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II PETER

Inside Terry's Office:

The Book of II Peter—Peter's Biggest Relational Struggle! (?)

You may have read (and remembered) that I was slow to trust Peter in giving relational advice when I commented on the book of I Peter. In the gospels, Peter seems the last person to emulate in relationship matters and his example doesn't improve much when he is mentioned in Paul's epistles. NEVERTHELESS, in his first epistle Peter goes to the heart of how to practice respect and honor in relationships. In this, his second epistle, we are given some insight into how Peter gained such slippery wisdom.

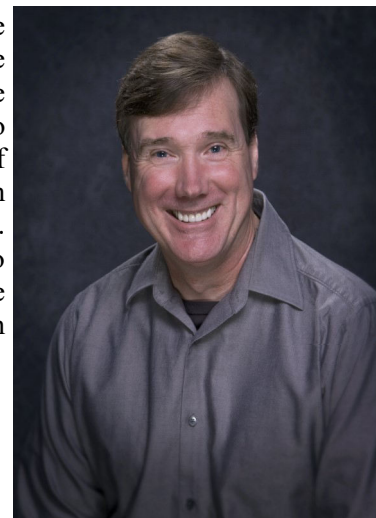
Although I'm drawn to some amazing insights Peter has gained in his personal struggle with setting aside performance-based discipleship (check out chapter 1, verses 5-8!), I'm blown away at the humility and grace that Peter displays toward Paul after their many years of knocking heads together displayed in the following verses:

"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do other Scriptures to their own destruction."

That's amazing! Remember, the last encounter between Paul and the Jerusalem church, before he was cast in jail and began writing his epistles, did not go so well. Even though Paul brought them a big bag of money to aid them in the distresses of their persecutions, the Jerusalem church basically told Paul not to preach to their members "who still respect the Law". Even after Paul had publicly confronted Peter for his hypocrisy in pampering the "Judaizers", Peter is now willing to praise Paul and challenge others not to misrepresent Paul's theology anymore! Can you imagine how many local church splits and denominational divisions could have been avoided if we were all able to work through our differences like Peter and Paul obviously eventually did.

Through at least a dozen years (possibly 30 years) of confrontations and challenges, Peter and Paul persevered in their relationship as recognized leaders of the church. Each was concerned that the other entertained some heresy. So ..., let's talk about that word; heresy. 'Heresy' indicates believers who have gotten their beliefs wrong; whereas, 'Apostasy' references someone who rejects essential doctrine. By these definitions, I believe we all qualify as those who hold to some heresies. Among us conservative Believers we, like Peter and Paul, are bound together in promoting the essential doctrines we all hold dear, even though we all differ as to some elements or expressions or applications of the teachings of Scripture. Since no one I know holds all the same beliefs that I do, I'm willing to say that some of my beliefs are probably wrong (heresies). Yet, I trust, that if Paul and Peter can find their way together, then so can you and I. The Lord who lives in us and binds us is bigger than the ideas our minds that separate us! We, and all the Body of Christ, can and will find our way together!!

In His Grip, TWE





CAMZ COUNSEL

DECEMBER 2018

II PETER

His divine power has given us everything we need to experience life and to reflect God's true nature through the knowledge of the One who called us by His glory and virtue. Through these things, we have received God's great and valuable promises, so we might escape the corruption of worldly desires and share in the divine nature.

2 Peter 1:3, 4 The Voice

My inspirational thoughts from Crabb's 66 Love Letters on this passage:

This is the message Larry receives from God to his question of whether he will ever "mature beyond worldly self-pity and a proud and critical spirit."

You will never, until heaven, mature beyond having to fight the battle against flesh-driven relational wickedness. But something else, something better, is in you, and it's lodged in a deeper place in your heart than where your natural self-centeredness lives. . . .

You have within you the power necessary to resist every natural impulse that stands in the way of loving others as I love you. Neither fear, failure, nor temptation is stronger than the divine power available to you that can keep you walking the narrow road to life."

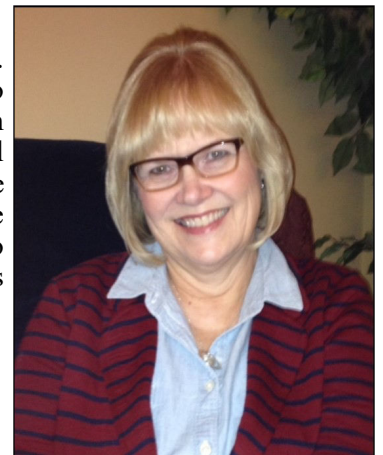
There's a profound line from the Boundaries course by Henry Cloud and John Townsend that I love to quote and I am reminded of in response to this scripture and the inspiration excerpts from 66 Love Letters; "**the destructive familiar digs very deep roots into our soul.**" I've been thinking it would be very appropriate to also input this line in verse 4 quoted above, "Through these things, we have received God's great and valuable promises, **so we might escape the pull of the deep rooted destructive familiar** and share in the divine nature."

We are drawn to replay painful past events in an effort to find ways to resolve the hurt. As we move through life we establish for ourselves ways of coping with the triggers to and reminders of our past pain. Our nature drives us to self-protect and look out for our own interests. For instance, in order to avoid the hurt of rejection, we become people pleasers or before someone can make fun of you, you become self-deprecating. All our coping strategies are self-seeking in that there is something that we are looking for in return: approval, acceptance, validation, security and the list goes on. These desires in and of themselves are not evil. Actually, God instilled those desires within all of us and you cannot escape those desires and God doesn't intend for you to. "You can escape, *however*, from the demand to arrange for your own happiness and well-being." (66 Love Letters, p. 336) It is that very *demand* that compels us to fall back into the "destructive familiar."

Consider Philippians 2:4 (The Voice), "**Get beyond yourselves and protecting your own interests;** be *sincere*, and secure your neighbors' interests first." In other words, "get beyond what you can get out of relationships and toward what you can bring into them." (66 Love Letters, p. 336) God has given us everything we need for a fulfilling, purposeful and meaningful life. We have everything we need to get beyond ourselves and therefore resist the pull of the destructive familiar.

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ Centered 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind, *hurts, hang-ups and habits*. The Serenity Prayer is often referenced in a 12 step program. Many are familiar with the first part: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. There is also a statement in the latter part of that prayer that I have enjoyed pondering, "**Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. . .**" What a difference this attitude can make in our demand to arrange for our own well being.

I have a client who reported a victory that reflected this attitude and I asked her permission to share. She has a biological father who was absent during her upbringing. Attempts made by my client to have relationship with him as a young adult were repeatedly rejected. He, nevertheless, remains in her contact list and recently a call came in from him and his name popped up on her screen. The call ended and she had the thought that it was a *pocket dial*. She still messaged him to inquire if he intended to call. She got no response. She put herself in a position to hope that he might have intended to call her and yet when there was no response she came away intact. She was able to acknowledge that she no longer needs him to want to be in relationship with her. She said, "It's his loss, I have a FATHER who loves me!" Thank you, Lord!



Carol Anne

SOUL CARE

If you are tired of getting the same results and are looking for a change,
then come learn a new way!

PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC. has new classes beginning in January 2019.

SOUL CARE—Unit 2—Emotional Freedom

Begins January 10 through April 4, 2019

In this unit of study we will dedicate ourselves to finding freedom in the expression of emotion, the ownership of emotion, and the freedom that comes from the God-given response to emotionally charged situations.

Plumblineline now offers Soul Care classes On-Site, as Video on Demand, and in Satellite Groups.

Check out below which options are best for you.

On-Site: With the on-site experience you will get the opportunity to interact in a small group setting with Terry and your classmates. The ability to ask questions and to process information together is very beneficial. You will also enjoy the experience of the student led presentations during several of the units. Book discussions are also included in the on-site classes. The class meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Cost: \$250.00 per unit.

Video-On-Demand: If time and/or distance is an issue to you being able to take Soul Care on site, you can now enjoy the same teaching at your own pace, at a time of your choice, and at any location! Plumblineline now offers the entire 6 semesters to be viewed as “on demand”. Cost: \$100.00 per unit.

Satellite Groups: Satellite groups are now forming to help facilitate Soul Care classes. We currently have a group that meets in Owasso and are looking for others that would be willing to form new groups. If you are a Soul Care alumni, we are offering special incentives to you, if you would like to host a new satellite group in your area! Cost: Please contact the office.

Plumblineline offers three additional classes which will begin again in January and February 2019 are open to the public. Our “**Codependency**”, “**Boundaries**,” and “**Safe People** “ classes help give practical help to those who might be struggling with these issues or know someone who is. Each class is a 10 week course that meets once a week. Each class is offered two or three times per year, so if you missed the last one, check back often for when it will start again!

WINTER CLASSES 2019

Looking for a change?

Tired of getting the same results?

Come learn a new way!

PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC. has

NEW classes starting soon!

CoDependency—When good behaviors are taken too far or when I need you to be okay for me to be okay, you may need the skills taught in the codependency class.

Starts: To be announced in January's Newsletter

Cost—\$70.00 plus book

Boundaries—Why do I say yes, when I want to say no? Do I feel controlled by others? Do I feel a need to control others? Get help with questions like these and many more by learning about

BOUNDARIES!

Starts: Tuesday, January 22nd

Cost \$70.00 plus book

Safe People—Learn how to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives as well as how to be that person for those in our lives!

Starts: Wednesday, February 6—10 weeks—6:30—8:30 p.m.

Cost \$70.00 plus book.

Stickman's Prayers

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

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

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?

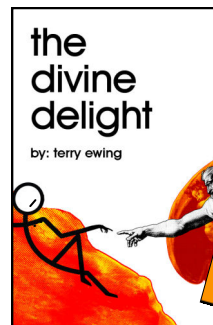
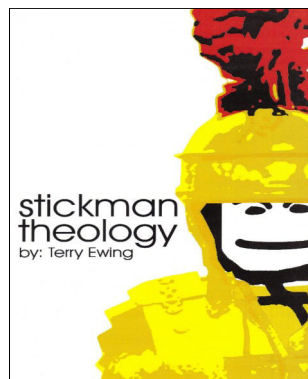
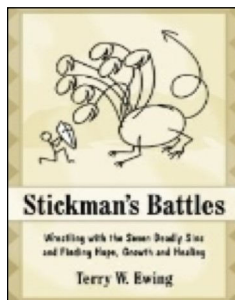
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

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

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