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REAL PEOPLE FALL DOWN...

BUT THEY GET BACK

UP!



an example of what they used to that no one is or ever will be perfect. Not even a bona fide preacher!

So many people hide behind masks because it seems so easy to do, but it is not always the right thing to do. Our lives should be used as testimonies to others in an effort to encourage them to want to be saved. God cannot use anyone who is not real or willing to be broken. Brokenness is a sign of His love and movement in your life. He breaks your self-reliance because He loves you. He knows if you are left on your own, you would surrender to pride and selfish feelings. Any discipline experienced in times of brokenness is God's way of changing and preparing you for future service. We must believe that. The consequences of sin may seem heavy at times, but God uses each one to sweep away the rubbish and bring glory to His Name.

Remember, real people fall down, but they get back up. God cannot use a hypocrite because a hypocrite is always pointing away from himself. Hypocrisy is one of the leading causes of what I call "churchitis" a.k.a. Do What I Say Do, But Not What I Do Syndrome. How can we, the church folk, tell the folks coming in how to live if "we" do not know who we are in Christ? Yet, we find reasons to judge. I feel that we should all be honest about who we are. It is not a bad thing. You may not want to expose every skeleton that is in your closet, but when God touches your heart to reach out and help somebody, be willing to do it. I do not trust anyone who pretends that they are sinless. Send me someone who has been around the bin a few times or someone who has experienced some ups and downs. I think we have all done things that we are not proud of, but we must use those things to grow spiritually. When a tree is planted, it grows, it may die in the winter, but it is reborn again in the spring. When a seed is planted in you as a child of God and you begin to grow spiritually, you may go through some trials and tribulations in your growing stages, but in the end you are made whole again.

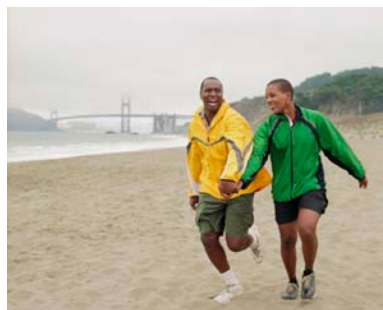
Have you ever heard the old saying, "the truth shall set you free?" Well, it is not just an old saying. It is a scripture, but the correct wording is "the truth shall make you free." So, the truth that I want you to grasp in this commentary is to be truthful with yourself and be real with people. You can win more souls being real than you can pretending to be something that you are not. In the Word of God, He clearly tells us to come unto Him even if you are heavily laden. He will give you rest. God can fix a broken and contrite spirit. If we, as God's people, would stop hiding behind our masks and just let go and let God fill us with His Spirit, He would use us

without hesitation. Souls would come flocking to Christ because of the evidence of His miracle working power in you, in me, and in us.

The church of the new millennium is very different from what it used to be. I have been in church all of my life (literally) and I have watched everything change right before my very eyes. We have gone from having a five day revival to a three day revival. We have gone from having fellowship soul food dinners to cookies and punch. We have gone from singing old Dr. Watts hymns to a much more watered down or contemporary sound. We have gone from kneeling at the altar to standing at the pews. You must understand that change is good as long as the purpose is the same and that is to glorify and lift up the Name of Jesus. Sometimes our focus is on the wrong things. I have been a musician for most of my childhood and all of my adult life and I have played for many churches with different denominations, diverse teachings, and doctrine. I have seen so many people fall prey to what they think is good and not what they know is good. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, but some of us come to church only to sit back and judge others or to see how much money is raised or what someone is wearing. So, then I ask myself, why can't we just focus on what really matters? What really matters is that when we enter into the church, we should come in praising God for who He is and to honor the charge that God has given us and that is to win souls for Christ. How do we win souls? Teach the Word, preach the Word, sing the Word, read the Word, and breathe the Word. Teaching others how and why it is important to be saved should not be a "chore," but a joy!

Remember, there is no church without you. The church should not be looked upon as a building, yet it is. Let me break it down. There are times when "church folks" can be the most callous, self-righteous creatures on the earth, but we have a God who sits high and looks low. Those who sit in the pews only to judge the afflicted will be the ones who God judges. For there is only one judge and His Name is Jesus Christ. He has the very last say so in any given situation. Those people who come to Christ with a willing heart to do God's Will can rise in victory. When you become a new creature in Christ, the old things must pass away and all other things are made new! A new light and a new day. You see, I think it is fair to say that by human nature, we judge from the outside in and dwell on the negative things instead of the positive things. It is not wise to judge nor is it wise to be negative. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. We do not exercise that scripture. We need to begin to speak life into the situations that we find ourselves caught up in. I believe that we give the devil too much play. I have heard a lot of people say that the devil is powerless. I question that. Why say it, if you don't believe it? God has given us power over the enemy, but do we use that power? I think not. It is time to use that power. The time is nigh. Choose this day who ye will serve.

Everyone has a story. This is why we go through trials and tests so that our story, our testimony can and will help someone else. An open book of one's afflictions is not necessary, however, helping a fellow brother or sister in Christ who has fallen to get back up is your duty. Pray and ask God to show you how. He will. Let God use you and the trials that you have conquered as a stepping stone to bless someone else.



Until next time...

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Unspoken Truth addresses controversial topics that are not usually addressed in a traditional church setting. If you have any topics that you would like to see addressed here, please e-mail them to unspoken@dearangela.com.