

Pride Born of Hurt

Our pride can keep us from asking for what we need. We may have grown up in a family where we were consistently ignored or disappointed. Perhaps our needs were seldom met. Some of us may have reacted by becoming self-sufficient. We determined never to ask anyone for help. In fact, we were going to strive to never need anyone's help ever again!

It is this type of pride, born of hurt, that will hold us back from asking God to help us deal with our pain and our failures in life. Jesus said, ***"Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks."*** (Luke 11)

Many of us hold pain and loneliness, anger and frustration, dissatisfaction and discouragement in our hearts. God's plan is for us to keep on asking for and receiving healing as He unravels the tangled mess of hurt and pain in our memories and sets us free. The broken places in our heart didn't happen overnight. Usually there is a long series of events that connect to each other. We pray for healing about one event and

wonder why other areas of discomfort and anger emerge. We blame God for not "being there for us" and choose to act in unhealthy ways as though we have to meet our own needs.

What Jesus teaches us is that every request for healing produces healing. Every healing reduces the package of pain that remains. God's promise to us, is that everyone who seeks healing and freedom will find it, if they don't stop looking for it until the job is done. The challenge for us is to give up our prideful efforts to be self-sufficient. We have to acknowledge that we only have temporary measures for our pain. God alone has the real solutions. We don't know what is best for us over the long haul. We don't know how the anger and pain in our lives are interconnected. We must be willing to ask for God's kind of help because God alone is truth and knows the whole truth. And we can't ask for help just once and be done with it. We must be persistent and ask repeatedly as the needs arise.

When we do this, we can be assured that our loving heavenly Father will respond by giving us good gifts of healing and abundant life.

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. How have I experienced healing in my life?
2. How do I sometimes live in the pride born of hurt?
3. When do I get discouraged with the healing process?
4. What do I need in order to keep on asking and looking?
5. Where does a person go to look for healing?
6. How can I live well today, even though the full healing is still taking place in me?