

Born A Slave And Now Free To Serve

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Sunday, February 26, 2017

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"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Romans 6:22).

Born a Slave

Everybody was born a slave. I am (almost) sorry to have to break the news to you. The only way anyone can be set free from enslavement to sin is to become a servant of God.

Nobody wants to be enslaved. Ask the countless people who have been subjugated, marginalized, abused, and tortured. Consider lives lost so evil men could build economic dynasties on the backs of innocent people just wanting to live in peace.

Nobody wants to be enslaved. Ask the countless people who feel helpless under the power of the liquor bottle, drug needle, lustful encounters, unforgiving feelings, or prideful thoughts. Consider lives and souls lost while Satan took satisfaction in destroying those for whom His enemy, Jesus, died.

When the Lord delivers us from Satan's enslavement, He frees us to serve God with all our hearts. In the process holiness, joy, love, inner peace, and everlasting life result. So, it pays to serve Jesus, who delivers every willing person from sin. While were born slaves, everybody can seize the opportunity to be delivered and reborn into a holy life with God. Avail yourself of that opportunity.

When Folks In Your Family Tree Are A Little Crooked

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Today's Scripture Focus: [Nehemiah 9:34-38](#)

We are focusing on sin recovery principle number four of 12: "We are submitting to an honest self-inventory as the Holy Spirit makes us more aware."



I know from experience what it's like to suffer internal struggles due to heredity. Every person who was born of a woman, whether you know her or not, has to face the reality of your ancestors. This reality is that they struggled with pride, rage, hatred, pessimism, over-ambitiousness,

promiscuity, alcoholism, drug abuse, greed, envy, doubt, etc. The sooner you admit that to yourself, and that this accounts for half of your struggles, the other half being habits you have cultivated yourself, is the sooner you will be in a position to experience victory.

If your dad was an angry man, acknowledge that his anger may have had a negative impact on you. If your mother was a crack addict, acknowledge that her addiction had some negative impact on you. If your grandmother was a woman of the night and could not see a handsome man go by without soliciting him, acknowledge that this may have had some negative impact on your life. If your grandfather abandoned his family, accept the fact that this had a negative impact on your life. I say all this not to give you a way to make excuses for maladaptive or sinful behaviors. I say this so you can take an honest self-inventory and perhaps identify some of what makes you tick. Yes, there are great qualities we also inherit from our foreparents, but obviously, we do not need to overcome those.

What do you do once you recognize the impact of your ancestors on your life? Do you wallow in it? Do you blame someone else for your poor choices? Do you throw up your hands in despair because you feel like you got the short end of the stick in this thing called life? Let me share an idea with you. You should talk to God about it. Ask God to show you what negative impact the decisions and habits of your foreparents are still affecting your lifestyle choices today. Ask him to nullify the effects of heredity to the extent that it drives you to do evil. Ask God to manifest His love in your life some much that you learn to make right choices as a matter of consistent habit so you can bring Him glory. Ask God to adopt you into His family and give you a fresh, godly bloodline through Christ. Ask God how to be of service to the next generation.

Something Out of Nothing

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Friday, February 27, 2015

Based Upon Psalm 33:6, 8-9

If He can create the world out of nothing, what can He re-create in your life?

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all their host by the breath of His mouth. Let all the earth fear the Lord [revere and worship Him]; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:6, 8-9, AMP).

What kind of power must the Most High possess in order to create the worlds? How awesome must He be to speak the existence of things that did not before exist? The earth was without form and was void, and as the Spirit hovered above the face of the deep, God began to speak! Everything He commanded came out of the nothingness. Where there was no light, He commanded and there was light. Where there was no dry land, He commanded and the vast waters abated for dry land to appear. Where there was no color, He commanded and the verdant vegetation appeared in rich profusion. Where there was nothing animate, He commanded and the seas teemed with fish, land activated with beasts having various numbers of legs, and air fluttered with winged creatures. So much more that happened during the creation of the world will continue to amaze the most learned scientists until Jesus comes. And all was

accomplished at His command.

Is it possible that the One who created all things can also recreate you? So many of us have realized over the years that we have very real issues. Our families are dysfunctional. We have unhealthy addictions. Some have committed murder, and all have at some point in time, entertained evil thoughts. We need help! But, here's the thing, the Most High is still in the business of calling something out of nothing. To those who need His intervention, He speaks. To those who confess their sins, He says He will forgive and never bring it up again. To those who want to have a new life in righteousness, He says He is able to keep from falling. To those who feel powerless against addictions, He says you can do all things through Christ. To those who feel abandoned, He says although a mother may leave her nursing baby, He will never leave you.

Be encouraged today as you contemplate the love of God and His power to create. The One who called the earth out of nothingness, can also speak vibrancy into your pallid, discontented existence. Open your ears and hear Him speak. Here He says: "I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loyal love" (Jeremiah 31:3, LEB)