



A GOD PONDERING PUBLICATION OF GRACE OUTRAGEOUS MINISTRY

Pastor's Roots

by Pastor Tress Reed

Life hurts. There are times we make choices and decisions that are self-inflicting, that hurt on our lives and souls. Other times, life breaks us, bruises us, and burns us.

I have often used the word broken. "There are parts of me broken, maybe forever." During some recent prayer time, God gave me a new word, a new way to view those places in my life where hurt has been.....**Blister.** I'll spare you the long conversation between God and I as I tend to question and push back at Him....a lot. The final "Oh, now I understand this" comes in this form.

When something is broken, it can be fixed. Glued, casted, healed back together. God can and does certainly provide that healing for many hurts in our lives. But there are some areas, some events, some relationships, some losses, that may simply not be healed. These are the places that may not be pain free until we experience the full pain-free zone of heaven.

These are the places where relationships stay a mess for some real and true reasons, where the loss is so profound that you are never the same (such as the

suicide of a child), or that the betrayal is deep and with such wide consequences, our view of the world around us is never the same.

These are the places that healing with time, time spent in a cast or on a counselor's chair, may not happen. They are painful and raw and reminders or events that bring us back to that raw spot can bring us to our knees in tears.

It is in these places that God may place a protective blister over the raw pain. A covering to protect it from further infection. A cushion so that we can live and experience life with appreciation and joy. Yet, in spite of that blister covering, sometimes it gets popped, and the rawness is exposed again. It weeps as we weep over the hurt. God in His loving tender care, replaces the covering, protecting it again. For now.

I have some of those raw blister spots on my soul. A few hurts that for various reasons are not being healed but that God is protecting for now. They are my reminders of how much I need Him. I pray for them to heal, knowing they may not. They may be as the thorn in the Apostle Paul's side was or the disjointed hip to Jacob was. The right weather change or a push from life onto the blister padding can take me to my knees in pain again. They are sign-posts that I have lived life, hurt and been hurt, and am choosing to continue living.

The Seed:

Grace Outrageous Ministry

To live Grace Outrageously in the nations as we serve in faith and love through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

www.goministry.net



March 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

As we continue through Lent, I pray not just for those blisters of mine....but also for yours. I pray that my blisters would not hinder me in the work that God has been calling me forth to do; and that I would not get so caught up in protecting those raw spots that I miss the opportunities to minister to yours.

From one messy, blistered child of God....to you...with love,

Pastor Tress



Spiritual Disciplines give us different ways in which we can cultivate and grow our relationship with Christ. Whether you are 9 or 99 Jesus ALWAYS wants to be closer to you and practicing Spiritual Disciplines can deepen this relationship. This month we will look at the discipline spending time in solitude with the Lord. **Jesus Himself frequently spent time in solitude with His Father; if Jesus needed this think how much more we humans need it.**

Family Roots

Rusty & Amy Kinney

Learning more about one another

helps build community and relationships. These were key to Jesus's ministry and should be a vital part of ours. Family Roots is a place for GO gatherers to get to know one another better.

This month is a self-feature of the writer of this column. Rusty & I have been married for almost 28 years and have three sons; Joshua married to Alexandra, TC and Jacob. We met over 40 years ago as young children attending the same church and had our first date at my Senior Prom. I work at a local college as a Dept Chair and Rusty works at Cooper Standard Automotive.

Nearly four years ago I was presented with the vision of a new and out of the box ministry to be planted in Tiffin. Pastor Tress invited me to be part of the Vision Team and within a few months GO was born. GO has become an integral part of my faith and I consider all of you, the Gatherers of GO, my beloved friends.

Something interesting you may not know about me is my great-uncle was an elephant trainer. I loved spending time with him and his "girls". Rusty enjoys woodworking and can fix just about anything.

God has worked in our lives in so many ways over the past several years but almost exactly one year ago the Lord worked a miracle in our marriage. A series of events had culminated in a near disastrous end of a 27 year marriage. God stepped in, pulled us both from the muck and mire, and set our nearly dead marriage on a solid rock in just a few short months.

We are so very blessed to be part of the family of GO and love all of you!



FOCUS ON GOD: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Solitude; for some the very word brings a feeling of uneasiness, for others a sense of longing. Solitude stems from desire to leave behind distractions of this world and enter into time alone with God. Henri Nouwen says that "solitude is the furnace of transformation". It is a distraction free, period of time spent with God; listening for His voice, letting Him comfort you, hold you, teach you, and love you. A time to be away from the distractions of today's world, whether an hour a week, or a few days it is good for spiritual formation. Solitude was demonstrated time and again by Jesus Himself. When we follow His example we are setting ourselves up for a more intimate time with God. Practices of solitude might include:

- Scheduling a time and place with God free of distractions
- Taking a retreat; a day, a weekend, a week.
- Observing the Sabbath and allowing it to refresh us
- Conversing with God during our daily walk or run.
- Practicing other disciplines such as scripture reading, Prayer of Examen, study, journaling or others while alone with God
- Spending time in silence; no TV, computer, phone, children. Speaking to no one but God

Solitude can become a very special place of connection between you and God. It provides a time of silence and stillness that opens our hearts and souls to God's voice. Oftentimes it may seem to be odd; when culture continually calls us to be and do with friends, family, work etc, solitude provides rest, refreshment, and a way to give God our undivided attention.

At what point are you able to spend purposeful, alone time with God and His Word in order to grow in your faith? Plan a time of solitude away from home; just you, your Bible and God. If you have never done it before; ask Pastor Tress for some direction. Take direction from Jesus Himself as He often retreated to time alone with His Father. Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, Mth 14:17, Mark 3:7 are just a few scriptures to read.

BIBLE READING IN YEAR

Lets try a bit at a time; each month we will print the listing of readings for the month. No stress; just try to get there and if you lose out on a day; catch up later.

Day	OT	NT	Psalms	Prov
1	Lev 24:1-25:46	Mark 10:13-31	44:9-26	10:20-21
2	Lev 25:47-27:13	Mark 10:32-52	45:1-17	10:22
3	Lv27:14-Num1:54	Mark 11:1-26	46: 1-11	10:23
4	Num 2:1-3:51	Mark11:27-12:17	47: 1-9	10:24-25
5	Num 4:1-5:31	Mark 12:18-37	48:1-14	10:26
6	Num 6:1-7:89	Mark12:38-13:13	49:1-20	10:27-28
7	Num 8:1-9:23	Mark 13:14-37	50:1-23	10:29-30
8	Num 10:1-11:23	Mark 14:1-21	51: 1-19	10:31-32
9	Num11:24-13:33	Mark 14:22-52	52: 1-9	11: 1-3
10	Num14:1-15:16	Mark 14:53-72	53:1-6	11:04
11	Num15:17-16:40	Mark 15:1-47	54: 1-7	11: 5-6
12	Num16:41-18:32	Mark 16:1-20	55: 1-23	11:07
13	Num19:1-20:29	Luke 1:1-25	56: 1-13	11:08
14	Num 21:1-22:20	Luke 1:26-56	57: 1-11	11: 9-11
15	Num 22:21-23:30	Luke 1: 57-80	58: 1-11	11: 12-13
16	Num 24:1-25:18	Luke 2: 1-35	59: 1-17	11:14
17	Num 26: 1-51	Luke 2:36-52	60: 1-12	11:15
18	Num 26:52-28:15	Luke 3: 1-22	61: 1-8	11:16-17
19	Num 28:16-29:40	Luke 3:23-38	62:1-12	11:18-19
20	Num 30:1-31:54	Luke 4: 1-30	63: 1-11	11: 20-21
21	Num 32:1-33:39	Luke 4:31-5:11	64: 1-10	11:22
22	Num33:40-35:34	Luke 5:12-28	65: 1-13	11:23
23	Num36:1-Dt1:46	Luke 5:29-6:11	66: 1-20	11:24-26
24	Deut 2:1-3:29	Luke 6:12-38	67: 1-7	11:27
25	Deut 4: 1-49	Luke 6:39-7:10	68: 1-18	11:28
26	Deut 5:1-6:25	Luke 7:11-35	68:19-35	11:29-31
27	Deut 7:1-8:20	Luke 7:36-8:3	69: 1-18	12:01
28	Deut 9:1-10:22	Luke 8: 4-21	69: 19-36	12:2-3
29	Deut 11:1-12:32	Luke 8:22-39	70: 1-5	12:04
30	Deut 13:1-15:23	Luke 8:40-9:6	71: 1-24	12: 5-7
31	Deut 16:1-17:20	Luke 9:7-27	72: 1-20	12:8-9

*This plan is courtesy of Daily Audio Bible you may access the plan and listen online at <http://www.dailyaudiobible.com/>