

Harris Ministries

"Ministering in Word & Song"



September 2012

Dear Friend,

We pray this letter finds you well and prospering even as your soul prospers! I was listening to a preacher the other day who said some VERY powerful things. One thing he said was really common sense for the church (or at least should be) but sometimes we live like we do not know the principle. He said something to the effect: One of the problems in the modern Church is we have forgotten that after the "Narrow Gate," there is a "Narrow Way."

Now like I said, this should be common sense to believers but how many of us live like we have no real boundaries except for what we desire? I have even heard people say, "If God wants it changed, He will change it," "it" being some carnal area of their lives. I believe that if something is going to change in our lives, we must by faith REPENT of it. Repent means to TURN 180 degrees from something and walk away. I was preaching this once and I heard an old timer say loudly, "You must also forsake it!" My thought at the moment was, "When you turn and walk away you have forsaken it." However, forsaking something is the mental and spiritual act that accompanies the physical turning. In other words, your whole being has to be involved.

The problem comes when sin that we have in our lives has become precious or a bondage to us. When that is the case that desire will try to visit us again and again after that we have repented. This will test the real metal of our love for Jesus. Which do we really want more? Remember now, we are talking about the "Narrow Way" that flows from that "Narrow Gate."

I am encouraged by Jesus' temptation in the wilderness because though he NEVER had any sin to repent of, He did have a time when the enemy kept attacking Him. The result of that conflict was that there was a termination date to the enemy's temptation. Satan departed from Jesus for a season. There is a termination date to the drive to turn around and go back to sin. WALK ON, beloved. Stay in the "Narrow Way." If you find yourself "Wide of the mark," confess your sin and adjust your course. I am not telling you to do this in your own strength. However, you will never find the strength of God unless you are willing to try in your own strength. How else is God's strength to be glorified in our weakness? How will we find our weakness unless we try in the amount of strength that we do possess? Some people are VERY STRONG! But that strength is paltry compared to the awesome strength of Almighty God. Aren't you glad He is for us and NOT against us!

These are just a few thoughts I have had recently. I went through a time of attack in my body unlike anything I have ever experienced. In that time, I rested, prayed, sought God, fasted (no choice there, I could not eat), and reflected. God had my full and undivided attention. The end of the story is that God healed me and I am still His. Since then I have made it my mental and spiritual purpose to glean everything out of the experience that is possible. I firmly believe that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Be encouraged - God WILL ABSOLUTELY come through for you!

We appreciate you and pray that God will abundantly bless you and your family! May your businesses be blessed! May your job be blessed. If anyone is to be promoted, may it be you! May you be healthy in your body, mind, and spirit! May you have His peace in abundance EVERYDAY!

Your Evangelists to a troubled world,
Carl, Terri, and Lilly