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II TIMOTHY

Inside Terry's Office:

The Book of II Timothy; The Gospel versus "anti-sufferers"

Jesus suffered. Jesus suffered and died. Jesus suffered and died, rose from the dead, lives in us, and invites us to share in his sufferings.

I've been visiting with a man whose business is not doing so well. He is embarrassed and ashamed. He is suffering, but not because he is such a great Christian and being persecuted for his faith. His sufferings are not 'sharing in the sufferings of Christ'. ... He is a sinner who hasn't always made the best decisions for his business and in his personal life. He knows that when his business suffers he tends to be much more intentional in his prayer life and efforts to reflect Christ throughout each day. So, it seems that his sufferings are God's way of getting his attention and getting back on the right spiritual track! Therefore, of course he is embarrassed and ashamed. If he didn't need suffering in order to keep him 'on track' his business would probably be doing fine.

Only ... Well ... honestly ... I just don't believe it. First, I don't believe that anyone deserves for their business to succeed. Second, I don't believe the world revolves around my friend; God is just as concerned for his employees, those he gives to, and his family's needs. His business is a reflection of national trends and local economy. In other words, our suffering is a complicated matter! And, most important, I understand that our attempts to 'measure up' and any shame we feel over our sufferings are ANTI- gospel.

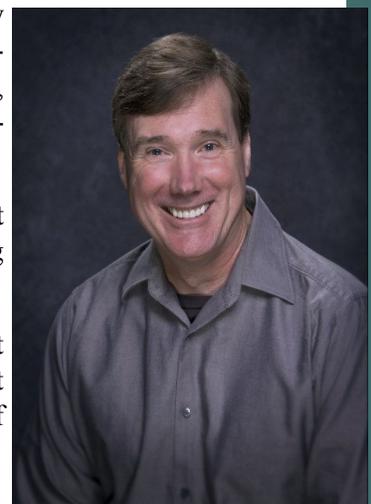
In II Timothy, Paul is bemoaning a group of apostate teachers whom we now referred to as 'gnostics'. Gnostics believe that there really is not a combined/merged reality of the physical and the spiritual. Some taught that Jesus was fully, and only, divine. Others taught that Jesus was fully, and only, human. It may sound very philosophical but a large part of the heresy was based in the efforts of the teachers to identify the nature of suffering and to alleviate suffering. Some would say that suffering, like all material things are really an illusion, and that the right spiritual perspectives can resolve our suffering. Others would say that our strictly due to our actions, which we can and should change.

My friend kind of believes in both sides of this gnostic perspective on suffering. Whereas, Paul writes about suffering without trying to solve it, fix it, get past it, etc. He embraces the reality of suffering and rejects any shame associated with his suffering and simply continues to be a Christ-follower in the midst of his suffering. He encourages Timothy to stay away from the philosophical (shame, blame, and solve) arguments and to maintain his dependence upon and testimony of Jesus' love in the midst of suffering.

So, let me ask you about your sufferings; Is it ok if we don't determine the cause of your sufferings but keep our focus on moving forward with Jesus in the midst of our suffering?

My friend says that maybe God is trying to teach him something but doesn't know what it is. I think God would rather love him in the midst of his suffering than try to teach him something and let him think that if he learns his lesson well he won't be subject to any more suffering.

In His Grip, TWE



***I KNOW WHOM I
HAVE BELIEVED***

“Father, I read 2 Timothy, and I feel inspired. I long to surrender more fully, to be willing to suffer in any way that telling Your story and living Your life requires, to speak as an old man to my children and grandchildren the way Paul spoke to Timothy, and to have joyful confidence in what will happen to me after I die.” (66 Love Letters, Letter Fifty-five, 2 Timothy, Larry Crabb)

“ . . . But I am not ashamed because I know Him and I have put my trust in Him. And I am fully certain that He has the ability to protect what I have placed in His care until that day.”

(2 Timothy 1:12, The Voice)

There is a very old hymn based on this verse that I remember singing in the church where I grew up titled, I Know Whom I Have Believed with these words a part of a refrain, “But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day.”

As I am writing this article I am reflecting on many things. 1) I recently sent out my mid-year ministry update in which I stated that my husband and I, although we are of retirement age, see ourselves not so much that we are preparing to be retired as we are in a state of retiring. We are retiring from certain responsibilities that we have

carried for many years and we are investing in the lives of those coming behind us to carry on those responsibilities in their own unique ways. 2 Timothy appears to be the last letter Paul ever writes. In this letter we see Paul pumping Timothy up to carry on what Paul has started. 2 Timothy 2:1-2, “But as for you, my child, be empowered by the grace that is in Jesus, the Anointed One. Whatever you heard me teach before an audience of witnesses, I want you to pass along to trustworthy people who have the ability to teach others too.” (The Voice)

2) Because of my place in life I find myself resonating with Paul for the first time ever in my reading of this book more than with Timothy who is receiving the charge. Just a few days ago I met with a younger woman who has asked me to “mentor “ her. Just by nature of what I have done for most of my adult life I have been in a position to mentor but for the first time I have accepted this invitation without the pressure of trying to show myself to be someone I am not. Paul tells Timothy first and foremost to be empowered by the grace that is in Jesus and then he charges Timothy to follow his example. In verse 4 of chapter 2 he says, “Remember that soldiers on active duty don’t get wrapped up in civilian matters because they want to satisfy those who recruited them.” It is not about people pleasing!

3) I am not ready to stop counseling and I feel a very clear direction to continue on this path more than ever as every day I get to teach about “spirit empowered living”

and “facing and embracing one’s reality” knowing that the Lord is Near!

4) Finally, I loved what Larry Crabb said regarding this fifty fifth letter,

“Father, I read 2 Timothy, and I feel inspired. I long to surrender more fully, to be willing to suffer in any way that telling Your story and living Your life requires, to speak as an old man [woman] to my children and grandchildren the way Paul spoke to Timothy, and to have joyful confidence in what will happen to me after I die.”

Carol Anne



FUNdraiser

WHEN: Tuesday, June 26, 2018
5pm to 8pm

WHERE: Smitty's Garage
7104 S Sheridan, Tulsa, OK



10% of ALL Proceeds will be donated to Plumblin Ministries

COME JOIN US!

STICKMAN SATURDAY SEMINARS

Hosted by Plumblin Ministries, Inc.

8222 East 103rd Street, Suite 127

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

(918)477-9068

Plumblin Ministries, Inc. is pleased to announce the first set of Stickman Saturday Seminars! Each of these seminars present mercy-based theological, emotional and relational concepts, and offer conversations about how to apply these concepts in the various roles of your life. We believe these seminars will be beneficial to you, your family and friends.

STICKMAN THEOLOGY—June 30th

The hardest thing God asks us to do is to let Him love us when we need Him the most. In this seminar we will discuss the emotional, relational and spiritual dynamics of being "stickmen" depending upon the love of God.

STICKMAN'S BATTLES—July 21st

Any sin motivation can lead to any sin manifestation. In this seminar we will determine which of the seven deadly sins are your primary sin motivations.

STICKMAN'S FAMILY: MARRIAGE—August 4th

God offers Himself as an active 3rd party in your marriage. When we depend on Him, His role helps move us from the performance-based model you may have been taught to the mercy-based model that facilitates your enjoyment of Him, yourself and your spouse!

STICKMAN'S FAMILY: PARENTING—August 18th

We will examine an alternative to the fear creating performance-based parenting principles you may have been taught. The mercy-based parenting principles will free you to be yourself and enjoy yourself more with those you love so dearly.

THE DIVINE DELIGHT—September 15th

The study of The Beatitudes (Matthew 5) will help create a "Big Picture" for a life time of mercy-based relationships and discipleship. Expect to be freed up to be yourself and to enjoy God like never before.

STICKMAN'S PRAYER—September 29th

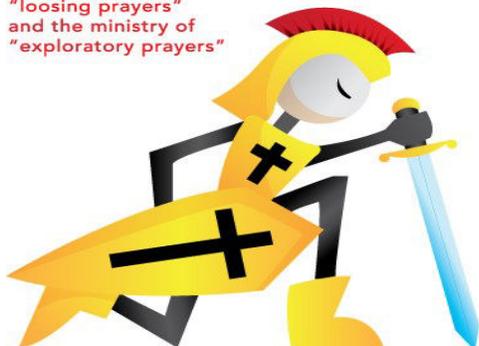
Jesus said that the keys to the kingdom are in "binding" and "loosing." In this seminar we will discuss why and when binding prayers are appropriate, why and when loosing prayers are appropriate, and how, together these prayers let us relax into God more and more.

Stickman's Prayers

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of
"loosing prayers"
and the ministry of
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter
Terry Ewing
Erin Garcia
Margo Hanne
Carolyn Knippers
Carol McNamarra
Sue Merrill

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

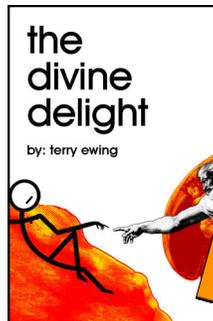
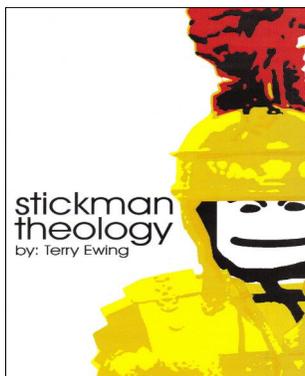
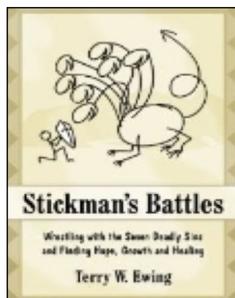
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



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Stickman Theology

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Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to smiles.amazon.com, designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

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MINISTRIES

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