



A newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

June 2019 Vol. 15 Issue 6

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Winston Salem, NC

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PRAYER SUPPORT GROUPS

Prayer Support at On Wings Office

Monday, JUNE 3
—6:30 to 8:00 pm—
Prayer and Praise time
for our Prodigals

River Oaks Church
Clemmons, NC
Meet in Room #4
2nd & 4th Tuesdays@6:30 pm
Currently Studying
Letting Go
by Dave Harvey & Paul Gilbert
Led by Jeff and Sheryle Hall

First Baptist Church
Sparta, NC
Wednesday night @6:30 pm
Currently studying
Reaching Your Prodigal
by Phil Waldrep
Led by Joe & Carolyn Caldwell

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Each Tuesday At On Wings
Office from 12:30 - 2:00

Currently studying
Me, Myself, and Lies:
A Thought Closet Makeover
by Jennifer Rothschild
Led by Janet Linville



Help Bear Each Others Burdens

We will be gathering for our June 3 Prayer Support Meeting to Pray and Praise the Lord for His faithfulness. We have had a great year of wonderful speakers who have shared from their own journeys and given us great wisdom and direction. Many of you have taken advantage of the opportunity to come together to receive encouragement and hope as we met. We want to thank you for your participation.

At our Spring Retreat last month we learned that we need to give strength and consolation to each other as we travel this difficult journey of life. We need to be angels for each other as we share our struggles. Hearing other's stories helps us to find a sense of community with others and often gives us encouragement to know we are not alone. The person sharing may be further along in their walk and we can gain helpful insights from what they have learned along the way.

I have seen many families isolate themselves which is very unhealthy. We think if others knew my thoughts, or my story, or what my loved one did, they would not like me or want me to be in their group, but the opposite is true. We need each other. God tells us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2. The word burden here means "a weight of personal and eternal significance."

We might envision a person struggling up under a physical load, we see their distress and come up under it to help them bear up under the weight of it. That's what we do when we come together at Prayer Support, help share the burden. But sometimes we refuse the assistance offered. We make every excuse why we can't attend. I can't tell you how many have told me that they felt all alone in their struggle with their prodigal only to come in our doors and discover that they were not alone and now have the freedom to share with a group who totally understands their situation without judgement. It can be a sacrifice to attend, coming out of our warm house, or setting aside the way we feel at the moment. I don't always FEEL like coming but it encourages me each time I do.

I recently read in *The Legacy of Prayer* by Jennifer Kennedy Dean: "Jesus prayed, 'May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me' John 17:23. He calls the church His body, and makes it clear that we cannot reach maturity outside the body of Christ. The fullness of Christ is in His body."

"And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.....until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 1: 22-23, 4:13.

Our unity is in Him. Each part of the body has a different function, but the same blood flows through them all. What makes us---the different parts of His body---one? The same Life flows through us all. "There is one body and one Spirit---just as you were called to one hope when you were called---one Lord, one faith, one baptism: one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" Ephesians 4: 4-6. It is in the context of the body that we find our fullness and reach maturity.

As you fellowship with other believers and bring your life into unity with them, you are filling your life with the beauty of Jesus. You are building a dwelling place and fortress for future generations".

We are also encouraged as we come together in Bible Study each Tuesday. God encourages us in His Word for our journey if we put forth the effort to grow together in our faith, learning from His Word. We urge you to take advantage of the opportunities of spiritual growth and encouragement that is available to you.

~ Sandra

MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH
AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART
BE PLEASING TO YOU.
O LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER.

PSALM 19:14



Prayer Thoughts

by Janet Linville



Struggling To Forgive

Scripture Verse - Acts 7:59-60

I spent my youth feeling angry and bitter. When I was 30, my marriage was falling apart. In the midst of that pain, I discovered the Bible. I came to believe that through Christ my sins could be forgiven. What relief! What joy! And yet I struggled to forgive others. I read the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant many times, but my mind still dwelled on how others had hurt me. Many of these hurts were trivial compared to sins other Christians told me they had forgiven; nonetheless, my heart clung to bitterness.

Then one day as I read the book of Acts, I was surprised by Stephen's prayer as he was stoned to death. He did not pray for help forgiving his attackers; he did not quantify the relative pain of stoning versus crucifixion and lecture himself to forgive as Jesus did. Instead, he named what was happening as sin, and prayed that it would not be held against the mob.

Inspired by this, I started to pray that the incident triggering my bitterness would not be held against the perpetrators, identifying sin but no longer trying to quantify or downplay it. I prayed that when those who had hurt me came before God, God would have forgotten any act committed against me. I imagined film of their lives in which the sections with sin against me had been erased. And as I did this, bit by bit, my bitterness resolved and my heart found peace.

Taken from "The Upper Room" devotional

Hang in There

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:31-32 NLT

If Jesus said to me, "Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail." I would be thinking, "Jesus, I don't want to be sifted. Stop Satan from this sifting stuff. I have been sifted too many times already." Jesus makes no offer to help; only that Simon's faith may not fail and then when he has turned back he can strengthen his brothers.

Many of us have been beaten up by the world and the schemes of the devil. We have been beaten up so much that we can start believing lies that we aren't good enough, that we have to pass more tests - that we will never get past the next test because we have failed this one so many times. The Lord impressed this thought upon me:

"It isn't about passing the test; it is about staying in the faith whether you have passed the test or not."

We beat ourselves up when we fail. We behave badly and then beat ourselves up the rest of the day. We can't stop an addiction and we think God will never forgive us, so we give up trying. Our kids aren't turning out as we planned and we think that we have done something wrong. We keep being passed over for a promotion and we feel that we are not faithful enough in God's eyes to get the blessing to move forward.

STOP!!! Jesus could stop all the chaos in your life right now, but here is why He will not: Jesus loves you. He loves you enough to allow you to be refined. We can only be refined when trials come. It isn't if we fail, it is when. It isn't just one time, but thousands of times we fail. We have some weird notion that we need to be perfect to enter the kingdom of heaven.

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23 NLT

We will sin until God calls us home. The most important statement that Jesus says to Simon (Peter) is, "That your faith may not fail."

Are you getting close to giving up? Are things not turning out as you have planned? Satan wants you to give up. We are not on this earth for long. HANG IN THERE. God loves you and desires that your faith will not waiver even though your circumstances may tell a different story.

Just remember your circumstances do not dictate the way you are living your Christian life. You may be failing in every category, but that doesn't mean that God will not reveal to you something miraculous out of the pain and defeat. Believe in Jesus who desires that you find strength in the storms of life so that your faith will be refined. Don't let the evil one give you a lifeline to an easy way out. That lifeline may seem an easy way out now, but you will regret it. Just keep hanging on everyone. Jesus WILL save YOU.

Excerpts from CBN Devotional, May 3, 2019

