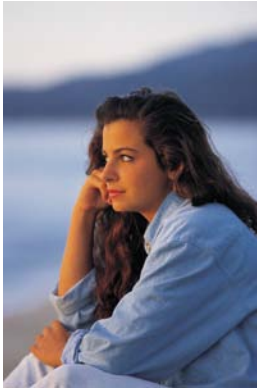


"My sin may not be your sin and your sin may not be my sin, but all have sinned and come short of God's glory."

A LESSON LEARNED IS A BLESSING EARNED



As I drove home in dismay, I could not believe what had just happened! I pinched myself and I didn't wake up. It was then that I realized I was living in a real nightmare. My heart was beating fast and furious. I was nervous and sweating. I couldn't believe that I had gotten myself into such a mess. I was ashamed to ask God why because I already knew the answer.

I had deterred from God's plan and started living by my own agenda and then I strayed. Many thoughts started racing through my head. What will become of me? I've made a grave mistake. I will never get out of this one alive! The drive home seemed so long and dreary. When I finally arrived, I sat in the car and I thought to myself, what am I going to do? How am I going to make it? God surely won't hear me now because I haven't been praying all of these months, why pray now? All I kept hearing was the gruff voice of a tall dark silhouette of a man who looked like "Mister" on *The Color Purple*. I kept calling the Name of Jesus with the small amount of faith that I had left and forced my way to go ahead and pray anyway despite the circumstances. I started praying and asking God to deliver me from the situation that I walked into unwillingly and unintentionally. I began to tell God that I was sorry for not listening to Him when He told me to get myself together. It would have taken a huge amount of effort, but I could have put a stop to what was causing me to go backwards instead of moving forward. I began to cry unto the Lord and I felt my spirit being purged. It was like God had come down from the [glory cloud](#) and laid His hands on me. All of the filth that had consumed my mind was finally being pruned out of the depths of my soul. All the times that I ignored God calling my name and telling me to draw nigh to Him floated to the surface of my mind. I told God I was sorry and to forgive me of my sins and to forgive me for stepping out of His Will. After months of being disheartened and depressed, finally, there was a release. I felt a certain peace deep within even though satan continued to try and insult my intelligence. He repeated to me constantly that I was in too deep and God had turned His back on me. I turned a deaf ear to satan and I began to give God praise and [called those things that be not as though they were](#). Finally, I heard the voice of Jesus say... "come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!" I hearkened to the voice of the Lord and then, He sent an angel. The angel spoke to me and said... "Peace be unto you and in your spirit man. You are delivered from your transgressions. God will cover you and you shall walk in the anointing that He has predestined for you even in your mother's womb." I held on to that promise and as the old saying goes... "and the rest is history."

The test in this trial that I have carefully portrayed without revealing every corrupted detail inspired me to start back writing. A hidden talent that I've possessed

since I was a child. Many people who have not looked beyond my surface, think that my only gift is music, but there's more that lies beneath. I had to be urged and prodded by God to step out and do the things that I thought I could not do. I was afraid and thought I was not worthy to do my Master's Will, but I learned that God did not give me the [spirit of fear](#), but of power, love, and of a sound mind. My mind is now stayed on Jesus. I used to pray that God would put me back where I was when I first came into the Holy Ghost, but He had something even better in store for me. I know now that the lesson that I learned in this particular trial was probably one of the most valuable because I learned how to ask God for forgiveness, how to ask others for forgiveness, how to forgive myself and eventually learn to love myself as well as others. [Love covers all sins](#). This lesson blessed me and has enabled me to be a blessing to others with a ministry that God Himself ordained without question. To God be the glory!

My challenge to you is to look to God when your back is up against the wall. Don't contemplate doing anything other than seeking God for guidance. He is a God of second chances and more. He can deliver you from anything. There is nothing too hard for God. When it looks like there is no other way out, God will open doors that you never thought would open for you. I implore and encourage you to learn the lesson in your trial and earn the blessing from God.

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