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More of Him and Less of Us

I have such an appreciation of God's faithfulness in my life. He truly is faithful to love me and always encourages me to grow into all that He has for me. At eighteen years old, I had realized that I was dysfunctional and was destined for failure unless I held on to God. I lacked discipline and was full of weakness. You may be surprised to learn that I used to be very insecure, especially as you know me today.

That's because I have changed. I changed my future and my family's future by allowing God into my life instead of just serving Him. My self-worth was so damaged that I had the hardest time making friends when I moved to a new, larger high school. I would eat my lunch in the bathrooms just so no one would know that I didn't have anyone to eat with. I found myself trying to put on an outward facade so that I could be accepted. Doing that stopped me from finding out who I was. For most of my young adult life, I felt like I was trapped inside myself.

It was terrible not knowing who I really was. I needed to discover life instead of just wandering around in it. I needed real help and genuine change, and in God, I discovered that you could change the direction of your life overnight. Notice I did not say that you could change your life overnight because that is not true. You can, however, begin a walk that will change you and your family's future forever.

Most Christians don't realize how much God wants to be involved with them. We get busier and busier doing things for Him, yet never stop to fall in love with Him. I was worried about what my friends would say when I informed them I wasn't doing the things I used to do. "What do you mean you don't do that anymore? You did it yesterday!" is what I was told. I made up my mind and decided that I was not going back ever again to boring Christianity.

There was a slight problem though; I had the heart to change, but I knew I didn't have the discipline to change. I wish I could write to you today and talk about what great fortitude I moved toward God in. The truth is, I failed miserably many times. My discipline lasted but a few days. The only strength I had was to take the first step. I knew God had more for me than who I was. It's not that I am special because He has great desires for you as well. I just had to believe there was more to life than how I was living at the time. You will have to take this stand as well and base who You are not on who You currently see in the natural mirror, but on who the Word of God tells you that you are in Him.

Every time I failed, I just got up and kept walking toward that dream. I kept telling myself that one day God could use me. One day I won't be weak, but I'll be strong. It was soon after I decided to change that I had to follow up with more decisions. With the Lord's direction, I had to let go of some friends because I was finding myself being pulled back into mediocrity.

Let me tell you though, whatever it is that you may give up as you follow God; He will always give back to you but in a purer form. One of the hardest decisions of my life was to stop

hanging around some friends; they were good people, just not hungry for more of Him. I thought that my hunger would eventually wear them out, but instead, I was the one being influenced. Now, God has given us the best of friends as we are walking deeper into God alongside each other.

There is a path of transformation that each of us must walk down. Otherwise, we will be destined to stay the same. In the beginning, I was like Peter, who desired to lay down his life but didn't have the ability to walk it out with all of his heart. John 13:37-38 *"Peter said to Him, 'Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.' Jesus answered him, 'Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.'"*

Although Peter wanted to lay his life down, Jesus told him that he didn't have it in him. Peter failed that time, not because he wanted to fail but because he did not have enough of God in him to succeed. However, he didn't stay in that condition, and you don't need to either. There is hope for us, and what we lack on the inside doesn't have to limit us anymore. How then do I add the character and discipline to be who I am called to be? The key to success in this life is to have more of Him in us and less of ourselves.

It was after Peter had failed and denied Christ that Jesus told Peter that one day he would lay down his life for the gospel's sake. John 21:18 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."*

God believes in you and will help to trade your weaknesses for His strength. That is how much He loves you and believes in your future. Don't lose focus; keep spending that time alone with Him in worship and praying in tongues. You are being transformed each day. Let's keep strong in knowing Him. We have a world to change.

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