



Royal Life Ministries

August 2006

Greetings!

It's already time for another newsletter! I love this part of my ministry. I never grow tired of sharing all the ways God is working in my life and in the lives of the precious individuals that God sends to me. I continue to see approximately 10-12 individuals or couples a week in my home and in Marietta. Tim continues to minister with me when his schedule allows. We have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as we prepared and presented our marriage conference twice. The week before our first conference our computer crashed. God prevailed and we were able to get our material onto a new computer. When we sense such opposition, we KNOW we are in the center of God's will. Many of you heard of the unexpected interruption at our last conference. As we were preparing the sanctuary for the first teaching a huge cross fell on Tim's head and he was off to the hospital with my nephew. After much prayer and contemplation we decided I should go ahead and teach the conference without him. God prevailed and the conference continued while Tim had eight huge staples put in the top of his head. We don't understand exactly why this happened but we are okay in the not knowing. Even when the enemy attacks, God is in control! We look forward to more opportunities to teach together. If you know of a church or group looking for someone to teach on marriage, feel free to give them our number.

On the home front, we are on our way to being first time GRANDPARENTS! Jason and Katie are expecting at the end of March. We are elated. Christen and her best friend, Rocky, (her dog) moved out and we are empty nesters again. She has really enjoyed parenting little Rocky for the past 9 months. He will now reside in the backyard of the home she will share with two friends. She is also praying about going back to school to get her Masters. We'd appreciate your prayers for the entire family.

Why does life have to hurt so much?

In my ministry, I see many broken hearts and watch a lot of tears stream down faces. Listening to story after story can create a lump in my own throat. Occasionally the hurts that are described to me are perceived but some times they are reality. Often the pain is actually coming from lies the person believes. Discovering these lies can be very helpful. Whether the hurt is real or perceived, the pain is just as intense.

Many times a person will ask me, **"Why?" "Why did this person treat me this way or why did this set of circumstances come into my life?"** They are looking for one thing, RELIEF from their pain. In my own life I have been intrigued, at times, with that one word, **"Why?"** I was watching Oprah one day and Dr. Robin Smith was talking with a family who had deep wounds of betrayal. Three sons turned their father in for robbing banks and he was now in prison. She was trying to help the father understand how much he hurt his sons by leading a double life. "They just want to know **why** you did these things and they want to know where your heart went for them?" I wanted to shout, "Yes, that's it! If we can just know **why and where their heart went**, that would make things easier." I've never heard anyone make that statement before and I heard the "ding, ding, ding" in my mind, of a person who felt someone had finally hit the nail on the head. As I wrestled with God over this question for many days these thoughts entered my mind.

*"Rebekah, when people get hurt, there may not be a satisfactory answer to the **why**. We all have the desire to live in an ideal world but the facts are, we don't live in an ideal world. When people hurt others, many times they do not even understand **why** they did it. Other times they are not even aware of the injury."*

God then reminded me of a time years ago when I went through severe brokenness. I read a book called, "Crucified by Christians" by Gene Edwards. This book says that it is important to look beyond the person that has hurt you and to see the hurt as coming from the hand of God. Ouch! Now that will mess with your concept of God. Years ago that statement disturbed me greatly because I did not understand the "heart of God." I remember saying, "It doesn't matter to me if God caused it or allowed it, He could have stopped it. But today, as I think about that statement, I smile inwardly. Now that I know that my Heavenly Father is a good Father and that he wants only His best for me, I find "comfort" in knowing that the hurt is coming from His hand. Even though he may not be the inventor of the circumstance, he knew that it would happen and already had plans to use it in my life. Many times when people are hurt I will hear the statement, "I thought they loved me." The truth is we cannot know the heart of another person but we CAN know the heart of our God. HE loves us more than we can even imagine. HE has a purpose in our pain and HE conforms us into the image of Christ through life's circumstances. This, in turn, will bring us great fulfillment and joy.

Does this excuse another person for inappropriate behavior or deny the activity of the enemy in relationships? Not really. Sometimes it is appropriate and part of our growth to confront and sometimes it is necessary to take authority over the enemy. But isn't it great to know that we have a God who can heal, protect, defend, deliver, redeem and work all things together for good. So what should our response be when we are hurt?

Forgiving others is always our appropriate sponse. Forgiveness is for us! It is our

response. Forgiveness is for us! It is our nature to forgive because it is Jesus nature to forgive and HE indwells us. His nature is now our nature. And his strength to forgive is made perfect in our weakness. It's a choice we CAN make!

It is not unusual at this point to get the following passionate statement: "If I forgive, I am letting them off the hook and it feels like I am saying it's okay that they hurt me." This is a lie of the enemy. How is it benefiting you to keep them on the hook? **Forgiving and placing your offender in God's hands will set you free.** Can a person really adequately pay for the hurt they've caused you anyway? Will you allow Jesus shed blood on the cross to pay (in full) not only for your sins but also for the sins committed against you? **Only accepting Jesus payment for their sin against you will start you on the road to healing.**

Grieving is also an appropriate response. We are human and humans hurt. Tears also can be a part of the healing process. Going on an endless search for the "why" can be futile and keep you stuck in your pain. The **why** is in God's word.

Phil. 3:10 – "To (intimately) know God is to experience the power of HIS resurrection AND the fellowship of HIS sufferings."

To enter into the fellowship of His sufferings means he feels your pain and you feel His pain. This will create a bonding in your relationship with Jesus like nothing else. He really cares that you are hurting and will use it for your good. I feel like I've finally found the answer to the question, **why?"**

Prayer Request:

- For God's continued empowerment as I disciple hurting people and teach.
- For additional support that will enable me to receive full pay checks.
- For Royal Life Ministries to be approved for non-profit status with the IRS. This project will cost approximately \$850. (Also, we'd love to raise the \$850 that we needed to replace our computer.)
- For more opportunities for Tim and I to present our marriage conference.

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