

Studying The Word/Strength for the Journey

Our hope is that as we explore the light of God's word together, His grace, truth, strength, and love will be illuminated. As we ourselves have learned about God and His word, we have discovered that some issues that have caused us to stumble in the darkness...were just the issues God wanted to heal!

We also hope that you will be open to responding to His invitations in his word to "walk in the light" and allow Him to offer healing. Day Seven Ministries can offer professional support as you journey.

REFLECTION ON LIGHT © April 2009
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John 9:3

New International Version (NIV)

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The Message (MSG)

Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

I love the Message translation-often referred to by my family as the "redneck version"- so aptly pointing out that often we ask the wrong question, and often so that we have someone to blame.

When something goes wrong, we often ask, "what happened?" followed quickly by, "who's fault is it anyway?" Both excellent questions to ask, but the questions are earthly focused, and assume that whatever the problem is, we (humans) can fix it.

But sometimes, especially when and where addictions are added to the problem, the simple questions are not enough. Yet, because we do not ask the right questions, we continue in the self-defeating cycle of doing the same thing in the same way, expecting a different solution.

What if (and this too may be the wrong question to ask!) we shift our focus and ask another question- this time asking the Light of God to shine and help us to know our part. Not a cause-effect (she did/he did) but rather, "what is my part? What do I need to know, and what can I change in order to better reflect the light of truth, the light of God?"

What would happen if, instead of trying to find out "who did what", "when did it start" and "how did it happen", we each would be energetically at work for God, in God, to know God, and to know our own selves.

How do we do that? What does that process look like?

While I am not one to think God can be defined in a "step-by-step" process where 1 leads to 2, and we cross the steps off a list, I do believe that God delights in revealing Himself to us and we can learn in simple steps! So, with that in mind, here a few steps to put in place which should help to ask the "right question":

Seek God. He is the light and created us to be His reflection. Let us hold ourselves up for His examination so He can reveal not our "fault" or "faults" but to lead us into the light of the truth of what we need to change in order to better reflect Him and His nature. We can trust Him in this, He tells us His yoke is easy, His burden light (Mt. 11:27-29). He will not lay anything on us that He will not also strengthen us to succeed at.

Seek to see His reflection in you. One of the ways I have often done this, is to ask myself, "who is God?" After I have asked that, I ask myself, where and how I see myself in that reflection. For example, if I see God as truth, how do I reflect truth? When am I truthful? When am I not truthful? Where I am truthful I am a reflection of God (not perfect, but no reflection is!), where I am not truthful I am a distortion of God-taking what He intended and twisting it, even ever so slightly. I can then ask Him to correct me.

Seek to see Him in others. Often when we have been twisted and turned by the affects of addiction we have such a hard time distinguishing God in others! This breaks God's heart, as He made us for relationship-God, Godly relationship. In our own effort to "set things right" we often try to make others "gods" and see Him in them. But, if we turn the light and shine it from God to others (instead of from others to God) He is able to show us His reflection in the others, and together we see Him in an even brighter, cleaner light.

God is not about placing blame. He is not about finding out what the cause and effect issue is or was. He already knows.

God is about helping us untangle the mess we are in, setting us in His path of light and allowing us to work energetically for Him! He has a lot to do, we are invited to respond!

Questions for personal reflection: ~Which questions do you most often ask- what happened/who's fault is it? OR what is my part? ~Where are you in the process of letting God teach you- step 1, 2, or 3? What hinders you or gets in your way of progressing? ~Do you see God as a blamer or one who wants to help us make things better?

Comments and questions regarding the content of this study are welcome AND INVITED! Responses will be offered from Day Seven volunteers or staff.

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Day Seven Ministries' mission is to bring light to individuals and families walking in the darkness of sexual and relational conflicts by providing Christ-centered counseling, education, and support
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