

Miracles that follow the plow :: frustration and emptiness

frustration and emptiness - posted by crusader (), on: 2007/12/28 3:53

Hi everyone

i havent posted on sermon index for awhile due to some stuff that is pulling me this way and that way. Guilt, Guilt, Guilt followed by shame that has been a burden on my mind for over two years now. My wife is so dead spiritually that we can not even agree on biblical principals, for over 13 years it has been this way. i left her a few years back because of the religious, legilistic noose that she had around my neck. Although i felt free to talk to God more i had guilt thinking my vows as a husband and father so i killed a relationship i was in and had to go back to my wife. although we agreed to give things another try, i find myself feeling my spirit die in the house slowly each day. some days i will wake up and rush to the Lord and stand up and fight the enemy. other days i just lock myself away in hopelessness.

My burden everyday is that i need to witness and share the gosepel but with out the support at home, with out the love in the relationship i feel naked before the worlds enemy.

the churches that i walk into are so dead today the people seem like shiny gold vases that have cob webs inside. to sleep next to someone everynight with out even hugging or kissing for weeks on end. I would go into the harshes battles for a touch of love from my wife but it is not their.

i see christian women with christ in their eye's and my heart drops for i would give up all of my possessions for a partner like this.

normally by now i would erase my post as it feels uncomfortable to be so negative but today i will post it.

my wife does not want to move in the spirit, and it's killing me that she is not. i needed to get things out of my heart even if my thinking is way off.

Re: frustration and emptiness - posted by davym (), on: 2007/12/28 6:13

Brother, this sounds like a tough test. But remember it is a test and the Lord is with you in it.

Quote:

-----My wife is so dead spiritually

Was she ever saved? or is she just backslidden. Difficult question I know, but her position sounds perilous and you might be her only hope.

Quote:

-----Although i felt free to talk to God more i had guilt thinking my vows as a husband and father so i killed a relationship i was in and had to go back to my wife.

Brother, that was a big step in the right direction!

Quote:

-----My burden everyday is that i need to witness and share the gosepel but with out the support at home, with out the love in the relationship i feel naked before the worlds enemy.

This is more wonderful than you think. What a blessing to have this burden. A sure mark that Christ is living in you! Rem

ember that your protection against the world's enemy is Christ. He may use support at home and love in a relationship to help you, but He may not. My point is that these elements are not essential to being a good witness. In fact, it sounds like God needs you to be a witness to your wife. Lean on Christ, get close to Him, cry to Him, unload to Him. He'll direct you out of this wilderness. You'll know in your heart what He wants you to do. The hard part for all of us is having the faith and courage to do it.

Quote:

-----i see christian women with christ in their eye's and my heart drops for i would give up all of my possessions for a partner like this.

YOU MUST DIE TO THIS BROTHER! This little thought pattern is more dangerous than a tumour. You are married and remember those vows. They were taken before a holy God. Trust that one day you will see Christ in the eyes of your wife.

Thanks for posting a very personal issue. I'm sure many people will relate to it. Keep praying and trusting and I pray that God will turn things around for you. You're not alone. It's a pity your church is dead. Is there no believers you can confide in? A men's fellowship programme?

Below is an oft quoted verse, but eternally beautiful. If you can, take the time and meditate on it.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8v28)

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2007/12/28 7:46

Brother, I am praying for you and your wife.

Pray without ceasing. Pray for your wife. Pray for her salvation. Pray for strength to endure. Pray for wisdom and revelation. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move through you. But mostly, pray that the Lord molds you into the man that He wants you to be. Serve the Lord first, and all else WILL come into place.

The verse that comes to mind about your wife is:

Romans 12:20

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.

or from the OT

Proverbs 25:21-22

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

I pray for a change of heart and spirit for both of you.

I am glad you posted this posting brother. It has blessed me in many ways. May it do the same for you.

Re: frustration and emptyness - posted by dohzman (), on: 2007/12/28 8:08

I will pray for you and your whole household. During this time learn the lessons of contentment which are of Great value in the SIGHT of God. God Bless bro. daryl

Re: - posted by nowhr2hide (), on: 2007/12/28 9:06

Quote:

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I am glad you posted this posting brother. It has blessed me in many ways. May it do the same for you.

I'd say amen

crusader

When you pray in your own time at your prayer closet. Go before the Lord and stand with him.

Meditate on things of God read Hosea and seek other study about Hosea and you will see the similarity of your situation.

Prayer will be dedicated for you and your family.

Re: frustration and emptyness - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/28 9:33

hey bro, I have an assignment for you. That verse "after ye have suffered for a little while"

There is a hidden truth in this verse and it applies directly to any of us going through the wilderness.

The hidden part has to do with the length of time we are in the wilderness.

David

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2007/12/28 11:58

What about seeking counsel from elders in the church that could give godly counseling to you and your wife?

Re: frustration and emptiness - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/12/28 12:06

The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, that is one of Satan's greatest deceptions. Other women will always appear more spiritual than your wife, but that's because you see your wife when she is the most vulnerable, and you only see other Christian women when they have their makeup and 'spiritual clothing' on.

Being close to another person is one of the greatest privileges that you have, but it can also be one of the greatest stumbling blocks. You need to learn to love her even when she is not spiritual, and lead by example, be spiritual! Be consistent in your devotions, in prayer, in fasting, in setting a Christlike example, if she continues to let her down, well, you've got ten a taste of what Christ had to deal with when dealing with his Apostles.

Here was Jesus trying to tell them that he was going up to Jerusalem to be crucified and that he would rise again on the third day... and all they wanted to talk about was which one of them was greater -he was trying to communicate something to them spiritually, and their heads were not set on spiritual things.

One of the old testament prophets was told to marry a harlot so that he could understand God's heart for Israel. The betrayal, the iniquity, the heartbrokenness. From what you've described, you have experienced nothing to this level.

God is ready to bear your burdens, but you need to lay them all on him. Do not rely on what you have to love this woman, your heart will always fail, you need to have the heart of Christ towards this woman, and the only way to do that is to give your heart to Jesus for him to put his own in your chest.

When you see your wife through the eyes of Jesus, you will see her with a burden, not as a burden.

Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/12/28 12:15

A good read for you would be Pilgrim's Progress, it is an allegory for deeper spiritual life, and although the Pilgrim leaves his wife to go on the pilgrimage in the book, this doesn't dismiss you from your duty to your wife in the worldly sense.

My point is, you can only take the spiritual journey for yourself, but you need to set an example for your wife to follow. As you set out on the journey she may scoff as the wife of Christian in Pilgrim's Progress did, but when she recognizes your devotion the Spirit will move within her heart and help her see that you desired her to pilgrimage with you the whole time.

It is hard to leave your wife spiritually, but you need to be the trailblazer for your wife and your family, to fight the battles and secure the victory and it is Jesus' duty to take care of the rest.

You cannot make your wife any more spiritual than she is, you can only show her the way, it is her job to take the next step, and it is the job of the Spirit to take her. Your main concern should be setting a Christlike example for her, as Christian did in the allegory in Pilgrim's Progress.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/12/28 14:34

Quote:
-----my wife does not want to move in the spirit, and it's killing me that she is not. I needed to get things out of my heart even if my thinking is way off.

Brother, did you ever consider that God may be using your wife to break you? I have learnt that God uses friction and adversity through the people closest to us to refine our own character - and after we've allowed God's finger the liberty it requires, He will then take care of the other person without you having to move a muscle. God can change your "weak" wife overnight; you, on the other hand, can take years to change, due to your greater spiritual strength and knowledge.

This is why, in His wisdom, he will pair us up with what often seems to be a spiritually-incompatible mate. Note, I am not alluding to unbelievers marrying believers; I am speaking of professing Christians, but at different levels in God's school. God will use your "weaker" wife to sand some rough edges off you, and He will use her as a spiritual lathe to shave the fat off the meat of your sacrifices.

Miracles that follow the plow :: frustration and emptiness

Remember that your wife is the weaker vessel - for a reason. Give honor to her, according to such knowledge, and treat her extra special and do thank God He uses the weak things to humble and refine the strong and wise.

Brother Paul

Re:, on: 2007/12/28 14:58

Crusader, heed brother PaulWest's timely advice he has spoken truth into your relationship.

Quote:

-----Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/28 16:54

iansmith, I agree pilgrims progress is excellent reading.

It answers a lot of questions and somehow adds a bedrock to the believer.

it is required reading in some bible colleges.

David

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/28 17:22

Quote:

PaulWest wrote:

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Brother Paul

Brother, thank you for sharing your heart, i believe there is enormous amount of truth in this what you are saying. It blessed me very much and touched me in a special way. It is my experience that God uses our family much in the "school of God" , even as for me it has been some very painful realizations of my own sinfulness and wretchedness and pride, i have to thank God he is showing me them and working with me. God works in effective ways...he knows the best treatment for bringing us to the places we ought to be.

Re: frustration and emptyness - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/12/28 19:53

Take our brother Paul's words to heart brother .. I can speak from experience but am hesitant to say much towards it all just here.

A couple of things that have been very helpful. One, was this perspective contained within an article from William Carey;

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmode=flat&order0&topic_id17336&forum34&post_id&refreshGo) What Difference Can One Person Make?(William Carey)

Another, was a couple of messages from Keith Daniel;

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid144&min60&orderby=titleA&show20>) Keith Daniel

Apologize that I cannot recall just which exactly, but the messages on marriages listed here were very helpful, just notice d one that I have not listened to in that mix; "Husbands Love Your Wives!"

It is difficult to be in this place, my prayers brother.

Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2007/12/28 20:30

I HAVE ONLY JUST READ THE RESPONSES TO MY POST, AND TO BE HONEST MOST OF THEM GAVE ME SO ME AWNSERS.

1. I HAVE READ PILGRIMS PROGRESS
2. I DO BELIEVE THAT IT IS MY OWN WALK THAT IS LEAVING ME INSIDE THE WILDERNESS INSTEAD OF WALKING TOWARDS THE MILK AND HONEY
3. GOD IS USING MY WIFE TO CHANGE ME
4. AND NO I SHOULDNT PONDER ON OTHER WOMEN THAT HAVE CHRIST IN THEIR EYE'S AS IT MAY LEAD ME TO TROUBLE.
5. I WILL READ HOSEA IT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY BOOK I HAVEN'T READ IN THE BIBLE (I DON'T KNOW WHY)
6. I DID LISTEN TO KEITH DANIELS AUDIO'S BUT THE LIGHT BULB DIDN'T TURN ON.

MY MOST FRUSTRATING PART IS THAT I HAVE SOME STRONG CHRISTIAN GIFTS AND I DONT USE THEM, BE CAUSE OF THE ISSUES AT HOME. I WOULD LOVE TO GO TO CHURCH WERE I AM BUT I GET SO ANGRY AT HOW MOST CHURCHES HERE ARE PREACHING IT'S MILK FILLED WITH SCORPIONS. I HAVENT BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK FACE TO FACE WITH A TRUE SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIAN FOR OVER A YEAR NOW. THIS SITE IS THE ONLY SPIRIT MEAT THAT I AM GETTING AT THE MOMENT.

I DO FEEL THAT THEIR IS AN AWNSER IN THESE RESPONSES BECAUSE MY SPIRIT TESTIFIES TO IT, SO I WILL CHEW THE CUD AS TO SAY.

Re: frustration and emptyness - posted by nowhr2hide (), on: 2007/12/28 21:06

Crusader,

Thanks for the post this is actually encouraging, so many of this guys shared a good wisdom to uphold your faith and to other that read it. I'm in vice versa situation with you. The wisdom i read here is compounded more what the Lord teaching me, especially about my husband... which backslide so many times whom he used to be so firey in God, now he is blinded by his self justification in his wrong doing, living in sin full way. No desire to provide for his family, so now i have to do his part as a provider and spiritual head, to make sure my children will grow strong in God. I used to look at him as the head of our family, in Honour of Christ. Some times it's so hard to remain silent, when you feel being rob so much spiritually and in every thing. Matthew 12 is what it feels to me ...

Now is different i look up to Jesus a the Head of my family, my comfort, my provider, for my reationship to works i have work on my relationship with Christ. I felt my burden is much easier and lighter to face in each day, but some times that get tested just get my focus back to the sparrow that watches over me.

Quote:

-----i see christian women with christ in their eye's and my heart drops for i would give up all of my possessions for a partner like this.

Miracles that follow the plow :: frustration and emptiness

It easy to see the other people that seems walk rightly in Christ, especially that is the weakness in your heart, and satan will uses that to temp you. Keep your eyes on Jesus who is the restorer of our brokenness. Focus your heart mind and soul to the cross the crown Jesus wore and the thorn on His side...

Brother Paul and iansmith wisdom is beautifully shared it's so uplifting.

Fight the good fight, mate you be right as the aussie saying :-D as you walk rightly with Christ.

Re: frustration and emptiness, on: 2007/12/28 21:16

Dear crusader,

Since the SI conference, I've been listening to Carter Conlon's preaching, from the Times Square website (www.tscnyc.com) www.tscnyc.com and I find many of his sermons are from Old Testament texts, quite a few mentioning the wilderness.

We have the impression that the wilderness is a desperate place to be, but it's where the Hebrews saw miracles day after day for forty years as God fed and provided for them. After they got out of the desert, they were, effectively at war, much diminished, and yet united in purpose behind men of true faith.

Perhaps you would pick up some oblique thoughts from 'The Day the Sun Stood Still', in which Conlon points out several mistakes Joshua made but nevertheless found God with him as he faced the consequences of those errors, and did what he had to. 'The Devil's Nightmare' is also an instructive teaching on prevailing prayer.

Also from my own experience, I can testify that the wilderness was a place of proving God which He expected to use in the next phase of my life - when either I believed I had proved Him (or was it, that He had proved me?) and now He expected me to believe Him against all contrary odds.

Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2007/12/28 22:50

I am really encouraged by everyones responses, the holy spirit was telling me while i was reading the responses that the devil was trying to to divide and Conquer me, firstly as i have stayed away from sermon index, i was seperating my self from this type of fellowship, secondly then he worked harder on seperating me from physical fellowship at home, thirdly opening his doors to corrupting fellowship at work. 2 co-workers are selfconfessed wicca, another new age and another has been making advances towards me. my clientel are court appointed convicted drug dealers that are very criminal oriented.

satan has been hearing me away from the sheep towards the wolves and i didn't even see it until now.

as far as a church goes not sure as yet i'll see what God leads me too.

while i am working today i will look into the advise you guys have given me.

I have tried to listen to carter conlan but not to sure about his fruit as yet but i will look into this mans ministry the best i can.

Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2007/12/29 6:41

confession tonight i listened to carter conlan i got a bit confused because he sounds exactly like david wilkinson. although i found only a little bit of meat in one message is was enough to feed me today. i realize that the lord does love me or else he would not have taken me to the wilderness, and i also realize that fiery arrows get through too my heart very quickly which slowly makes my spirit man become depressed and want to lay down and die.

i need to stand on this one thing allow the lord jesus to rule the kingdom of my heart and his mercy and authority will spread out amongst the whole land with out looking for the signs and wonders as they will follow as i do gods work.

the poison of the fiery dart has been pride, i havent yet but hopefully soon humble myself before the lord and get back on track.

ME AND MY HOUSE HOLD SHALL SERVE THE LORD THY GOD - LORD I PRAY RAISE ME TO BE A MAN THAT LONGS FOR YOUR MANA AND SPIRIT. LORD START MY MINISTRY AND GIVE ME A ZEAL TO SEEK YOUR SPIRIT EVERY MORNING WHEN I WAKE SO I MAY WALK THE DAY IN YOUR LIGHT.

GOT TO GO LISTENING TO CARTER CONLAN

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/29 10:51

the horse and rider are thrown into the sea.

Jesus always wins
The devil always loses
....."and the word of their testimony"
To hear crusader talk this way.....It blew my wig clean off my head!!!!

God bless you bro,
David

Re: - posted by Nellie, on: 2007/12/29 14:42

Crusader,
Listen to Carter Conlon's Message, "Seeing through the Hands of Jesus."
Also "Spending and being Spent," by Ben Crandell.
They can both be found at Timessquare.org.
The one by Ben Crandell really helped me, because I realized I had not gone through what some of the people had gone through in his Message.
I'm not making light of what you are going through, but God usually teaches in the Wilderness, and not on the Mountain top.
He does give us mountain top experiences, but I have learned the most in my Wilderness experiences.
May God bring you forth strong in Him, and in the Power of His Might.
You have been given good advice.
God Bless you and your Wife.
Nellie

Re: - posted by nowhr2hide (), on: 2007/12/29 21:44

Crusader,

An encouragement for today i've shared before a bit about my husband this morning he went in the front and came back to God, ... and that's just the beginning ...

God bless mate.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2007/12/29 22:32

hi, one God given trait that is lacking in many a serious believer is joy. the joy of the Lord IS your strength. count it all joy when you have testings... therefore with joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation... joy is the bucket that you have to receive from God..no one wants to be with someone void of joy.. you have joy if you realize how much Jesus loves you, personally...it just does not help spelling or typing. jimp

Re: frustration and emptiness - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/12/29 22:48

Brother, you got a lot of good advice here on this thread. Now for my two cents worth...and I am looking at this from a wife's perspective - I have been married a while, like 40 years.

Apparently you feel frustrated because your wife and you are not on the same level spiritually. You never did say she was living in sin, is she? You mentioned she is not "moving in the spirit".

What does she say about your relationship? What would she say is wrong with it?

Is there some unresolved sin in either of your lives that is interfering in your relationship? What was your courtship like?

You said you left her some time ago and while you were gone, was in a relationship with another woman. Have you ever considered that this seriously challenged her trust in you? Trust is earned and once it has been compromised, it is extremely hard to earn it back. The only way this can be done is through proving yourself worthy of that trust. And this takes time.

Back to my questions - not knowing the answers to these questions, I am reluctant to give any advice except this: look at your wife as an object through which you can serve God. Presently she is more important to you than anyone else. He placed her there for you, so love her as Christ loved the church, who gave himself for her. In the meantime forget about not being able to use your talents....seems to me you have an ego problem here - the focus is on me, my. Try loving her by doing small things for her: Has she been nagging at you to do something which you refuse to do for whatever reason? Does she like a box of chocolates? get her one. A woman usually will melt when her DH will do little things for her consistently all week long! In other words, court her like a young man who is anxious to win the love of an attractive woman.

Blessings to you, brother... life is hard, but spending eternity in hell will be worse yet, so allow the LORD to help you work through this situation. And even if she never comes around, you still have to give account for your behavior.

ginnyrose

PS: My preacher - grandfather used to say most marriage problems begin in the bedroom. Something to consider...you need to get with a group of godly men to help you on this.

Re:, on: 2007/12/30 0:07

Here's a 2 part sermon called Destroying Pop-Christian views of Marital Bliss.

<http://media1.sermonindex.net.s3.amazonaws.com/SID14663.mp3> - Part 1

<http://media1.sermonindex.net.s3.amazonaws.com/SID14664.mp3> - Part 2

It's preached by a man named Paul Washer. Please listen to this.

Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2007/12/30 18:51

Greetings to all

I would like to thank everyone for their responses. God was able to use little bits from everyone to pull me from the dark. I know with in my spirit that someone prayed because on Saturday night something broke in my house and a peace has been there since.

2 things God has shown me strongly during this time

1x I must strive forward towards Christ if I keep looking back I'll see the road of hopelessness and strife that the lord has taken me from which leads to despair. The lord will dwell in my household if I seek him and strive towards him.

2x there are many facets to a diamond and although I have dealt with most of my past sins there are areas that the lord is taking me through on a deeper level. To get the pearls of wisdom we must dive to the bottom of the sea.

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When I look for my purpose in Christ, I know that God is preparing me constantly to be a witness in Christ and through my job he teaches me spiritually through physical application. My vision of what I am to come or where he wants me to go is very hazy so I am unsure as to what my next steps will be in my ministry.

If someone gets a word from God for me on this subject please let me know so that I may walk towards that.

p.s i will listen to these of Mr Paul Washer i find him to be very filled and passionate for christ

Love crusader :-)