

Restoring What Has Been Stolen

This is one of those articles that could take at least five different directions. I will try to stay on course! It is more of a journal entry, than an article. With that in mind give me some grace. I love you so much I want you to be able to know how God is working in my life to give you hope and encouragement in yours!

Let me begin with a little background. I've alluded at least once before to a life changing event that occurred in May of 2000. I keep meaning to share this story with you and just haven't sat down to do it. I will give you the short version...

In May of 2000 I went back to teaching a pre-natal water aerobics class I had led when I was pregnant with our second daughter, Juliana (born in 1-18-00). I slipped while in the pool. My knee dislocated. I was taken by ambulance to the hospital with my knee out of socket the whole time. The ER doctor met us at the door and popped it back into place. Upon a follow-up visit with an orthopedic it was discovered I had torn my meniscus. Surgery was avoided due to my good health and the tear healed on its own. Months passed and I was not making the progress expected with physical therapy. The MRI had detected nerve damage and the doctor informed us it was pretty severe and could take up to two years to repair itself.

Two years plus came and went and I had very little quad muscle rebuilt. Back to the doctor we went to hear the news...the femoral nerve damage was so severe it looked to be permanent. In fact the doctor said the damage had been so extensive it had almost severed the nerve completely, which would have left me paralyzed in the left leg.

Really, trust me that was the short version. Let's fast forward to 2006 and my introduction to God's supernatural power to heal. Years of believing God healed, but only through medical intervention and only if it was His will, were challenged. I began to seek healing for my leg and other health issues in my life. My eyes had been opened to the truth. God is still in the healing business and it is ALWAYS HIS WILL (see Psalm 103:3).

I received prayer, not once, twice or three times, but too many times to count...no change. I was disappointed, discouraged and to be honest allowed doubt and unbelief to creep back into my heart. Then in a time of intercession at GGM (we call it the firewall) the Lord spoke to my heart, "exercise your leg, little by little, it will be part of your healing." His speaking to me was totally out of the blue. I wasn't even asking Him about my healing, hadn't thought about my healing for weeks, maybe even months. He had presented me with instructions; the question remained, would I be obedient? I wasn't. Years of believing the damage was permanent and that any exercise I could do wouldn't amount to any significant or noticeable improvement (the doctor had confirmed this.)

I do not want to list for you my "can't do list." I've tried to steer away from speaking all I "can't" do over myself, realizing I had been cursing myself. Let's leave it at this, simply walking poses a challenge for me. I tire easily since one leg is doing all the work. Exercise has really not been an option. Then the Lord said, "start with a little, ten minutes and build up to more." Okay God, I've been told that's not possible..."daughter, with Me all things are possible!"

Fast forward again to the present...my older daughter, Rachel, turned thirteen this week. We were starting to enter into that rebellious teen stage and our relationship over the past couple of months had taken a hit. I felt like I was losing her to the world. What did I do? I sought the Lord's wisdom. He led me to a book introducing the concept of parenting like Papa God from the New Covenant. I will share more on this book later!

One of the main points I learned from the book was parenting from fear and control can produce two kinds of children...fearful, passive ones or rebellious ones...and when does rebellion start to manifest? If you guessed adolescence, you are absolutely right!

I am a determined person. I refuse to settle for anything less than God's best for me or my family. I began to immediately implement some of the new concepts I was learning from the book with Rachel...with immediate fruit!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Again, this is another article all on its own.

I was thinking to myself, "Wow, it would be so nice if I could (physically) take walks with Rachel. It would be a time to connect with her and just spend quality time with her." I heard Holy Spirit whisper, "do it!" I immediately was taken back to the Lord's instruction to exercise. Light bulb! Ding, ding, ding! Yes, an "aha" moment!

I presented the idea to Rachel. I told her the Lord had told me to exercise to partner with Him in the healing of my leg. I asked her, "would you be willing to help mom receive her healing by walking with me and helping me if I stumble?" (When my leg is weak I literally start to stumble, which has led to me falling.) She perked up and said, "Sure!"

The next day was too cold to go walking, but the day after (her birthday) it was beautiful! She said, "Mom, why don't we start walking tonight?" Hearing her ask me to go walking with her was like a gift...I put on my tennis shoes and a walking we did go!

It was a short walk, but it was packed with goodness. Good, honest, relationship building conversation with my precious, maturing, beautiful 13 yr. old daughter! It was her birthday, but we both were receiving a gift!

As I was texting a friend (you know who you are) with a praise of what had transpired, I made a connection. God makes all things new. He restores to us the years the locust have eaten. I am getting a two for one here...do you see it? He is restoring my leg while also restoring my relationship with my daughter! How beautiful is that?

Thank you Papa for making all things new! For turning what the enemy meant for evil into good! I praise You for Your plans are perfect and beyond my comprehension. I surrender control to you. I trust you with Rachel's future and with my healing! I love You more today than yesterday and looking forward to loving You even more tomorrow!

What area of your life do you need restoration from Papa? What has been stolen from that you would like back? He is in the restoration business, you can trust Him! I would love to hear from you at amydover@iggm.org