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## Conquering Life's Mountains Together!

Personal Life Coaching

June 2006

### Greetings!

Here at Set Apart Ministries, we are in the midst of many changes and new opportunities. We are moving our offices, looking at some new ventures for new services--all while trying to maintain daily life and business. We have also recently affiliated with the National Association for the Self Employed and have been pleased with their support. Are you a micro business owner? You might benefit from their services as well. (See further information at the end of this newsletter)

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Lists, lists, lists-- schedules-- communication--we are reminded of the importance of these organizational tools. Life is always changing, but one thing remains constant--The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is always faithful to His covenants. *The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteousness and upright is He (Deut. 32:4 NASB).*

Our focus on the Fruit of the Spirit this month is on **faithfulness**. We pray you have been working on your Fruit and allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and guide you in your growth. One important aspect of our goals at Set Apart Ministries is *maturity* in all areas of our lives. **Faithfulness** is the outflow of a **mature faith**. Once again, we invite your input by email ([info@setapartmingb.org](mailto:info@setapartmingb.org)) or telephone (866-634- 0291). Please let us know if we can be of any service to you!

Blessings in our Messiah,



**Barbara Klika and Marilyn Guffey, Personal Life Coaches**

## Faithfulness: Righteous and True

The New American Standard Bible entitles Hebrews 11:32-

40 *The Hall of Faith*. This *Hall of Faith* includes great men of God, such as Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel. In the previous chapter Hebrews outlines the faith of Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, Moses and others. We know they were imperfect, but yet they are commended for their **faithfulness. We will not be faithful without a solid faith based on the Word of Truth and the Living Word.** A solid faith is one that has been tested and tried in our walk with the Lord.

#### **Faithfulness is:**

Being a blessing to God and others in the Kingdom. We do this by serving one another in love. By being faithful we will use our God-given gifts, talents and resources to build up the Body of Messiah. (I Corinthians 12:7).

Being obedient to the commands of God. *Here is the perseverance (steadfastness) of the saints (holy/set apart ones) who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus* (Rev. 14:12 NASB).

Being blessed and strengthened by God. *O love the Lord, all you His godly ones! The Lord preserves the faithful, And fully recompenses the proud doers. Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the Lord* (Psalm 31:23-24 NASB).

Being faithful to God's covenants, practicing truth and doing righteousness.

Being a witness to the world and spreading the gospel of Jesus, making disciples (Matt. 28:19-20)

Being entrusted with greater responsibilities as we grow in our faithfulness (Luke 16:10).

Being rewarded for our faithfulness when Messiah returns.

#### **What Faithfulness Does Not Mean:**

Faithfulness does not mean freedom from persecution. A faithful believer will persevere despite hardship and difficult circumstances.

Faithfulness does not mean we will be successful (in a worldly sense) or reap great results because of our faithfulness. We may never see the results of our efforts. God is responsible for the results. We are merely to walk in the place He commands us.

Faithfulness does not mean everything will turn out the way we expect or desire. We are called to trust in God for His purpose and will.

Faithfulness does not mean God will not discipline us (Psalm 119:75). He wants His people to come to repentance (Lam. 3:39-41). His desire is to build a spotless, set apart (holy) Bride for our Bridegroom, Jesus of Nazareth (Yeshua HaMashiach).

Faithfulness does not result from impure, selfish motives or ambitions. Our good deeds must be to the glory of God to exalt Him and His Kingdom.

#### **Questions to ask yourself to examine your own faith:**

Am I trustworthy? Can people speak confidentially to me and be certain it won't be repeated? Can people trust me with their valuables and property? Am I honest in my business dealings?

Am I a blessing to others? Am I available to help when others need me or am I selfish? Am I an encouragement to others? Do I uplift or drag others down? Do I come alongside those who are struggling emotionally, physically or spiritually? Am I willing to confront sin when necessary?

What are my motives for serving in the Body of Messiah? Am I trying to earn my way to salvation? Am I seeking the esteem of man or serving God in love?

Do I trust in God despite the trials and tribulations that surround me? Do I understand that despite the circumstances I am facing, He is still sovereign? Am I looking to be rewarded in this life or the life to come? Do I become discouraged and hopeless when situations don't turn out the way I expected? Do I give thanks in all circumstances (Phil. 4:6)?

Do I yield to God's pruning (discipline), constantly examining myself to be prepared to come before Him? Am I walking in His ways, on His path according to His holy (set apart) commands?

What steps do I need to take to become more faithful in my walk with God?

### **Jesus, Our Example.**

Jesus walked in faith in all things. He was faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). His Father's will was what mattered to Him. *My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me (Jesus), and to accomplish His work.* (John 4:34 NASB)

*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an **EXAMPLE** for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sin in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.* (I Peter 2:21-22 NASB)

We see in the example of Jesus that He was trustworthy and honest. He is call the Faithful Witness in Revelation 1:5.

He was (is) a blessing to those around Him, using the gifts of the Spirit within Him--teaching, healing, confronting sin, comforting.

Despite His persecution, beating and death He kept His eyes on His mission, not His circumstances. In John 5:19 He tells His disciples, *Whatever the Father does, these things the Son does in like manner.*

Jesus knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21), He followed the Word of God to the letter because of His love for His Father. Because His eyes were on the Father He was faithful in all His ways. (M.G.)

Resources: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance; *Mark #14: Faithfulness* by J. Hampton Keathley, III, Th.M. from bible.org

### **Keeping Your Joy Full!**



Once again this month, we quote a portion from the book *Jesus, Man of Joy*.\*

Meanwhile as we enter the new millennium the Holy Spirit is still pouring out love into individual lives. The ugly spirits of resentment, hostility, and bitterness are being dissolved by a divine solvent tipped from heaven into the heart. Reading the Bible for some people is no longer a tedious chore but is becoming a feasting on the Word. Worship is becoming a joyous celebration. The casual churchgoer is becoming a believer, an object of grace and a tributary of love. The water has become wine--not the alcoholic drug, but the wine of a contented heart, the wine of peace and gladness.

In a hundred places the Bible tells us that the message of salvation in Christ is not of judgment but a message of love and joy. The very words "evangel" and "gospel" mean "good news, glad tidings." Many of the great hymns of the faith that we sing so majestically are really effusions of joy.

What is joy? It is the enjoyment of God and the good things that come from the hand of God. If our new freedom in Christ is a piece of angel food cake, joy is the frosting. If the Bible gives us the wonderful words of life, joy supplies the music. If the way to heaven turns out to be an arduous steep climb, joy rigs up the chairlift.

That fact is that joy is an attribute of God Himself. It brings with it pleasure, gladness, and delight. Joy is merriment without frivolity, hilarity without raucousness, and mirth without cruelty. Joy is sportive without being rakish and festive without being cheap. Joy radiates animation, sparkle, and buoyancy. It is more than fun, yet it has fun. It expresses itself in laughter and elation, yet it draws from a deep spring that keeps flowing long after the laughter has died and the tears have come. Even while it joins those who mourn, it remains cheerful in a world that has gone gray with grief and worry.

*\*Jesus Man of Joy (pages 45-46) by Sherwood E. Wirt Copyright 1999, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 74402 Used by permission of Sherwood Wirt.*

### ***Changes of a Woman's Life Survey***

Marilyn Guffey is conducting a survey on the Life Changes of Women. Please take a moment to submit one important question that's on your mind. Marilyn plans to use the answers for future articles and eventually an e-book. Thank you for your input! [Click here to ask your question.](#)

### ***ABOUT US***

**Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach** is a licensed mental health professional and founder of Set Apart Ministries, Inc., who is trained to help people learn new skills and make significant behavior changes. She is a trained Bible Study teacher and has been mentoring people in their spiritual growth for many years. She has completed Life Coaching training through Mentor Coach, Inc. She is here to offer her skills in the areas of faith development, communication, problem-solving, and behavior change.

**Marilyn T. Guffey, lay counselor, Personal Life Coach**, worked in a church setting

for ten years before joining Set Apart Ministries, Inc. in January 2003. She has received instruction through a variety of Christian lay counseling courses as well as working alongside pastors and professional mental health therapists. She has also completed Life Coaching training through Mentor Coach Inc. Marilyn has worked extensively supporting women --spiritually, emotionally and practically--through encouragement and prayer.

In Coaching, you come for help to make decisions and then implement them, in order to achieve goals that you have chosen for yourself. May we come alongside and encourage you along the way?

## ***Are you a Micro Business Owner in need of support?***



Recently, it seems by an act of God, we were pleased to meet Susan Knoche. She is an agent for the National Association For the Self Employed. Imagine my surprise when we realized that she had attended Green Bay Christian School with my children! (B.K.) She has been pleasant, helpful and prompt as she has gotten us connected with these services we have needed.

This organization specializes in providing services for micro-businesses; those with less than 10 employees.

We have been pleasantly surprised by the benefits, beginning with really affordable health insurance and going all the way to excellent and inexpensive long distance calling service, business coaching including legal and tax advice, family needs services and various other benefits that we haven't had time to check out more thoroughly as yet. If you are looking for practical help in operating your small business, please consider contacting Susan at the number or website below! You may be

very glad that you did!

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