

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

"Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece" Galatians 6:9

No 4

NUGGETS OF GOLD

GEMS in the MAKING

The following Nuggets of Gold come from a Male Nurse who for many years had hidden his suffering from early childhood abuse and family trauma.

His own marriage was followed by the loss of his first born son aged two days, from hyperplastic left heart disease. Something inside him died.

The cumulative affect of years of grief and suffering caused his withdrawal from close human contact, lack of trust and spiritual death.

For him no spiritual program could restore life to what he felt was dead.

Then God gave him in Ezekiel chapter 37 a picture of what He was doing.

Within a short period, of about 18 months, this Nurse came to realize that:

God does not come along with coping mechanisms to use as a crutch.

But by a healing process, he experienced the restoring healing power of God in his life which he describes

"It's like you have spiritual breath blown into you, with life being restored. Sometimes it feels a little strange because for so long there has been no feeling, and now God is restoring life and function again"

May God speak and encourage you as He spoke to this Nurse through three different experiences which he calls his three gems.

GEMS I, II and III.

Some pictures of the way in which God quietly works, which we do not always notice.

GEM I Choosing Kingdom and Rules

I was in Florida for a holiday, and had got used to driving on the right hand side of the road, after a couple of slightly embarrassing moments in the rental car.

Having been used to driving on the left hand side of the road, it took a little effort initially to remind myself that a different set of rules applied in America, than in New Zealand. However, it quickly became second nature to use the new set of road rules.

I became used to driving on the right, and was soon comfortable with that.

The shock came, when a crisis occurred, and without thinking my mind went back to the road rules that I was familiar with from New Zealand.

The LORD then used that situation to demonstrate a profound spiritual truth to me.

In going to America on holiday, I had moved to a kingdom with a different set of rules. However, when a sudden crisis happened, without thinking I reverted back to the old kingdom with its different set of rules.

God used that experience to show me how, though I now live in His kingdom, when problems occur, it is sometimes second nature for me to revert back to the rules of the old kingdom.

Fortunately there was no accident or injury, but it drove home the fact that problems do occur when we go back to using the old rules we once lived by.

GEM II

Spiritual Intimacy (or 'in to me see')

God wants to be close to us, and to share Himself with us.

However, often because of earlier hurt, pain or injury, we try to cover or guard that hurting place to avoid further pain or injury.

To get close means you need to be exposed and open.

Imagine for a moment that you have been offered the chance to go for a ride as a pillion passenger on a friend's motor bike. Both of you dress up in jeans, leather trousers, leather jacket, gloves, and full helmet.

Now with all that gear on and the helmet visor down, try and get close to the person dressed like you are.

In spite of your best efforts, neither of you can get physically close to the other.

Yet often our approach to God is so similar.

Because of previous hurts and let downs, we are only comfortable in approaching God in battle dress mode. However, He wants to approach us in intimacy and have us feel safe in His presence.

Our perception is often the problem.

To use another example, imagine that as an animal lover you are out driving one day, and unintentionally injure a dog with your vehicle.

You stop to pick up the animal, and give it some comfort as you get it to a place where it can be treated for its injuries. However, the animal does not see you as wanting to help it; rather it identifies you as being associated with the pain.

It is natural for that animal to fight your efforts to help it. Because it is focused on its pain, it does not recognize your desire to be helpful; rather it sees you as an enemy to be avoided.

So too, we often have our own perceptions about the way God and other people should treat us. When those expectations are not met we blame others for the way we feel; instead of realizing that God may have totally different ideas about what He wants to do for us.

GEM III God sees us as a ‘Gem or a Pearl’ in His sight.

Imagine going with a friend to the beach, and your friend asks you to pick up a precious grain of sand from the sea shore.

You may think your friend a little strange, after all there are countless, multi millions of grains of sand on the beach.

However, think about how a pearl, which is of Great Price, is made.

It starts as a grain of sand getting into a sea shell, and being an irritation. The sea shell cannot remove the sand, so it begins to cover that irritation with a special coating. Over a period of time that irritation is transformed into something of great value.

With regard to Diamonds

We sometimes react against the idea of being transformed into a Diamond. It is not easy to equate pressure, heat and pain with the process of being turned into a ‘Diamond’ and polished.

Maybe we think that we won’t be able to handle the pain or the pressure.

However, the very things that we fear may be the very things necessary to produce the best Diamonds.

Just think – Diamonds are made from carbon under heat, time, and pressure. If these are the conditions under which a Diamond is created, do you not think that God is already aware of what He wants you to handle?

The things that you fear, could be the very things God wants to use to shape you into a very special gem

GEMS Reflected in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

“...Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Have you CHOSEN to be “kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed...?”

If so, “You can greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:5-7.