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December 2017

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

Inside Terry's Office:

The Book of Philippians-Confidence in God's Work in Others!

"..., **being confident** of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

We are not the cause of the success or failure of anyone's healing and growth! WooHooo! *SmileamightyJesus!*

We get to be used to encourage and participate in each other's spiritual, emotional, and relational healing and growth, but the work is HIS, not ours. If we are his children, we will grow. If we are not his children, our lack of healing and growth is no one else's fault or responsibility.

If we have been seriously wounded by others, they can not keep us from healing and growth.

If we are called to minister to someone, we can not cause or prohibit their growth because of our "effectiveness" in ministry.

We are FREE to offer ourselves in ministry and caring for others, whether they are able to receive what we offer or not.

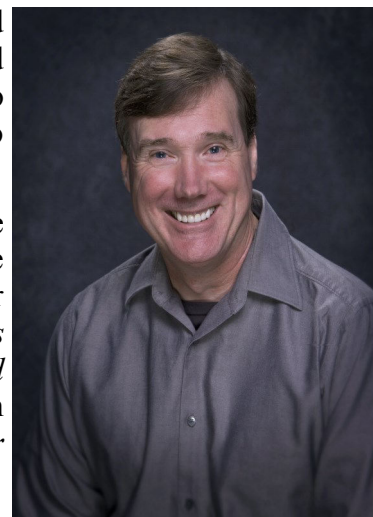
Jean (not her real name) is anxious and depressed. Her husband has made some seriously bad choices. He tells her that if she were different and if she treated him differently he wouldn't make these bad choices. Now, instead of requiring him to own his choices, seek forgiveness, make amends, and hope to earn her trust, he is expecting her to make him want to be different.

John (not his real name) is a pastor who preaches that Christians **should** commit to supporting the church, discipling others, caring for the poor, etc. He doesn't believe that every believer has been given a heart for the things of God and **wants** to be about every godly endeavor. He doesn't have the confidence in God that Paul spoke of; he thinks he has to motivate people to act like Christians **should**.

Joe (not his real name) is desperate to find the funds to send his children to a private Christian school. He has a clear (and realistic) understanding of the benefits the school offers and honestly believes he will be failing as a father if he is not able to finance this means of their education. Joe's desperation is due to misplaced placed faith!

Thank you, Lord, for loving others more and better than we are capable of. Thank you for being bigger and wiser and more intimately involved in our souls and lives than we can ever be for others. Thank you that we can confidently trust you that "*it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purposes*"! Therefore, as I relax into trusting your work in others, I can "*boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.*"

In His Grip, TWE



ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Plumbline

The Secret of Contentment

“To be content does not mean to feel content but rather to know that in My Son you have everything you need to live in rhythm with My Spirit in any circumstance of life [Philippians 4:12-13] (66 Love Letters, Love Letter Fifty, Philippians.)

The Apostle Paul is an example to us of the *Stickman’s Joy**. He did not depend on the externals for his internal wellness. In the book of Philippians, he calls it “learning to be content” in whatever his circumstances. He also frequently uses the word joy in the same sentence as trials. Look at Philippians 4:10-13 with me. In verse 10, Paul is beginning his closing remarks to the letter to the Philippians. He thanks them for their “renewed concern” for him. He acknowledges that he knows that they had been concerned for him but had not had opportunity to express their compassion. In verse 11, he assures them that he was not in need however, because he had learned to be content in whatever his circumstances (whatever his “lot”). He goes on to say in verse 12 that he has actually learned the “secret of contentment” in whatever situation, whether hungry OR well fed, or whether living in plenty OR in want. He

has learned to be content in the contrasts, not just in bad circumstances but in good circumstances as well. So, hang on to that thought as we look at verse 13 where I believe he writes what the secret of contentment is; “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Notice that the negative circumstances did not change Paul’s view of himself. The response of others did not change Paul’s view of himself. He did not get stuck in the ‘externals’ like I probably would. It was truly well IN his soul. (*Excerpt from my contribution in Stickman’s Prayers, chapter 3, “Stickman’s Joy”.)

The concept of a ***joyful identity*** is explored and defined in the book, Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You, 2000 Revised edition. Consider this small portion on this concept:

Joy is intended to be gradually built up to high levels, over time, so that it can become powerful enough to sustain high levels of negative feelings. It is essential for joy to be strong enough to withstand the intensity of trauma-related feelings. . . . The goal of recovery is to build joy that is powerful enough so the other feelings can connect to it and come to a resting place.

I believe this rendering of a ***joyful identity*** is beautifully captured in Paul’s testimony of contentment in Philippians 4:12-

13. I believe that Paul’s secret of contentment could also be described as his joyful identity remains intact. To expound more on this joyful identity we would add the “too wonderful” (Ps. 139:6, NAS) knowledge that God knows everything about me and is still “as-glad-as-glad-can-get” to be with me (Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You, Revised 2013) To have this knowledge in all circumstances keeps me grounded and secure in my identity in Christ---*my joyful identity*, the secret of contentment.

Carol Anne





Can you Handle the Truth?

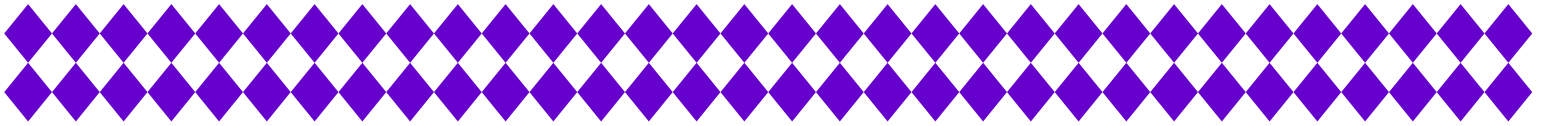
Philippians 4:8 is a very popular verse here at Plumblin. I hear it quite often from clients, especially when we begin the process of learning about healthy emotional responses and identifying our feelings. The verse goes like this—*“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”* One of the reasons so many people claim this verse, is that it seems to encourage us to NOT think about things that are painful or hurtful to us. When we encourage people to learn how to embrace the sad things in life, this verse is hard to reconcile. So, let’s look at a few things...

The key word in this verse is the word “think”. At face value, we know what thinking about something looks like. I can think about what’s going to be for dinner, what my next job is going to be, or even how much I like football. But the greek word used here doesn’t refer to that kind of contemplation. The word used here is actually an accounting term! It means to take an account of, to reckon, to count. It deals with reality. So, if I “think” (reckon, take account) that my bank account has \$50 in it, then it has \$50 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself.

When I then “think” about whatever is true, I have to embrace everything that is true—the good and the bad, the happy and the sad, the joy and the pain. Part of our world view as Christians is that even on our best day, I’m not perfect. On your best day, you are not perfect. We all still live in a fallen world because Jesus has not returned yet. And, there is nothing that God is not involved in. Learning how to “think” about all the situations and circumstances we find ourselves can be very challenging. When we can take a realistic account of those things, we can only then begin to make our Godly responses to them.

This brings me to a bit of a personal realization that I’ve been thinking about recently. I know that in my own life, I have spent a great deal of time, effort, and energy trying to avoid negative feelings and emotions. I don’t do sad very well and I don’t do bad at all! The inhibitions to these feelings lead to many coping mechanisms and many hurts to those close to me. When I began this journey to learn how let myself feel these emotions, it would feel totally contradictory to my belief system. I had spiritualized my psychosis to think that I was more spiritual by not feeling. The revelation I had was, that while I was doing this, I was not open to the Holy Spirit doing what His primary function is, to be The Comforter. The very walls I had erected to keep out the pain, discomfort, sorrow, hurt, etc. were the same walls that were keeping me from experiencing His comfort.

It is a very scary prospect to embrace the sadness and the pain of the world around us. It is much “easier” to blame someone or something else. We all have experienced betrayals of trust at some level, making it harder to trust that God will comfort us, when it feels like we are suffering. The account that we take, the reckoning we do, the way we “think” about all these things will make it possible for us to, *“Rejoice in the Lord always”* (Phil 4:4), to *“not be anxious about anything”* (Phil 4:6), *“to be content in any and every situation”* (Phil 4:12), because we will know that in whatever our position in life is, He is right there with us, ready to be our Comforter.



PLUMBLINE CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The Classroom Transformation Project is just one of the projects we are currently working toward at Plumblime.

What is the Classroom Transformation Project?

OUR VISION: To transform the existing classroom into a warm and welcoming living room type environment to allow class members to feel comfortable, encouraging emotional growth.

REQUIREMENTS: This project will include pain, lighting, upgrades to the wall décor, adding a pass through bar counter in the kitchen, window treatments, transform the floor coverings, and furniture upgrades at a minimum.

BUDGET: The overall budget for this project is \$15,000 to include all items.

TIMELINE: Once the funds have been acquired, the project will be scheduled and completed.

ASKING: We are seeking donations to assist us in completing this Classroom Transformation Project.

VOLUNTEERS: Additional ways to assist will be by volunteering your time and expertise when the actual work begins.

Would you partner with us for this project?

Donations can be sent to Plumblime Ministries, Inc. [8222 E 103rd Street, Tulsa, OK 74133](http://www.plumblime.org).

All donations are Tax Deductible.

New Winter Classes

Looking for a change? Tired of getting the same results? Come learn a new way! Plumblineline will be offering the following classes beginning in January, 2018:

Co-Dependency: *Were you raised to be nurturing, caring, loving and responsible? That's a good thing....right? So I'm doing these "good things" and yet I'm called a "control freak", bossy, selfish, and obsessed? Can someone tell me please...when did nurturing, caring, loving and being responsible become such bad things? If you are struggling with these issues, then this class will be of tremendous support and encouragement to you. Taught by Marion Fuller. Class Begins Sunday January 28th, 2018, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.*

Boundaries: *What are boundaries and why are they important? Boundaries are unseen structures that protect us from harm and support healthy, productive lives. Boundaries are personal property lines that define who you are and who you are not, and influence all areas of your life. They give you the freedom to walk as the loving, giving, fulfilled individual God created you to be. Taught by Michelle Carpenter. Class begins Tuesday January 30, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.*

Safe People: *Want to discern safe from unsafe people? Do you need practical steps for leading you to individuals who truly make you a better person by their presence in your life? Do you want to take ownership of your own unsafe tendencies and become a safe person for others? Countless individuals have invested themselves in others only to be used, abused, or abandoned. They have lost their sense of security and personal value in the process. Would you like to avoid repeating your own mistakes? If you are ready to look inside your self for blind spots or vulnerabilities and outside to evaluate the nature of others, both good and bad, then please join us as we learn to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives. Taught by Margo Hanne. Class begins Wednesday January 31st, 2018, from 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.*

Each class is \$70.00 and runs for 10 weeks. Please visit our website, www.plumblinelineonline.com, or enroll at the office.

COMING THIS WINTER!

January 18, 2018

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Soul Care Training Unit V

Taught by Terry Ewing

Unit Topic: Diagnostic Categories

The Diagnostic Categories will focus on spiritual warfare as a common trial of life. There will be weekly exploration of the various diagnostic categories that affect individuals and their families. The course will end with student presentations on various topics.

The weekly topics being covered are:

- *Introduction to Spiritual Warfare
 - *Biblical Perspectives on Evil
 - *Encounter Events
- *Depression and Bipolar Disorder
 - *Stress and Anxiety
 - *Perfectionism and OCD
 - *Personality Disorders
 - *Addiction
 - *Eating Disorders
 - *Suicide Intervention
 - *Grief and Trauma

Students will be focusing on two incredible books. The first of the books is M. Scott Peck's **People of the Lie**, which will explore spiritual warfare, the definition, the struggle and the response. Since spiritual warfare manifests itself in various personal and emotional issues, the second book, **Caring for People God's Way**, by Clinton, Hart and Ohschlager will serve as a textbook throughout this unit of study. This book takes the reader through different diagnostic categories preparing the soul caregiver, with tools and insight to respond to the needs represented within these categories. This study will prove to be beneficial to both the Christian counselor and the layperson with gifts of encouragement and compassion that will encounter persons in the midst of these struggles.

The cost for this unit of study will be \$250 with a \$50 deposit . The remaining \$200 will be due by the first class session, Thursday, January 18, 2018.

For further information, please visit our website at www.plumblonline.com.

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?

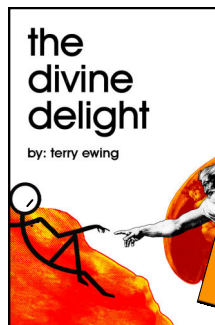
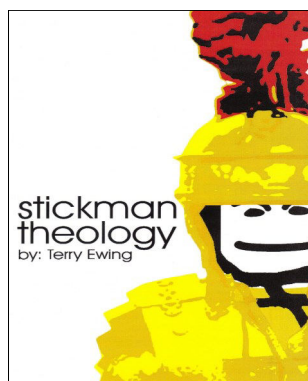
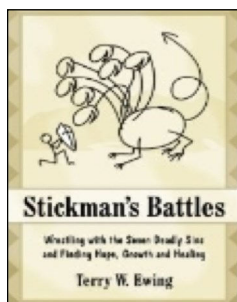
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

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



Did you know you can download

Stickman Theology

On your KINDLE?

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!

PLUMBLINE

MINISTRIES

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