

Save to Share

Sharing our experience, strength and hope with others can encourage them to begin their own life of recovery. Sharing our stories also strengthens our own understanding of who we are, what we have been through and what God has done in and through our lives. Remembering what He has done reminds us of the problems and struggles we have overcome with His help. We were powerless to overcome on our own. I heard it said recently *'Doing what God directs us to do can be difficult but God doing what He does is impossible'*

In my recovery I don't think or talk a lot about miracles. But when I honestly look at where I came from, how I got to recovery and where I am today I realise only God could have made it happen. The Bible says in **hebrews 2:1-4** *It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. If the old message delivered by the angels was valid and nobody got away with anything, do you think we can risk neglecting this latest message, this magnificent salvation? First of all, it was delivered in person by the Master, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him. All the while God was validating it with gifts through the Holy Spirit, all sorts of signs and miracles, as he saw fit.*

When it comes to sharing our experience, strength and hope we all need to remember where we came, how we got here and who is responsible for it.

1. Step Twelve in *'The Living Life Recovery Twelve Steps'* says *"Having gone through these steps and discovering the importance of an individual relationship with God through Jesus, I will try to live according to His principles and to lead others to a personal relationship with Him."*

- Having gone through the process I understand how important God is in the journey.
- Having gone through the process I realise how important it is to continually grow spiritually in His strength.

- Having gone through the process I know how important it is to tell others about my experience, strength and hope so they can seek God's help to change their lives.

As we do these three things we need to also be confident that God has not brought us this far to drop us. He promises us that if we stay faithful to Him and His ways He will support us in everything we do and He will encourage us to keep moving forward, seeking His will, His strength and His guidance in every area of our lives.

Tonight on our handout we have two passages of scripture.

The first is **1 Timothy 4:11-16** Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed--keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.

- **GET THE WORD OUT** Tell people what happened to you. The strongest example of God's amazing grace any of us have is what He has done, is doing and will do in and through our lives.

- **TEACH ALL THESE THINGS** The Twelve Steps of Recovery I believe are some of the most God inspired principles for living in the world. And they finish at Twelve because Step Twelve is all about 'EVANGELISM' and reaching out to others who are still going through problems in life that we have learned to overcome through putting our faith in Jesus Christ and trusting Him.

- **TEACH PEOPLE THROUGH:** How you live ~ What you say ~
How you act ~ How you behave ~ How you love
Where your faith is based ~ And
through living a life of rigorous honesty.

- **TEACH OTHERS BY** Discovering God's purpose for your life and living it out.
- **TEACH OTHERS** By living the life God has called you to and persevering in your spiritual walk.

The second of our scriptures tonight is. **1 Timothy 2:1-10** *The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live. He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned: that there's one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us--Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free. Eventually the news is going to get out. This and this only has been my appointed work: getting this news to those who have never heard of God, and explaining how it works by simple faith and plain truth. Since prayer is at the bottom of all this, what I want mostly is for men to pray--not shaking angry fists at enemies but raising holy hands to God. And I want women to get in there with the men in humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it. **These verses talk about the importance of prayer in our lives and in the recovery process.***

The Life Recovery Bible tells us:

1. TO ASK GOD FOR HELP **Psalm 40:13** *Please, Lord, rescue me! Come quickly, Lord, and help me.*

2. TO PRAY ALL THE TIME **Ephesians 6:18** *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers.*

3. TO PRAY WITH THE RIGHT MOTIVES **James 4:3** *When you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.*

4. TO PRAY WITHOUT DOUBTING **James 1:6** *When you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled*

In the 'THINK ABOUT IT' section of our habdout tonight it says of being 'SAVED TO SHARE'

LEARN, IMPLIMENT AND LIVE THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF RECOVERY

Jesus said. "First things first. Your business is life, not death. Follow me. Pursue life."

Matthew 8:22

LIFE IS A JOURNEY WE MUST TRAVEL IN DEEP CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD

*You call out to God for help and he helps--he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living. Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. **1 Peter 1:17-18***

RECOVERY IS 'GOOD NEWS' TO BE SHARED WITH OTHERS

*You are to be a key witness to everyone you meet of what you've seen and heard. **Acts 22:15***

Take time this week if you haven't already to downlaod the bulletin on this message and answer the questions as we approach the final week in this series. Or visit the Forum on the website where we will be starting discussion on the questions.