

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.

COLORS

by Kelly Serafini © 2009

I have been fascinated lately with colors-their presence, the depths of them, how colors affect us, the interaction of moods, thoughts and colors.

I recently wrote a poem entitled "My Sister Gave Me Colors", that captured my awakening to colors, to depth, to seeing and visualizing the world in the many glorious and fascinating dimensions so unlike the "black and white" understanding that is typical of my personality. I wish I could share the poem with you here, but, as is typical of me, once it was down on paper I didn't need it anymore! Now I realize my mistake-the depth of our life glance that is so often dictated by our cultures pace.

My sister has been attempting to allow me to see the world, or color, from her perspective for as long as I could remember. I have been fighting the experience, trivializing the issue and attempting to wrap color into the black and white world I perceived.

As a child, I colored as I was taught:

Trace the outline with black crayon

Fill in the blanks with appropriate choices to reflect what you know

I remember my annoyance and anger over my sister's method:

Never trace an outline-what if you want to expand or add?

Use many colors-all of them if you need to!

And mix, blend and imagine

I vividly remember her drawing of a flamingo- an animal I had not encountered in the flesh, and to my knowledge neither had she...yet she filled in the body with so many hues- pinks, corals, and softness- I was captured...

First by a sense of awe and wonder at how she could do that, understand the world that way...

And then, sadly, by rage, jealousy and pain- how could she? How could she do that and I could not?

The invitation to experience color/life in the truer form of fullness was offered to me- to have someone share their understanding of life and color with me to enlarge me was rejected as all I could see was someone who had something I did not.

We went our ways, my sister and I- she studied color at the institute of Art in Baltimore and launched a career of design that utilized her understanding and appreciation of color to enhance the lives of others. I studied psychology in an attempt to understand and gain what I did not have-still looking from the outside in and never allowing myself to simply let go and fall into the gift others could offer.

But then my world went dark- years of a bad marriage ended in a depth of darkness I feared would overwhelm me. And my sister was there- offering her gift of color in a practical way that finally immersed me in, if not understanding, at least an awakening and appreciation for what was offered.

She transformed my home. As the rooms became uniquely individual, reflecting both purpose and ownership, she was able to tie the whole home together in a way that reflected each of us living here individually and as a family. I awakened to the colors surrounding me each day- rich depths of colors, each with a lesson of their own!

-A shade of yellow I would have said was gold, but as she taught me, was "Toasted Sesame"

- the same color in my room which gets a morning light is so very different in another room that gets afternoon light.

-The same green in the hall is quite different in the kitchen, not just because of the light, but because of the other objects in the same light.

-A common color theme found in each room ties each room together into a home.

My black and white understanding of life was literally washed over as the simple existence of color awakened my senses to something more. Something more, something so much more.

So, why am I sharing this? What does my lack of understanding and appreciation of my sister's ability to see and understand life differently from me have to do with you let alone with God?

My first response would be "everything" but that is simply from my "black and white" theology.

The more accurate, richer answer, would be, "as an example of what my sister did for me- simply offer what she possessed to enrich and expand my own understanding of life, and in doing so, invited me to understand God in a new light as well.

Black and white- literally all or nothing- is both exhausting and empowering; limiting and limitless; useful and useless.

Exhausting as more truth is added, the paradigm is battered and we must fight back to keep the larger experience far from our hearts.

Empowering as we cling to the ½ truths of life, we can scale higher and faster- but only because we skip the fullness.

Limiting as we reduce everything to our understanding,

limitless as we continually allow ourselves to be the end all of everything.

Useful to our own agenda,

useless as we are not the whole of the world.

How often have I applied "black and white" theology to my understanding of God? In a vain attempt to understand God I reduced Him to what I understood (or thought I understood) and in so doing limited my experience with Him and others to what I could explain, to what I could manipulate to my own agenda. It was all about me- not about God.

It wasn't until the state of my failing marriage became a "black and white" reality-when I could no longer excuse, cover or ignore the depth of pain and hurt we were all experiencing- that I allowed God to change my own thinking, challenge my understanding, and teach me to see things His way.

"I don't think the way you think.

The way you work isn't the way I work."

God's Decree.

"For as the sky soars high above earth,

so the way I work surpasses the way you work,

and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Isaiah 55:8 Msg. For Reflection:

I wonder...

Are there places in your life that God would like to change- and He can only begin with your willingness to allow Him to change the color scheme and work His way?

Are there places in your life that God has richly colored and you refuse to see anything but "black and white"?

Are you ignoring others who are gifts from God meant to allow you to see more of Him and His vast array of color, or have you altered someone to see only "black and white"?

I wonder if you are willing to allow God to change you so you can see so much more of Him and His wonderful gifts around you, or are you only willing to change Him to fit in the color scheme you control?

Comments and questions regarding the content of this study are welcome AND INVITED! Responses will be offered from Day Seven volunteers or staff. Feel free to forward enLIGHTen to friendsif you have received enLIGHTen as a forward, and would like to be added to our email list, please contact us at: enLIGHTen@dayseven.net

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