

Waking Up the Nation,
One Reader at a Time...

FREE

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Investigating Lyme Disease & Chronic Illness in the U.S.A.

A New & Living Way

by Joan Vetter

Finally it seems like my war on the white dust is over. A thin layer seemed to blanket everything in our bedroom. Our grandson Micah just replaced the carpet and some outdated little white tiles in our master bath with new ceramic flooring. It looks beautiful now, but as anyone who has gone through remodeling knows it is pretty messy during the process.

We discard outdated clothes or things that no longer fit. We get rid of sour milk or moldy bread.

But somehow we feel we can't touch the religious ideas passed down to us by parents or our church even if they are no longer working for us.

I remember so clearly when I had an encounter with the living God. It was birthed from frustration and questioning. I poured out my doubts to my Methodist Minister, and all he did was smile at me and say, "I will pray for you and the Holy Spirit will show you the truth." Just a few minutes later my room filled with God's glory and I knew what I was reading in the book of John was true. The Bible calls this being translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into

the kingdom of light.

However, after years of studying the Bible and prayer I realize more than ever there are still things I need to discard in my belief system to make room for truth. In the same way that Micah couldn't just put down the ceramic tile on top of what was already there, we need to do the messy work of demolishing the old.

Contentment is usually viewed as a good thing, but if we are content with our old ways we may be missing the new and living way Jesus speaks of. We may need healing, but we've been taught God heals some and not others, or that He heals in a certain way. Then one day we are reading John 5:5 where a certain man is lying next to a pool of water, waiting for someone to put him in. Jesus asked him a startling question, "Do you want to be made well?" He does not say a quick "yes". Instead he answers with excuses. Jesus simply instructed him to get up and walk. So the old mindset of needing the angel to move the water before he could get in and be healed was replaced with the new and living way led by the Lord Himself. So the Holy Spirit begins to tug on our heart with the thought perhaps we need



to stop living with excuses.

Actually, what I am sensing today after forty four years of knowing the Lord, takes me right back to the beginning. Yes, I have heard some wonderful teaching. Yes, I feel I have "grown" wiser about the Lord. But, the foundation of it all has to be what I experienced at the very onset - the presence of the living God.

For instance Joshua was Moses' understudy. When Moses died God instructed Joshua to cross over the Jordan with all the children of Israel. Joshua had seen God part the Red Sea under Moses' leadership, but he couldn't rely on yesterday's miracle.

The key for Joshua,

and for us, is the presence of the living God. He couldn't just believe that God could part the sea the same way He did before. Joshua needed to hear God speak to him and say, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you." In the entire scenario, God was speaking instruction and Joshua was hearing and relaying it to the people.

Today so many voices contend for our attention. How do we learn to hear His voice among all the others? That will be the subject of next month's article.

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