

JULY 2008 Week 4 Teaching:

Getting Unblocked through The Process of Preparation

In the last teaching we talked about employing corrective actions to get ourselves unblocked. The definition of “getting unblocked” is to restore balance to one’s soul through the Process of Preparation. There are three parts to this process, and the first involves our acknowledgment that the remnants of our old man nature may still be calling the shots in our lives. This is simply coming clean to God about the stuff we know we shouldn’t do. The “stuff” I’m talking about here is a little word that everyone avoids. It’s called “sin”.

If you want to see folks run from you as though you’ve got the plague, just mention that word a time or two. The truth of the matter is that we’ve become so enamored with the secular world, so anesthetized by its ills and captured by its influence that we think it sets the standard for how we ought to think, speak, and behave. Ah, ah, ahhh....not true! The more tolerant you are of sin, the less accepting you are of God’s love. I know that is a mind blower and it will make a whole lot of folks angry, but I can’t do anything about that. I want to see people have victory in their lives. I want every Christian woman who wants one to have a good and godly husband, and I desire greatly to see God’s people live abundant lives. We simply cannot get there unless we develop a propensity for the truth.

We don’t have the time or the right to fixate on someone else’s hang-ups, but we certainly have to acknowledge our own. Very often it’s the little things that trip us up. They slip by our consciousness because we think that God will let us slide with just a little bit of sexual immorality...just a little bit of greed...just a little bit of arrogance and pride. Sure, you can get by with this kind of attitude and settle for a micro mini spirituality, but it’ll not do if the phenomenal is in your sights.

Your spirit knows your potential. It sees everything you do. It knows every thought you think, and every word you speak. Jesus Christ will steer us in the direction of our highest potential based on our willingness to get there. Your refusal to acknowledge your sin creates a barrier that #1 separates you from perceiving his directives and #2 cuts you off from the very information that can set you free. Your denial makes the greatest statement about how much you value your relationship to God and what you are truly seeking first in your life. (Matthew 6:33 KJV)

The Apostle Paul said in 1Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV) *“For now we see in a mirror, dimly...”* Most of us look in the mirror dimly and get frustrated because we think God doesn’t see what we want Him to. Out of arrogance we ask

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“What do You want from me?” or “Why won’t You bless me?” Very few of us look in the mirror and are honest enough to acknowledge the sin we still allow.

Romans 7:23 NLT

23 But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

The urge to sin is insidious. Some are insanely dark; others may seem to us a bit dubious, but they have caused us to make humongous mistakes in the past and can cause us to make even greater ones in the future. Romans 7:23 NLT says there is a war going on in the mind. It is the fight to resist those urges. For some of us it is so exhaustive that rather than facing it—we will convince ourselves that we have sufficiently tucked that little critter away. In actuality we are really secretly waiting for...even praying for... a host to partner in our little secrets.

I’m a pretty ambitious person with rather lofty personal goals. I’ve taken myself through this rigorous process of combing my innermost to investigate where I might be blocked. I’ve opened myself up to the scrutiny of others in an effort to face the truth, and often just when I thought I couldn’t endure any more, I find out something about myself that I would have preferred not to face. But if I hadn’t faced it---there is no possible way that I could have written and taught the accuracy of God’s Word from a place of fortitude and conviction.

I have allowed the Holy Spirit to be at work within because I honor my relationship with God and extend to it a place of preeminence in my life. Nothing is more important than giving my spirit everything it needs to keep my connection with God through Christ on point.

Romans 7:24,25 (NLT)

24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

You and I are incapable of cleaning ourselves up and making ourselves fit to stand before God. Thank heavens we do not have to, but we are all still on this earth, therefore we all have to acknowledge when and where we’ve gotten off the path, and then surrender our missteps to Jesus Christ. Surrendering is the second step in the process. The Apostle Paul asked the question *“Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin.”* I’m certain that you can imagine coming to this place in your soul. You turn one corner and you have to face

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something...you turn another corner and you face something else. The sin is as thick as molasses, and no matter where you turn you can't press your way through it. You finally throw your arms in the air and surrender. You can't move to the left, nor to the right. The only thing that you can do is look to Jesus Christ.

This is exactly the place you are destined to be. It is the place where you learn great reverence for the gift that you have been given. It is the vantage point where you can honestly look at who you were and contrast it with the person you are becoming through the spirit of God.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)

28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

Finally, the ol' switch-a-roo must take place. The third step in this process is acceptance. We have to swap out our heavy baggage and accept something in return. That "something in return" is the light burden of Jesus' love. In essence we must literally accept the love of God in Christ by allowing it to penetrate our innermost places—the places where sin really has its grip.

Ephesians 4:22 (NLT) says that "21 Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, 22 throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. 23 Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. 24 You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness-righteous, holy, and true."

Too many of us neglect to engage the Process of Preparation, and a whole lot of us feel that we are above it; that is a tragedy. It is an attitude that causes us to miss out on opportunities to sharpen our spiritual acumen and deepen our relationship with God. The process of preparation is acknowledging and surrendering our sin, and then accepting God's love in those deep recesses where the sin use to live. It is the act of spiritually renewing our thoughts and attitudes to those of Jesus Christ, so that we can be free to move forward in purpose. I challenge you to do yourself a favor. Be brave enough to ask the Lord to show you where you are blocked, and then trust Him to help you get unblocked through the process of preparation!

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JULY 2008 Week 4 Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Please forgive me for the things I have thought, felt, said, and done that were contrary to Your will, and hear me, O' God, as I make the desires of my heart known before Your throne. I know that You desire the absolute best for me at all times, and I know that you have set about a plan for me to walk in abundance and wholeness; so from this moment on, I relinquish my agenda for Yours. As I continue to learn things about myself that are blocking my blessings, help me to remain committed to the task of my own spiritual work by taking off the "old" and putting on the "new". Please help me to see what I need to see, to hear what I need to hear, and to do what I need to do in order that I may be a blessing and not a hindrance to your divine will and purpose for my life. I pray these things in the powerful and precious name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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JULY 2008 TEACHINGS Week 4

Scriptures link to
[New Living Translation.com](http://NewLivingTranslation.com)

WEEK 4 Scriptures:

Day 1:

[Psalm 73:26](#)

Day 2:

[Psalm 16:11](#)

Day 3:

[Hebrews 5:14](#)

Day 4:

[1Corinthians 16:13,14](#)

Day 5:

[2Timothy 1:14](#)

Day 6:

[Mathew 5:18,19](#)

Day 7:

[John 10:9,10](#)