our spirit does not work well. Our spirits read other people's energies, intentions, and motives and when listened to will guide us together with the light of Christ on the path of faith. When we are open to listening to all these ways of knowing we will grow in wisdom and patience and wild goose chases will become things of the past.

Spirit Knowledge Continued:

Going by faith alone can mean that we endure a kind of suffering when carrying the doubts that assail us. But we don't have to navigate only by faith. Yes, faith is important and helps us overcome much adversity. But there is also knowledge that God has endowed our spirits with; a kind of knowing; that leads us to trusting others deeply, consolingly, and refreshingly...or not at all in those places that don't merit it; and this intuition from our spirits cares for others and negates some of the doubts we encounter in our relationships that can otherwise torment us. This knowledge does give us rest... peace... joy... hope... patience, and solidifies our bonds and connections to people in relationships. When the spirits' abilities are discounted, ignored, or negated by lies from the evil one then we become wounded (disconnected) and it stops us from being whole.

Friday, November 6, 2015

Realized that when I first became sick with Schizophrenia that I tried to read the Bible with the same emotions that made me so happy before but I was prevented from doing this. Even after being on medications for years...I wanted to do the same. Yet now I know that some of those emotions I felt had ideas or interpretations behind them that were unhealthy. Why because now I see that I poured a lot of meanings into Scripture that were false. But the good news is that the old is being challenged and healthier interpretations are replacing the older ones and along with them newer cleaner emotions are coming into place.

The god that breathes fire at my least infraction and needed to punish his son on a tree just to vent his wrath so he could accept me used to be the way I saw things (not any more) ...but reading much from those who studied the early Church Fathers and seeing that the kind of god/God I believe in determines the kind of person I am... meant I needed to see things in a way that leads to love.

I don't see sin as punishable by God. I see sin as its own punishment. The sting of death is sin not God's fitting plan. God does not punish us on top of our sin. Sin limits us in community, immobilizes us, robs us of health, and destroys God's image in us, it shames us. So we are sent to bring healing not judgment to the people in the world. People who understand this and say: "no" are saying no to healing and healing is a taste of heaven. A patient ought to trust his or her doctor. Without trust there can be no healing. That is why I don't like making lists of sin and loading them on people as burdens. I only like to share stuff that is helpful to healing and restoring friendship with God and people and families.

The idea that Salvation is all about healing comes from the Gospels themselves who have Jesus saying He is a physician. This corresponds well to the definition for sin or evil as spiritual diseases that need to be healed; and goodness as spiritual health.

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Today I realized while we were worshipping God in church that I wanted the music to be more emotionally appealing and exciting to me...so I saw that I was more interested in wanting the music to make me happy than that it made God feel good. Strange... worship is supposed to be about glorifying God. I now want to direct my singing to God consciously, deliberately, and with intention. It makes me happy to make God happy. And that makes what I say more meaningful. Saint Augustine said, "she or he who sings prays twice." So Singing ought to not be about delighting in my own beauty, creativity, and preferences. Just like prayer should not be where I gloat over my spiritual riches, or get absorbed by my own beauty. Prayer and worship is where I see the beauty of God and He is my focus.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Today I read a devotional that hit me in a very broken place in a really good healing and healthy way. The writer said that many people after they have regressed or fallen back from healthy progress in their journeys, or been ensnared by their enemies (human or spiritual) can come back from such negative pitfalls or circumstances. I needed to hear this because it tells me I can do the same. The writer mentioned Johnny Cash as an example of someone who came back from stuff many times over. I know now that we humans can let events define us from our pasts. Events such as failures, traumatic experiences, lies, rejections, fights, drugs, addictions...etc. I know now that I let a "rejection" determine in a very unhealthy way my understanding, energy, confidence, and the way I navigate my relationships. It was the rejection by my peers in SA.

The temptation for me has been that when a relationship goes sour or encounters difficulties I inwardly feel the pressure to demand, manipulate, and force stuff so I'll somehow restore the relationship. But this very attempt pushes people away...and isn't a method because it is needy, negative, abrasive, cold, demanding, and not done from a place of warmth, friendship, kindness, and freedom. Love attracts; demanding pushes away. This darkness needed to be jettisoned through prayer. And leads to this revelation: My friends have the right to choose their friends. I'm no jail keeper. This brings me freedom and joy... because this truth has been uncovered by the Holy Spirit.

Envy, if it is a constant companion causes depression and negativity which can be so intense that people who have major envy become addicts just so they can nurse/control/negate their depressing and negative attitudes and therefore have some happiness.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

I have struggled with loving some of those who come from different faith traditions (especially Islam) wanting to keep the West predominantly Christian. I have never liked the American use of force in the Middle East since 9/11. I have never like the ISIS movement either. But I wanted to take a heavy hand against Islam in response to their draconian measures to spread Islam...yet I was torn between such harshness and the teachings from Jesus on non violence. But now I've got my resolution. I don't want to become what I despise in my enemy and so become like my enemy. That is what would happen if I were to use force against Islam. The way of love is Jesus. The way of Jesus is love.

Monday, November 16, 2015

I did not have a good definition for "conceited" thinking it was only pride, but now I do thanks to a sermon given at church: "A person who is conceited is empty of honor. Such person believes they deserve more recognition than they are

receiving. Such a person draws attention to themselves. They are honor hungry. They are always competing, and always comparing. Conceited persons provoke and disrupt. Conceited persons are both envious and proud. When envious they feel inferior; when they are proud they feel they are superior.”

Lord God I am busted: I had conceited pride and did not know it. I have been in the habit of complimenting people with truth...but doing it more because I wanted to look good in their eyes than to blessing them. I wanted honor and was willing to do anything to get it.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Today I finally understood that the state and the Church ought to be separate. If I don't hold this I'm going to either fight theological wars using the state in an attempt to Christianize the enemy through legislation, enforcement, and wars; and push supposed Christian values onto other kingdoms, empires, cultures, and Religions through force not love. Christian Spiritual wars ought not be fought through weapons that hurt, kill, maim, and torture. Jesus Himself taught us that His Kingdom is not like those on earth. I came to this conclusion while meditating on the crucified Christ. If I take up a weapon to kill an enemy who wants me dead then I have become the enemy. One pillar to practicing tolerance is to separate Church from State. The State ought to practice healthy ruler-ship, and should not be the tool of religion or vice versa. The State ought to protect the helpless, and the minorities. Restorative justice more so than retributive justice ought to be the state's focus. Restorative justice is a value long overlooked by the Church. It needs to embrace it rather than trying to dole out judgments, condemnations, punishments, and holy wars.

Unfortunately, the West has not followed this hence the mess in the Middle East, Europe, and the States. I know that I have preached tolerance but been limited, and weakened in my attempts to practice it because I had one foot in the Kingdom of the Church and the other one in the Kingdom of the State.

I am still a Christian, and more than ever see that I need to respect other faiths and traditions because peace starts with tolerance. Jesus did not hate His enemies...and when I ask what would Jesus do or ask me to do...I believe He asks me to use my higher right to lay down my lower rights, love your enemies, care for the poor, live and let live, and let Him worry about justice between the nations.

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Luke 5:37-38 says:

And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear

the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. "But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins....

What I gathered from this parable was that we are to have a complete change of life. But the above language was hard for me to grasp; how do I go about it? I now know that the old clothes, and old wineskins represent our old way of life...but more than that: they represent our "attitudes". If we have "sour" attitudes that we don't undo and replace slowly over time then those attitudes limit, and handicap our ability to love, care, be positive, and caring towards others. God wants to give us a new attitude and this happens over time through confession, forgiveness, and renewal of the mind in the way we see, believe, think, and act. God wants to do a complete renovation in each of us; He isn't into patch work...the old must be done away with. Old attitudes need to be dealt with first. Everyone likes a treasure to have no flaw. We need to be the same way in how we grow our spiritual lives.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

This quote captures where the power of prayer can be leveraged to change how we think, react, and act:

Between stimulus and response there is a space.
In that space is our power to choose our response.
In our response lies our growth and our freedom.
Victor E Frankl – psychologist holocaust survivor

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Unforgiveness, envy, judging, pride, and anger can all be roots for addictions. But there is one more root. This root has to do with trying to fill that God-shaped-vacuum (for meaning, purpose, peace, life, and happiness) within us with idols such as sex, food, junk-food, cigarettes, soda pop, alcohol, exercise, people, shopping, or gambling...! These idols can be like magnets that attract us relentlessly but ultimately they offer no lasting relief. But this can be broken in prayer through confessing this dynamic as wrong, owning its history, saying we are sorry, asking Jesus for forgiveness and healing, receiving it in faith, and repenting in faith from it along with renewing our minds with practical wisdom and submitting to God in all things while resisting the devil.

Tuesday, December 22, 2015: Cynicism???

Thought I knew the word...but now I do...it means to expect the worst...the nemesis of, "hope". This cynicism can range from being minor to major. It kills creativity. Makes life seem boring. It makes us put pressure on people to impress us; instead of us caring for those people. It stops us from encouraging others. It takes away enthusiasm for the small things. Cynicism is a negative attitude that pushes people away from us, and makes us

question their loyalty, and good intentions. When conflict approaches the cynic is filled with fear of losing, and puts a lot of pressure on themselves to get what they want, but with an abrasive and weak approach.

I have known these symptoms for years, but I wouldn't have used the word cynical until now. But things are changing for the better in this department thanks to life giving change from new truth, confession to God, forgiveness from God, healing from God, and jettisoning the dark and negative and replacing it with warmth and grace filled truths... thanks to Jesus, Father God, and Holy Spirit...amen!

When we expect the worst then we don't care as much for other things and other people because we got enough rubbish of our own. Therefore, cynicism leads to the numbing of our life force/ emotions/ will/ and thinking. Cynicism distorts the truth and darkens an otherwise colorful world.

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

The desire to control others is a lot like moral policing in that it springs from pride. When we confess the exact nature, details, and wrongness of trying to control others; owning the sin of control and manipulation, and asking God to forgive us and heal us and receiving these gifts in faith...along with committing to repent in faith, renewing the mind, and submitting to God while resisting the devil, then this stronghold will lose its power. Control is rooted in pride because it demands and manipulates others to get its own selfish ways.

The Cross:

Jesus' passion/ suffering/ and death on cross shows His willingness to take our shit. When we take up our crosses we are doing and saying the same to others as He did and does with us.

Thursday, December 23, 2015

When we've prayed to God renouncing our idols that we put in place of God...remember that we did so because we wanted peace, meaning, life, and happiness, but the idols could not assuage our hunger and thirst for these things...only God can. So it is only fitting that when we worship God one of the things we can do is call Him our peace, meaning, life, and happiness.

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

It is true that we can attempt to fill our needs for peace, meaning, happiness, and life with offensive idols in our hearts, but that the real estate of our hearts ultimately belongs to God. When we renounce our idols through confession, forgiveness, healing, repentance, submission, and invite God into those places...we are not doing Him a favor. We are not the landlords...God is the LandLord. We can treat the LandLord shamefully, or with respect.