

Got a Thorn?



Prayer...it's the beginning of everything you ever need to do.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you

Matthew 5:44 (KJV)

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9a (NKJV)

Sometimes our pain is so very deep. It is very real to us, even if it is a misperception. So, how do you move past it? How do you forgive? How do you let go? Pray, pick up your bible, read and then pray some more.

Each and every one of us has, or has had, someone in our lives who was a true "thorn in the flesh". Someone that, no matter what you did, seemed to create havoc, pain and distension in your life.

When my grown children were young, I was not the person I am now. Mental illness and alcoholism consumed me to a point of not being able to function as a person, let alone a single mother. My daughters were placed into a situation of harm from another person, a person who hurt them physically and mentally. My self-perception was one of total failure...failure as a person, failure as a mother. This feeling plunged me even deeper into depression and the bottle. However, God did not see me as such. Of course it was years later when I came to see that fact. Several times I should have been dead from my own choices in life. But, God had something for me to do and kept me from my own demise. Slowly, gradually and with the strength of our Lord, my life was pulled from the miry muck. In renewing my walk with Jesus, I became an "overcomer" instead of a victim. Although I fought for my daughters to be returned to my care, they ultimately remained in the situation of harm. The person responsible for the harm was "a thorn in my flesh".

What did I do? What could I do? I prayed. I picked up my bible and found this passage that has been my touchstone in dealing with the situation even to this day.

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:6 (KJV)

My children were His children. What a revelation!

This passage did not jump out and scream “Pick me! Pick me!”. Instead, as I prayed and read, my eyes fell upon it and it became personal. I know that when the day comes for this offender to be standing in front of the Lord, it is He who will be the judge and not me. In knowing that, I could let it go. Then something else happened, I began to pray for this person.

Dear Lord,

Please touch and open this person’s heart to your love. Keep my children safe from harm. Let me bite my tongue and not make it worse than it is. Help me to let go of the anger and bitterness toward this person. Guide me in word and deed to show your strength in me.

In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen

If you have a “thorn in your flesh” whether they be real or perceived, pray for them. Do it every day, several times a day, when you feel your anger, resentment or hatred start to kick in, pray. Just a few words or sentences are all it takes. Try it for a week, then two and continue as long as the thorn exists. It is very hard to harbor hatred in your heart for another person when you are praying for them. After all, God already knows what they have done. It is your prayers that He will hear.

Several things will happen...

- You will feel better. You may even be able to let go of the negative feelings you have and replace them with compassion. How sad that this person does not know what the love of Christ is or how to receive it.
- You will be praying for someone who needs to have the Lord in their life. Pray for their salvation and deliverance. How great would it be for this person to turn their life over to Christ?

Think about it. That's all I ask...just think about it. Say a prayer, pick up your bible, find your touchstone verse and cling to it. When you find it, you'll know and you will be able to pray for the person who has injured you in whatever way you perceive. Until you let go, the pain will continue to fester. Give it to God!

May you be blessed and loved every day of your life.

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To help you get started...

Additional resources:

- Biblegateway.com – This is a free website that has many features. You can search a word or phrase, search for a specific scripture and read any number of bible versions available. There is also a free app available for your electronic device.
- Bible.com – A free app that lets you read the bible on the go.

Additional scripture:

- Exodus 14:14 (KJV)
 - The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.
- Matthew 6:14-15(KJV)
 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- Romans 12:20 (KJV)
 - Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

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