

GOD'S REDEEMED CHILD

Part Two

It is hard to maintain who you are in Christ and to keep your focus on the things that God has called you to do when you have to fight opposition from your brothers and sisters in Christ. Why do we do that to one another? Why do we tear down something that we may not understand instead of seeking God's wisdom to lift others up who are seeking to obey their calling. Why do we not stand united in God's purpose with other believers?

We know in our *knower* that the enemy will try to use anyone or any situation to cause us to become discouraged and step back in fear and frustration from obeying God, yet we allow the enemy to do just that. We give the devil leeway—open doors. WHY? Why do we do that? It is partly due to our insecurities, our feelings of unworthiness—we allow doubts to creep in, and we start listening to the negative lies of the enemy; our focus is then turned to self. We lose sight of what we are called to do to further the Kingdom; therefore do not stand in the precious promises of God.

We must constantly guard against unforgiveness taking up residence in our soul area; taking over our minds with negative thoughts like the *poor me* attitude. Forgiveness is powerful and it will keep you shielded from the fiery darts of the enemy. Forgiveness is not an emotion—it is an act of the will. We are not only given a commandment to forgive, but it is a daily experience. Forgiveness is one of our greatest weapons against the enemy of our soul—the devil and his army. I have to keep reminding myself that the battles I am engaged in are not about me and me alone. It is about the Kingdom of God that I belong to. The devil hates me because of who I belong to—Jesus Christ and the Bible tells us that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

So many times we become the *scapegoat* of another person's anger which is never easy to deal with; especially when their actions are not justified. When we are dealing with abusive issues, we need to remember that sin brought fear in place of trust. Sin brought tears in place of laughter. Sin brought pain and anguish in place of peace. Sin brought death in place of life. Sin brought defeat in place of victory. Sin would rob us of our God given inheritance. Sin is the thief who steals away our happiness, our joy. This is overwhelming at times, especially in times of human weakness, but may I remind you that we serve a God who does not seek for sinless perfection from us—He knows we are people in process—and He helps us work on continual cleansing. He gives us hourly victory in the strength and power of the risen Christ. Remember, child of God, you are the sons and daughters of the King. You are not worthless! You are not junk! You may lose a few battles, but you are not going to lose the WAR! Believe and hold on to

this truth—God planned our lives long ago. Every detail concerning our success, as a believer was all worked out. Stay in Prayer, stay in communion with Him, and learn to turn negatives into positives.

Often the enemy can come in and wreak havoc in a believer's life because we are judged on our intentions, which when they differ, may become a point of contention. We think the person may be thinking too highly of himself instead of realizing we are thinking too little of God. Come on now, when things are done differently than we are accustomed to, we are apt to misinterpret the actions. Your intentions are honorable and your heart is pure, but those around you misinterpret your actions. This can happen to us as people in process because we are walking into new territory in God and it is not the norm for us, so our intentions may be questioned.

There comes a time that we may have to turn to those of like mind; to start talking to someone else. To seek other people who do not look upon us as unsuitable for the calling that is burning in our hearts because they are still seeing us through our past inadequacies and remembering all the reasons why we could not possibly do anything of significance. Often they are also remembering their failures. Strong words, I admit, but being in the ministry for over forty years, it is a reality I have seen and experienced. It is part of seeing and being *people in process*.

I once read a statement that has stayed with me. It said *Man's impotency is God's opportunity. He uses our problems as building materials for His miracles.* The Bible contains many promises that assure us that God will lead those who obey Him. Have you ever heard of a good shepherd who does not lead his sheep?

I love being a person in process because I am always learning new things. I don't mind getting into the thick of the battle for I know if I fail and fall, there is a provision that I can rely on. A dear friend once said, *Katie, run, don't walk to the throne room in prayer. Confess your sin in the loving ears of your Savior. Hear and receive His forgiveness, feel His cleansing, know the joy of a new start.*

She went on to say, *Satan tries to spoil our fellowships, stifles our communion, silences our testimony, bans our usefulness and we live in a bondage of misery while we permit it to remain.*

She ended with this statement—*So, here's the bottom line! Don't let your life be cumbered with these burdens, give them to the Lord for His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). Remember girl, you are a child of God—a person in process. Learn from your mistakes; store up wisdom and understanding from every experience that you can use down the road. You are on a journey of a lifetime with many valleys to travel through, but the mountain top experiences will give new meaning to your life and you never travel alone. Not only does the Lord travel with you, but you will meet new friends along the way who will enrich your life.* When you ask for a cupful, God will give you an ocean (joy).