52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Make Our Way Straight**

Day 33, June 15, 2013

**Jeremiah 31:3-4, 9** "The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying*,* ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. Again I will build you and you will be rebuilt…With weeping they will come, and by supplication I will lead them; I will make them walk by streams of waters, **on a straight path in which they will not stumble’**…”

We have the most amazing God! His love for us is everlasting; and He does not stop there. When we stray, He draws us back to Himself with His lovingkindness! What has been torn down in our lives, He will rebuild to His original plans. As we see and experience this love and restoration, we humbly come to Him with the weeping of repentance, praying for His perfect leading in our lives. Confessing that we have gone astray, we have gotten off-course, and we need Him to lead us in the straight path for our lives. This path brings us by streams of living water, where we will be strengthened and refreshed all along our journey with Him.

So often we think that if we purpose to walk on the straight path with Him, we will not have trials and testings, but that is not the case. We have already looked at the eternal purposes of our testings, to bring us closer to the One who truly loves us. But the straight path that the Lord wants us to walk has a different connotation.

**Proverbs 2:13-15** tells us that those who leave the paths of righteousness (living according to God’s ways), walk in the ways of darkness; they delight in doing evil and their paths are crooked.

When something isn’t straight, it is crooked, bent, or distorted from its original design. When our way is made straight, we no longer have a path that is full of frustrating and exhausting twists and turns, it is no longer distorted. We are free to move continuously in the right direction, into the loving presence of Almighty God. In order to walk in a straight way we must be set **free from the iniquities of our past, and all that we have being going through as a Body of Christ**

Iniquities are sins, evilness in our hearts, faults, sins, guilt, blame, moral illness, perversion, or crookedness.

The Hebrew word for **iniquities (avon)** is derived from **avah- to bend** (shaped into a curve) **or distort** (twisted out of shape).

Thus **iniquity is the evil bent within human beings, or the crooked (**bent, twisted, out of shape or place**) directions or warped (**bent and twisted out of shape) **deeds of sinners.** Iniquity is too heavy for us to bear; only Jesus could take our iniquities and set us free of them. God promised that **His Suffering Servant would bear the iniquities of all His people.**

**Isaiah 53:10-12** “But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would **render Himself as a guilt offering**, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; **by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.** Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet **He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”**

**When something is distorted, it is twisted, forced out of its natural or proper shape.** In the garden when sin entered the world, we as humans were forced out of our intimate relationship with God. Then another force (enemy) came to cause our hearts and minds to be bent and distorted. Now we are operating in sin that has been produced by the enemies in our hearts. We also have open doors that our forefathers had opened up in their hearts that brought iniquity to our families, causing us to go in a crooked way. We don't know the right way, so our hearts needs to be prepared for the Lord through repentance. He will turn us around and place us on the right path that was chosen for us from the beginning.

**Isaiah 53: 6** “All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has **turned to his own way**; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

**The Lord saw our bent and crooked way that we could not change without Him.** It was going to require a turning away from the old crooked ways and being open to the new way by repenting and being washed from our sins. But the Lord knew that it would take a people who heard the voice of God and would prepare the hearts of His people to receive Him through this washing and changed lifestyle.

God is looking for one who will be set apart in the wilderness, in a hard, lonely and dry place. This voice has to have an obedient heart for Father God, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In order to make His people ready for His return, we must live a sacrificial lifestyle of consecration. The Lord is looking for such a one in this eleventh hour. **We in this generation were born to prepare the way and make straight through repentance what was crooked and bent.** Let’s look at this message God has prophesied throughout the scriptures.

**Isaiah** **40:3** “A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.”“

God is asking the prophetic voices of the wilderness to cry out and prepare the way, to make ready the people to come into oneness with the Lord.

**Malachi** **3:1** “"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear (prepare) the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.”

**Matthew 3:1-3**  “Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’. For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, ’The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!'"

Repentance is **preparing the way.** There must be a voice that has lived separate from the world, in a wilderness lifestyle of consecration. John the Baptist is a great forerunner for us to see and emulate. Are we willing to let God prepare and make us ready to walk the straight path of the Lord, the path of righteousness?

**Psalm 119:74** “May those who fear You see me and be glad, because I wait for Your word.”

We are called to bring the glad tidings of the Lord’s return. The words we are to speak will bring refreshing and freedom to all who hear and receive. We must understand the incredible privilege we have been given in this generation to lead the world to the Lord before His return.

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Please read Mark 1:1-8, Luke 3:1-18, John 1:19-40**

These passages are about John the Baptist, making straight the way for the Lord. As you read these passages notice the lifestyle and actions of this forerunner.

**Continue reading psalm 119:73-104**

Have you **memorized Psalm 119:76** yet?