LET GOD HEAL YOUR PAINFUL PAST
By Roy Goodlet

One man said to his friend: "Say, you look depressed. What are you thinking about?" "My future," was the quick answer. "What makes it look so hopeless?" "My past." Many of us cannot shake unpleasant experiences or failures in our past, and some of us let that affect our future.

If you are a believer in Christ, I believe the Holy Spirit is doing all He can to give you a dream of a better future. Many of you who have had what you believed to be God-given dreams of a better future have seen your dreams fade or even die. You may have experienced the pain of a dream never realized. That pain may have crushed all of your hope of a better future. There may be numerous reasons as to why dreams die, but why aren't you dreaming a new dream? Maybe you don't want to be set up for another disappointment. But listen, sometimes former dreams must be allowed to die so that new dreams can be given room to become reality.

In your eyes who are you? Is your identity based on your painful past? More importantly, in God's eyes who are you? If you are a believer in Christ, God sees you as a mighty warrior, a soldier of the cross.

In his book, "No More Mr. Nice Guy," Stephen Brown tells the story of an eagle egg that somehow got into a chicken coop. "The mother hen realized the egg was somewhat larger than the other eggs, but after all, she was a mother, so she sat on it. The eagle hatched and for weeks played the chicken game. The eagle knew he was different; he knew that the other chickens thought he was different, and they only tolerated him. He tried to eat off the floor of the chicken coop like the other chickens, but it never felt right. He tried to walk like a chicken and talk like a chicken and squawk like a chicken, but he could never quite pull it off. Sometimes the eagle would look up in the sky and wonder what was on the other side of the clouds. He would say to his fellow chickens, 'Don't you ever wonder what's up there in the sky, or what's on the other side of the mountains?' The other chickens would look at him like the elevator didn't go up to the top floor. But he never stopped wondering and asking questions. Then one day the eagle looked up in the sky and saw a speck. The speck grew larger and larger until the eagle realized that it was a creature like himself, an eagle. He heard the creature call loudly, and the call echoed against the chicken coop. At that moment, the eagle knew he wasn't a chicken. He knew he was an eagle. He flapped his wings and began to fly, and soon he was soaring above the clouds. The problem with the eagle wasn't just that everyone thought he was a chicken. His real problem was that he thought he was a chicken."

Take your painful past today and give it to Jesus. Let Him give you a new name.

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