

# Places In The Father's Heart

*That reach out and touch, to bring times of refreshing...*

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## *Where Am I & Where Am I Going? ~ by Roger*

Have you ever asked yourself the above question about your Christian life? Gerri and I certainly have and we are more frequently than ever encountering Christians asking themselves the same question. Some seem lost, confused and hopeless; others are frustrated, disappointed and/or burned out in their Christian experience. Some continue in the routine of church life but wish they were doing something different. Others have stopped their routine and do not attend a local church on a regular basis, if at all. Many in both groups are struggling with guilt and shame because they believe they should not feel the way they do about church attendance. They think it must be a sin but what do I do about it? I just cannot keep going the way I have been. There must be a better way. There is yet another group that is growing also. This group is comprised of those who have been hurt by the institutional church. Some have been repeatedly rejected or in some way used, abused or taken advantage of by their local church. For some the result has been to outright reject the possibility of attending another church. They are determined not to be hurt again so they close their hearts and isolate themselves. Even though they may feel justified in their actions to protect themselves from further wounding or betrayal they also struggle with guilt and shame because they feel they are betraying the tradition of the church or their obligation as a Christian.

Some who are struggling as mentioned above have determined that the solution to our dilemma is more knowledge about God and the Bible, so we focus on attending more conferences, reading more current books, listening to different teachers pressing for more revelation. Certainly this will solve my problem and I'll feel better about myself and my Christian experience. While learning is good and revelation can be life changing, it is still missing the point unless it translates into developing your personal, intimate relationship with Father God. That experience is dramatically different than knowing about Him.

Sadly many of us have been introduced to and indoctrinated into idolatry in the church. The institution called the church has become our life. We are taught that it is our obligation, our duty, our responsibility to support our local church and/or denomination with our time, money and energy so that the church is growing and successful. We must be dedicated, committed, submissive and obedient to church leadership and their goals and doctrines. In many cases church leadership uses fear, manipulation and control and guilt and shame to try and enforce commitment and obedience. I do not believe these are God's ways, nor do they accomplish His purpose for the church. Many times these methods produce rebellion rather than the in-

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Roger & Gerri

### Prayer Ministry

#### BETRAYAL

Betrayal is a common type of wounding today. We find it prevalent everywhere—in the family, in business, and in the Body of Christ. Betrayal lands as wounding in the human spirit. If you continue to suffer with wounding betrayal, prayer ministry can help set you free.

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## Where Am I & Where Am I Going? ~ by Roger (continued from page one)

tended goals of commitment and obedience.

It is sad that so many of us cannot see that experiential love will produce more commitment, submission and obedience than any other method conceived of because it is Father's provision for life. Man's substitutes will always fail to accomplish the goal. Do you understand why I mentioned idolatry in the paragraph on the cover page of this article?

Can you not see that in many instances relationship with the institution of the church has become a substitute for relationship with and commitment to Father God Himself? In my mind that is idolatry and it can produce similar fruit of any idolatry and that is deadness! It requires more and more effort to sustain it and the reward of knowing Father God Himself is never realized. The energy to sustain life in abundance is seldom experienced. Typically the institutional church produces a conceptual knowledge of God rather than the true knowledge of God which is experiential on a personal level. To become satisfied with a conceptual relationship with God is again idolatry and will not produce abundant life.

The institutional church has developed a terrible problem in idolizing preachers, teachers and ministers. Not only is this problematic for the believer, but it's also a terrible place for the leader to be. Idolatry in any form is sin and will produce no good fruit. Many leaders leave the ministry because they cannot sustain the pressure of peoples' expectation of perfection placed on them and their families. Also, when a leader does fall or fail in some way the people who placed them on a pedestal get hurt, very disappointed and some get mean-spirited. Instead of receiving love, support and encouragement for restoration they are offered a one way ticket out the door. This is not God's way. These attitudes and actions are some of what cause many to be frustrated and even angry at the institutional church and they are asking the question, 'where am I and where am I going?' Leaders and congregation alike don't know where to go or what to do. Some congregants have visited other churches



but have found similar situations or did not feel welcome or they felt out of place. They are confused and frustrated.

May I suggest first of all, if you really want to see the true church, go look in the mirror. There you will find the church that Father God sees and loves. It is not perfect, but what you see in the mirror embodies the treasure of Heaven. He is not in the building we call the church. He dwells in the people He calls the church. You and me. We are His treasure and His treasure is in us.

We believe that Father is in the process of bringing change to this world and His church. Whether we know it or not, we are all in His process. We won't all experience it the same way or at the same time, but we all have the same opportunity; that is to know Him.

We must repent for our idolatry and substitutions and receive His forgiveness and then refocus our life on Him. Pursue Him and He will pursue you. James 4:8.

Am I suggesting that you leave your church? Absolutely not! Father will lead you in what He wants you to do, but do not allow fear, guilt, shame or criticism to deter you from doing what you feel is right for

you. We know many people who Father has spoken to 'go home and stay there with Him.' He has completely shut down some ministers and isolated them to get their attention so that He could develop relationship with them in order that He becomes their focus instead of their ministry. It is all about relational Christianity in the new Mercy Season first with Him and then with others. As our dear friend from Scotland said recently, "we are now experiencing post congregational relationship orientated Christianity that brings life."

Experiential love with Father is the power and essence of life. Intimate relationship with Him is the only pathway to the fulfillment of our dreams, purpose and destiny. The ultimate in life experience awaits us all in Father Himself. Blessings, Roger

**"Moving from a performance-based religious ethic to a relationship deeply rooted in the Father's affection is no small transition. The pull of religion can be far stronger than the freedom of relationship. Those who are willing to substitute the demand of religious obligation for the power of Father's love and affection have not tasted the latter in any significant amount." ~ Wayne Jacobsen, Author of He Loves Me.**

## Betrayal of Trust ~ by Gerri

One of the meanings of my name, Geraldine, is 'loyal warrior.' I think this is most likely why you will often find me 'fighting to the end' for a cause I strongly believe in. When I commit, I really commit. Defeat is not in my nature. Within my God-given DNA there is a built in facet to see things through to the very end. That being said, throughout my Christian walk with the Lord, there have been many, many times when I have had to face the reality of defeat and disappointment. When those times have come, I am learning to lean heavily into the bosom of my Heavenly Father.

Often times the reason for my defeat has been the betrayal of trust I have had in others. Webster says that BETRAY means 'to deliver to an enemy by treachery; to fail or desert especially in time of need.' TREACHERY means 'violation of allegiance or of faith and confidence.'

I expect this kind of treatment from the world, but it has been especially difficult for me over the years in my walk with the Lord to see it come from brothers and sisters, churches or ministries that I have valued and trusted at a high level. *Betray*—even the sound of the word sounds yucky!

In our prayer ministry we have come across many people who have suffered at the clutches of betrayal and treachery. Satan is the source of these ugly battle tools and we have a strong Biblical account of the betrayal of our Lord Jesus by his friend and fellow disciple, Judas. We, therefore, can consider ourselves in good company should we suffer at the hands of someone who betrays us. Betrayal can come from many directions. It can come from family members, leadership, our friends and from acquaintances. If you are like me, my first action in betrayal is always a RE-ACTION! I must then curb myself and my flesh, take a deep breath, ask Father to help me and change my RE-ACTION to an appropriate RESPONSE! In other words, I must move the six inches from the flesh back into the Spirit. The depth of the betrayal depends upon the depth of the relationship. If it comes, for example, from an acquaintance, it will not be as deep as it would if it comes from a family member, a pastor, or perhaps an especially close friend. Betrayal is inevitable. It is going to come. How we react or respond to it when it comes will soon prove if we are electro-plated or solid gold!

**Betrayal -  
To fail or  
desert espe-  
cially in time  
of need.**

We have found that the wound of betrayal, while our soul (our mind, intellect and emotions) reacts to it, lands in the human spirit. We can wrestle with it in the soulish area in prayer ministry for many hours and see little to no permanent results. When we address it in the human spirit, however, the results are often quick and complete, and the captive is set free from its sticky fingers. Screaming emotions shut up, tears turn to joy and the victim overcomes the predator betrayer!

Several years ago, Rog and I experienced betrayal from some who were extremely close to us; people we had placed a huge amount of trust in; brothers and sisters we could not possibly consider might be guilty of the actions of betrayal. It took me six months to overcome the pain in my emotions, but it was not until a gifted prayer minister spoke to the mark of betrayal on my human spirit that I was set instantly free! In the ensuing days, months and now years from that event, my legitimacy in my Father's love has soared for me. In that legitimacy, I have been able to successfully walk in complete forgiveness towards those who did the betraying. I know I am free because when I see any of these people, there is no 'dagger in my gut.' If you have ever experienced the need to forgive and successfully walked through the process, you know exactly what I am talking about! If you are some of the hundreds out there who have not been able to forgive and move on in your life from an experience of betrayal, then I would suggest to you that perhaps you would do well to consider some personal prayer ministry where the ministers are trained to minister directly to the human spirit. Father has made our freedom from betrayal possible. We can truly walk as Jesus walked saying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Just recently, Rog and I had the joy of experiencing some of those who were involved in the betrayal coming back to us to reconcile! It has taken years, but as I said in the beginning of this article my name means 'loyal warrior'! It pays to stay the course and remain faithful to Him. Father's timing is not often the same as ours, but when we remain loyal to Him and to what pleases Him, we see magnificent results! All we can say is TO HIM BE ALL THE GLORY!

Blessings, Gerri

**Our sincere THANKS to all who support us with your prayers and financial giving so that we can give ourselves wholly to taking the message of Father's love to the world and be available to provide healing prayer ministry to those who are wounded and broken. GOD BLESS YOU!**

## Experiencing Relationship by Carol Bandi

Early in life I learned that people were very often the cause of pain. Parents, siblings, neighbors all seemed to be sources of mild to extreme discomfort, and therefore, should be minimally engaged. This mindset resulted in an almost total lack of relationship development which has blocked effective communication with the rest of the world for nearly six decades.

When my husband and I were dating, a crisis arose one day as I looked out my dormitory window and saw him walking with another girl. It happened suddenly without any advance notice, and as time passed without hearing from him I was impressed to give the situation to the Lord. He said, "Turn him loose. Don't hold onto him 'for dear life' – it will only strangle the relationship." This was the first of several occasions I've heard this instruction and experienced its power. Because of my obedience in the midst of the pain, the Lord was able to restore the relationship and bless us with a beautiful family.

As I have moved from Ruler season into the Mercy season the wonderful and liberating truths of Father's love have begun to penetrate my pain and the suspicion and distrust I had always held for others. Arthur Burk in *Blessing Your Spirit* said happiness is having

others take care of your problems (so you won't have to learn how to). This described me perfectly, and I realized my main purpose in relating to those around me amounted to nothing more than using them. On the other hand, joy comes from rejoicing in what Father God is doing in my and others' lives. Under Father's patient tutelage through His precious saints I am discovering that healthy relationships can only develop as I become solidly legitimized in my identity as a daughter of the Most High God. As He woos me into increasing intimacy with Himself I'm learning to draw life and love from Him in order to give *and* receive from people – not just drain them dry.

It is a continuing source of amazement to me now to see the results of putting these principles into practice. The excruciating shyness that has plagued me from childhood when around strangers is giving way to confidence and joyful expectation over Father's purpose in bringing us together. I feel like a curious toddler willing to risk letting go of Mom's skirts to explore the fascinating world around him, and in doing so, to accomplish the Lord's purpose of blessing others with outpourings of His unfathomable love.

Blessings, Carol



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TO:

**Jesus is the way... Father is the destination!**