

Autobiographical Notes

“Lovest Thou Me More Than This?”

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January 8, 1998

(Edited & Reformatted July 4, 2006)

From: “[That Ye May Be Healed](#)”

Upon leaving university life I looked forward very much to enjoying my evenings without the intrusions of class assignments or the need to prepare for tests. It had been a long, hard 15 years of post-high school studies and now I was looking forward to some time of relaxation. Surely life after graduate and postgraduate school would be much simpler, I thought.

Not long after my wife and I had established our home in Wichita, Kansas in 1989 I looked forward to watching a particular football game one evening. But when I went to turn on the television set I heard these words in my soul, “Lovest thou me more than this?” While these words startled me, I shrugged them off and tried to start watching the game. Still, this question would not leave my thoughts. Finally, I complained, “Please, Lord, I just want to rest for awhile!” Still the question persisted, “Lovest thou me more than this?” Being a bit amazed but irritated, I shut the set off and prayed, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”

Immediately I felt led to get my Bible. Once seated in our new easy chair I wondered to myself, “Now what?” The urging came to open the Bible, which I did. It opened to the eighth chapter of John. So I began reading there about the woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. The religious leaders brought her to Jesus asking Him to judge her and, thereby, *tempting him, that they might have to accuse him.*¹ When I came to verse 11, where Jesus told the woman to go and sin no more, I shut my Bible and I objected:

“That is what really bothers me, Lord! You gave her such an impossible task. ***How could she keep from sinning?*** She was a sinner, one who had been publicly humiliated. And everyone knew it.”

I was upset – upset about my own sins and my apparent inability to do anything about them (to stop sinning, that is). But right then, in the middle of the flare of my resentment and frustration, I heard:

“Dwight, you do not understand. That is when I healed her! By my saying to her, ‘Go and sin no more,’ I made her whole. My words went forth to heal and to strengthen her just as when I said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light, or when I said to the lame man, ‘Take up your bed and walk,’ and he walked. Dwight, I healed her! And I can do the same for you.”

¹ John 8:5,6

I just sat there in stunned silence, both marveling and puzzling over what had just happened. I could sense that my Savior was near and was assuring me that I could rest in the confidence that God does not give to us any commandment except He provides a way for us to accomplish it.² I was growing confident in the thought that if I would trust and obey His Word, my Lord would prosper me in the Way.³

Nothing dramatic seemed to happen right away, except that I started being awakened early each morning to study about *taking root downward and bearing fruit upward (faith) and the love of the truth (charity)*.⁴ I had grown accustomed to working at night in college, and getting up early each morning was quite a challenge to me. One morning when I resisted getting up, I heard these words,

“Do you not understand that if you cannot abide the presence of the Holy Spirit in this life, you cannot abide the presence of the Father in the life to come?”

All I could do was to cry out for mercy. It was not easy, but like a child learning to walk I kept trying.

On Sunday May 27, 1990 the Lord brought one of His servants into my life to minister to me in a special way. Through this brother I came to understand that I had been living under a spiritual oppression all these years from which I needed deliverance.⁵

Through the prayer of deliverance which he offered for me I received the liberty and healing I so longed for and needed. I experienced firsthand the truthfulness of the scriptures describing Jesus Christ’s ministry on earth: that He had come *to heal the brokenhearted and set at liberty them that are bruised*.⁶ Gone were the fears. According to His promise, I was now *far from oppression* through the restoration of His Spirit.⁷ Oh, how beautiful are the promises and works of our Savior.

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of our flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
(Ephesians 2:1-7)

² cf. I Nephi 1:65

³ I Nephi 5:59

⁴ e.g. Isaiah 37:31 & John 3:21

⁵ cf. I Nephi 3:82-85

⁶ Luke 4:18 with Mosiah 1:99 & I Nephi 3:82-85

⁷ Isaiah 54:14 & Psalm 51:7-17 with Matthew 12:23