

2015-10-17

What is Taking up Cross? #1, Cheeseburger

Hi all,

I'm starting with a confession of sin, something I've had to deal with over the years that only recently have I overcome, and that overcoming is due to something the Father asked me.

Back when Barb and I were high school age and were at a restaurant, she would often ask if she could try a bite of what I had ordered, and of course I didn't mind - she was my girlfriend after all. She would try to return the favor by asking if I wanted to try some of hers, but I would nearly always reply 'No thanks', which meant in man-terms, "If I wanted what you ordered I would have ordered it."

Here it comes

Somewhere through the years of marriage she stopped asking permission to sample what I ordered and would just reach over with her fork and take a bite. I came to resent that. At some point years ago I closed the smorgasbord and made my plate off limits to her wandering appetite.

She apologized saying she didn't realize how much it bothered me, I explained that it did, and she learned to ask permission, which I have always gladly given. We share appetizers and desserts, but there was always something about the meal itself.

And so it was this summer coming back from a ministry trip we found ourselves at a regional restaurant called "Freddy's", which is known for very thin hamburger patties grilled to where the edges are nicely browned...and their ice cream...yum. Barb had ordered a bacon cheeseburger and I had ordered their double patty "California burger", which is a direct reference to the California based "In-N-Out Burger" chain's burger with special sauce, and Freddy's version is very, very close to theirs.

As we were eating, Barb commented mine looked good and I replied it was delicious. She was testing the waters I realize now, but at the time I didn't know I was being set up. After an appropriate amount of silence and after we'd each had another bite of our own sandwiches she asked, "May I have a bite of yours?"

When she said that anger started rising in me, but in the split second my blood pressure started to rise the Father broke right through the moment asking me this:

"I know you'd take a bullet for her, laying down your life for her; So why is it hard for you to give her a bite of your cheeseburger?"

In that moment my heart was opened for me to see it as the Father saw it, and I was horrified. I judged myself as a lifetime of 'protecting my territory eating' flashed by my eyes in between that 1st and 2nd second after she asked. In that split second I replied to Barb: "Sure, have all you want", and meant it. I had no idea protecting my food as mine, all mine, through the years was a heart-issue.

Barb has suggested I became territorial about my food because after my dad left money was tight for mom with 4 kids to feed, and we each protected what was on our plates because there may not have been any second helpings. I don't know why, but I didn't like what I saw in my heart that day.

Laying down your life, picking up the cross?

I would guess that most Christians have wondered if someone burst through the door with a gun, line everyone up, and ask if they were a Christian, and then kill all Christians one by one, if they would have the bravery to NOT deny the Lord in that moment.

That kind of situation used to be hypothetical until in recent years that exact thing has happened in various places around the world, from ISIS controlled areas to a college campus in Oregon.

However, laying down your life for someone doesn't begin and end at the point of a gun. No, you lay down your life in little ways every day, from sharing a bite of a cheeseburger to mowing the elderly neighbor's yard even though you are very tired after a long day of work, to choosing good thoughts about a person as you pray for them when you want to yell good and hard at them.

How taking up your cross is laying down your life - and what it means

In Matthew 16:16 Peter exclaimed Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus told him the Father had shown that to him. After the revelation He is God's Son was made known, Jesus goes on to tell them in v21 He would die at the hands of the leaders and rise the third day. Peter took Him aside and rebuked the Lord, saying "...it shall never happen to you!"

In v23-24 the Lord responded: "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you do not mind the things of God, but you mind the things of man. If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.."

The cross He is talking about is Peter's ideas for Jesus' life versus the Father's ideas for Jesus' life.

How do you lay down your life?

Peter didn't want Jesus to go to the cross, Jesus told him to crucify those thoughts of man. Therefore taking up the cross means stripping yourself of your own earth-based and flesh-based opinions about a person or situation, and change your thoughts to God's thoughts about them.

The fact Jesus used the cross as the example of switching from man's thoughts to God's thoughts, tells us He knew that process can be tortuous and painful to the flesh. Jesus went on to say if you want to save your life - your human-based thoughts, you will lose your life. But if you make that switch to God's way of thinking, you will find your life.

Though my thoughts are wrong, they are known and comfortable! New thoughts make me afraid!

To Peter the thought of Jesus going to the cross was opposite everything he had believed of Messiah - but Jesus said lay those old thoughts down because they are man's thoughts. Crucify them. Not harbor them in the back recesses of your mind. Kill them.

How hard was that for Peter to give up, kill, all thoughts he had been trained all his life about how Messiah would kick out the Romans and usher in another golden era for Israel? Jesus said to crucify those thoughts Peter. Let them die a tortuous death if need be - sputter, object, cry, yell, but in the end, let those thoughts die. Work through them. ***The process is the journey.***

Taking up one's cross is not a sickness to carry through life, nor is it caring for an aged relative in their last years, nor is it putting up with a horrible neighbor next door. Taking up the cross is ending man's thinking and taking up God's thinking. That is called 'renewing the mind' from Romans 12:1-2

Cheeseburger remix

I thought it was normal husband-wife squabbles. I've seen many other couples and those wives did the exact same thing as my wife. (There must be a female gene that compels them to sample their husband's food, :)

Man's thoughts would be to justify protecting my plate due to my past - "When dad left we each got a plateful of food and that's it." Man's thoughts would be "You could have ordered what I ordered, so no, be happy with what you ordered." Which is exactly (evidently) what had been in my heart for years until I repented.

When the Father said "I know you'd take a bullet for her..." He was acknowledging my heart on the big picture, but He was wanting me to take the 'bullet' of giving her a bite of my lunch - He was pointing out my hypocrisy, that proof of my willingness to take that real bullet was played out in taking a little bullet of letting her have my lunch.

That opened up a lot of introspection asking myself where else do I not treat her as Christ does the church, and giving Himself for her? How can I further lay down my life for family, friends, neighbors, those I serve in ministry? What other thoughts of man lurk in my heart that I must crucify that I may think as the Father thinks?

And that's where we'll pick it up next week. Until then...oh, what you are eating looks good, can I try some?

Blessings,

John Fenn

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2015-10-24

What is taking up cross #2, Rhino

Hi all,

There are 2 benchmark events in my life that confirmed something I had tried to keep quiet, crammed into the back of my mind for years, but now must admit: I am getting old.

The first came unexpectedly when Barb and I were driving down the highway with the sun to my side, perfectly silhouetting my profile to Barb. Suddenly she started laughing. Actually it started as a chuckle, then escalated into a laugh, and suddenly I realized she was laughing AT me.

"Honey, I don't want to be cruel, but you have a hair sticking straight up on the tip of your nose", she managed through her giggles. I thought no big deal, what harm is a little "peach fuzz", I am a mammal after all. That image was quickly shattered by her reply, trying to be as gentle as possible: "No honey, you look like a Rhinoceros." Horrified, I gently brought my right index finger to hover over the top of my nose and sure enough, like some weed that had escaped the chopping blade, stood a hair straight and tall.

To me I had a giant redwood on the tip of my nose. I forget where we were going but it was a public meeting, and suddenly I felt like a teenager just before a date and a giant pimple suddenly pops up for all to see.

The second event was when I was getting my haircut - a lady named Viva is where Chris and I go to get our haircuts here in town. She is always kind to Chris, who loves her car magazines in the waiting area, and she always allows him to take one home. When my haircut was nearly complete, Viva asked:

"Would you like me to trim your eyebrows?"

That did it. I am now officially old. Rhino hairs, eyebrows needing trimmed like an overgrown yard, the last facade of telling myself I was still young crumbled like a house of cards. What's next, ear hairs? Nope, too late, I'd been dealing with those for years. I am old!

OK John, now that I'm grossed out, where are you going with this?

I'm 57 as I write this. I've known the Father and Lord since I was 16. When I was 16 it seemed like the highway of holiness was an 8 lane super highway with rubber guard rails - and I wandered at times from one side to the other of that super highway of grace. Today, forty plus years later, it seems the highway of holiness is a footpath on a high mountain ridge with 1,000 foot (304m) drops on both sides.

The major character issues were worked out long ago, but the fine tuning never stops. Like hair popping up in places I don't think hair should grow, the Father is always revealing something growing in my heart for me to tame, shave off, or pluck out by the roots. Like rhino hair they are minor things that usually only He and I would notice (and Barb too for some reason, lol), but tiny as they are, once pointed out they get my full attention and seem SO huge.

About that 8 lane superhighway with rubber guard rails

I shared last week that in context, 'taking up your cross' according to Jesus, is putting to death man's thoughts in favor of thinking God's thoughts about a given person or situation. Taking up your cross is not a hardship or pressure of circumstances; rather it is the killing of old thoughts in favor of making God's thoughts your own.

What are the first earth-thoughts after a person is born again and venturing on that 8 lane superhighway of grace that should be killed in favor of thinking God's thoughts? The earth-thoughts are "No one loves me unconditionally just as I am" and replaced with the revelation from the Father you are unconditionally loved, and He has a purpose fueled by grace for your life.

IF a Christian goes on to other revelations BEFORE knowing by revelation direct from Him that they are unconditionally loved, they will have a flawed foundation and will often become performance based always trying to please the Ogre God in the sky, rather than grace based walking in peace with their Father.

But many Christians are like a man who focuses on his own spiritual 'rhino hair'

...while forgetting the larger need to shave their face in the morning. They focus on one doctrine after the other to the point their theology is as confused as my eyebrows growing all over the place, while forgetting the larger need to comb their hair. They major on the minor things so that all they see is the minor, and are blind to the major things.

When I was born again and then Spirit-filled in the charismatic renewal of the 1970's, there were as many teachings and goofy manifestations of the Spirit (so called) you could ever want. As a result, many people became 'specialists' in things like personal prophecy, deliverance, shepherding others, inner healing, etc.

But in each case of people that I knew personally, they had not slowed down long enough to kill their thoughts of self-dislike or insecurities to replace those thoughts with the Father's thoughts about them.

They never received that revelation before skipping ahead to 'deep' things. As a result we now have millions of Christians who don't know their Father, yet can tell you all about their specific field of spiritual study - inner healing, Messianic, end times - pick a teaching and they know THAT but not the Father, at least not well.

They need to slow down, and with all their heart get to know the Father by focusing on Him and talking to Him, allowing His revelation of His great love to become so real it replaces their own thoughts of themselves.

For me, after my dad left when I was 11, telling us "I'm divorcing your mother and I'm divorcing you kids. There won't be any birthdays, holiday, ball games, nothing.", any healthy love of self I had wilted like newly planted sapling in the heat of summer.

By the time I was 16 and my friend Janny told me she knew the God behind the Sunday morning liturgy, I didn't love myself, didn't think I'd be good at anything, didn't care about school or life. I entered and then dropped out of everything because I just didn't care anymore about them or myself any longer.

The highest command is to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. It is impossible to love your neighbor as yourself if you don't love yourself. That means loving yourself because you are unconditionally loved is essential to growing in Christ.

These are often the first thoughts a person must put to death on their own personal cross:

I hate myself, I am unworthy, I have no purpose, no one loves me unconditionally, God loves me but doesn't like me. It took me about a year of constant time with the Father, study in the Word looking for every instance in the New Testament of the Father being the Source of Love with a Plan, before His thoughts about me became my thoughts. I did it by every time my thoughts would turn inward against myself, I answered right back with what I knew the Father had said about me and thought about me.

That battle to crucify those thoughts required (for me anyway) the whole width of that 8 lane super highway. Those thoughts did not go easily into the night, but I kept coming back to scriptures to force myself to think God's thoughts, and caught myself each time I started to think how I hated myself. Here is one passage that helped kill my earth thoughts on that cross:

Ephesians 3:14-20:

"For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He would give you...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in your inner man...**that you being rooted and grounded in (unconditional, agape') love** may be able to comprehend with all the saints the width, length, depth and height and to know the love of Christ which is beyond knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

You must be "rooted and grounded in unconditional love" BEFORE you can know that which is beyond knowing by natural means, the love of Christ. IF you know that love you can be filled with all the fullness of God! Isn't that what we want, to have all we can have of Him?!

And I'll pick it up there next week, until then, blessings,

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2015-10-31

What is taking up the cross #3, Poison

Hi all,

Once in a while I get in the mood for a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast, and this was one of those days. We had some Irish 'Steel Cut' oatmeal on the shelf, and though the expiration date on the box had already passed, I didn't see any worms crawling around in it, so I fixed a big bowl, lol.

After pouring some milk on top and mixing it around it didn't take me long to devour the whole bowl along with 4 slices of hot buttered toast. I thought it tasted rather funny, it had a tart, sharp taste to it, sour, but I figured that was because the Irish version of oatmeal must be like that.

Knowing Barb and knowing she would want to sample whatever I was having (see the first in this series), when I made my oatmeal I had fixed enough for her to have a bowl once she was up and around. She poured it into a bowl, poured a little milk on top and mixed it in, sat down, put a big spoonful in her mouth...and then spit it out right away: "Yuck! That oatmeal has gone bad. Oh, that's just horrible. It's rancid. Throw it out; I hope you didn't eat any! It could make you sick, you need to eat something else!"

I replied; "Too late, I already had a big bowl. I thought it tasted funny but poison can't hurt me since I didn't know it was spoiled - so lesson learned, no harm done. I guess that funny taste wasn't because it was a different brand." She ended up eating a cold bowl of cereal instead. I went on about my day just fine.

Old thoughts that need to be taken to the cross and poison

I've shared when Peter told the Lord that He should not go to the cross, Jesus told him he was thinking man's thoughts, not God's thoughts, and he needed to crucify those thoughts and take up God's thoughts.

Last week I shared how the first thoughts one should crucify based on revelation are those of self-hatred, as the command to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves cannot be done if we don't first love ourselves.

I shared how some believers never really received that revelation before jumping ahead to 'deeper' truths. If they rush ahead seeking and receiving revelation on other subjects in the faith before truly knowing the Father's revelation of love for them, due to the flawed foundation they can get off balance in their faith.

Like putting together a big spiritual breakfast, they may assemble spiritual toast, spiritual milk, spiritual oatmeal, yet never realize 1 of those elements is poison mixed in with the others. On the outside they look spiritually healthy, but in reality they are including poison.

Once I have those revelations, what is next?

Peter stated in II Peter 1, starting in verse 5:

"...applying your diligence in exercising your faith to **develop moral excellence**, and in moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in your knowledge, **self-control**, and in your self-control, **steadfastness**, and in your steadfastness, **godliness**, and in your godliness, **brotherly affection (love)**, and in your brotherly affection, **develop Christian love (agape)** that is to learn to unselfishly seek the best for others and to do things for their benefit."

Notice that 'moral excellence' is the first character trait to be developed after those basic revelations of Jesus is Christ and that we are unconditionally loved.

A person who knows Jesus is Lord and we will each stand before Him one day to give account of our lives, and knows He loves them unconditionally, will no longer want to steal, lie, cheat to get their way. Moral excellence is therefore the first character trait to add to one's faith after those revelations.

Where old thoughts die and new thoughts take life

Let us say a newly born again teenager WITH those amazing revelations energizing their thoughts meets up with his old friends who want to go shop lifting (stealing from stores) after school. Right away this young man is faced with being accountable to Jesus, and that because he loves himself and knows he and his

friends are so loved, enters into a battle in the mind about going out on a minor crime spree with his old friends.

There no longer remains any motivation for stealing even though he could use a new pair of shoes. The drive to steal isn't there so he must develop the backbone to tell his friends 'no', and be willing to be made fun of, to be called names, to be ostracized from the group. He is adding moral excellence to his faith by crucifying old thoughts to allow new thoughts to become his own.

What about the teenage girl who was abused as a child

She came to the Lord as a last attempt at happiness and discovered God is real and He loves her, but she struggles with loving herself. She can't forgive herself and therefore has a hard time believing He loves her.

But in times of study of the Word, and more so, in times of worship and prayer getting to know the Word Himself rather than merely ink on a page Word which flows by extension from Him, she gradually stops fighting those new thoughts that she is loved unconditionally, and lets them fill her mind with assurance.

And so when on a date with a boy who wants to have sex with her, in times past she would give in because down inside she was hoping he would truly love her for who she was, unconditionally, hoping the next boy would be 'the one' to fill the void inside her heart.

But now she has that revelation that Jesus is Christ and that she is unconditionally loved. She is no longer seeking to have a void in her heart filled with love, she has it already. Gone is the desire to have sex to win over the boy who may be 'the one' to fill that void - and she tells this boy 'no', and she means it. She is adding moral excellence to her faith by crucifying her old thoughts in order to think God's thoughts.

The business owner

This person owns a small plumbing business and for years when the opportunity has presented itself, he has asked the customer for cash payment, which he pocketed without reporting it as income, thereby side-stepping the filing of paperwork and tax payments.

But now he is born again, and knows he is loved unconditionally. He starts to look at customers differently, with the knowledge that Christ is in him and when he fixes that toilet or sink it is Christ in him fixing that person's plumbing, and he is His hands extended to do good for people.

One day he is about to ask for cash payment if they have it, and he stops. It is as if Jesus is watching from within him, and in truth, He is. Suddenly the revelation of his corruption hits him hard, and he tells the customer if they want to use their card or write a check that is fine too. He is adding moral excellence by crucifying old thoughts on how he runs his business, and based on revelation thinks new thoughts and ways.

Here is where the poison enters...

If each person above decides to go against the revelation they have received, and against what they know to do and what they know God is dealing with them about, to add to their faith moral excellence, their conscience becomes seared over like a piece of meat being grilled. That searing seals in the juices, the life, and doesn't let it manifest outward to their lives, bringing God's Life to their life.

Not only is their conscience seared a bit, but by allowing a little stealing, a little promiscuity, a little tax evasion, they are allowing themselves to consume a little poison along with that which is good and healthy for their spiritual life. They look like they are great Christians to all who see them, but on the inside they are allowing a poisonous tree to grow alongside their faith.

This is where they start to get off balance because by ignoring the Spirit of Truth inside them, each time they do this they sear their conscience just a little bit more, losing a bit of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit telling them x behavior is wrong, and that leads to insensitivity when x teacher or x teaching is off balance...and they start to get off the path.

At some point they either rise up and do the right thing, killing man's thoughts on their internal cross which is what Jesus told Peter to do with his thoughts of Jesus not going to the cross. Or they keep a little of man's thoughts alongside great teachings they receive along the way. Often like me accidentally ingesting poison

oatmeal, God's grace is there preventing no eternal harm IF they see their error, and correct it. If not, they will reap what they've sown and suffer accordingly, though grace is always there if they turn to Him...

And...I've run out of room today, we'll pick it up here next week. Until then, blessings,
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2015-11-07

What is taking up the cross #4, Strongholds

Hi all,

Last week I told the stories of 3 people who crucified old ways of thinking so they could begin thinking new thoughts: The teen who stole from stores and ran with the wrong crowd, the promiscuous girl trying to fill the void in her heart thinking each guy she had sex with might be 'the one', and the corrupt businessman who requested cash payments and then didn't report the income.

All 3 put their old thoughts to death on their mental cross that they might take up new life in their thoughts: The teen stopped stealing and broke his friendships with that crowd in spite of taunts and jeers, the girl kept relationships pure and focused on knowing her heavenly Father though now rejected by peers and the boys she'd once slept with, and the businessman who stopped asking for cash and when paid in cash, reported it properly while his peers shook their heads not understanding this sudden 'religion' in his life.

I closed by asking, what if they did not crucify those thoughts?

What if each person continued their walk with the Lord, but in that one area of thought in each of their lives, they rejected revelation from God and stubbornly refused to crucify old thoughts? What if they kept those old thoughts and protected them instead? Maybe because they liked being accepted. Maybe because they enjoy the feeling they got from the sin. Maybe because they believe they won't have any fun if they give it up.

They are still believers, but the first occasionally steals from stores and keeps those old friendships while also going to church and Christian concerts. The young lady loves God, but loves the attention and temporary high of promiscuous sexual encounters as well, and tells herself she is more discerning in who she sleeps with now, and the corrupt businessman, a leader in his community on the outside but with this one area he refuses to let God influence his thoughts.

When a person rejects revelation from God in an area to hold onto their own thoughts, each of these thoughts manifest as occasional actions which then become regular habits, which then becomes lifestyle, and the person is then 'past feeling'* in that area - the thought is now a stronghold. *Ephesians 4:19

How strongholds develop - not crucifying wrong thoughts

There is a passage in II Corinthians 10:4-5 commonly used in 'spiritual warfare' teaching, but when used that way is at least in part, in error.

"...we don't war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful to God for bringing down strongholds, reasonings bringing down, and every high thing lifted up against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.." II Corinthians 10:4-5

The weapons of our warfare are for pulling down mental strongholds which are reasonings, not about demons. This is how thoughts are crucified. You pull them down when they life up against revelation and knowledge of God's thoughts on the matter.

The word 'stronghold' means 'fortress' - it is a military term, meaning a person like the young thief, or promiscuous woman, or corrupt businessman with ungodly thoughts would guard those thoughts as a military fort or castle might be defended, arguing or digging in one's heels to resist other's opinions or ideas.

These thoughts are strongholds defended by the person, meaning God's thoughts and everyone else's on the matter are shut out. That is what makes it a stronghold. There is no reasoning with such a person yet

holding onto their well guarded reasoning means they shut out God in that area, and others, eventually making themselves an island all alone in their singular thought in that protected stronghold.

By contrast Romans 12:2 says to "Don't be conformed to this world, but become transformed (Greek: metamorphosis, to undergo a metamorphosis) by the renewing of your mind..."

There is no other way to grow as a disciple of Christ, for the word disciple means 'learner'. Learning means examining and accepting new thoughts in place of old. You want to change your life? Start with killing your old thoughts and taking up new life in Christ's thoughts - about everything!

Like the young woman who slept with man after man thinking each might be 'the one' to fill the void in her heart, so too many Christians run to and fro to this conference and that, looking for 'the one' that will fill the void in their heart or heal them or heal their family, choosing to ignore the hard work of actually becoming a disciple and battling old thoughts with new, taking the old captive and then killing them on their own cross. Difficult, tortuous even, but that is why the Lord used the cross as an example. He knows the difficult process, but there is no other way.

Success against strongholds

For me it was that I didn't like myself. When my dad left our family when I was age 11, that rejection hurt all the way to my core. I was direction-less, searching for a father, for acceptance, for self-worth. As many children do, I blamed myself at least partially for their divorce, and hated myself for it.

After I was born again and baptized with the Holy Spirit I still had this stronghold of a self-hatred and rejection of myself, and no direction in life as a result. I just didn't care. About anything.

But I began doing what the Bible said - renewing my mind and therefore underwent a transformation in my thinking. Every time a thought of rejection or hatred would come into my mind I would counter that thought with another; "I'm no good so not even the Father can use me/Jesus died for me so of course the Father wants me and can use me for His will." "I hate myself and feel trapped/The Father loves me unconditionally so He has to have a plan for me."

And many other mental battles like that. Those ungodly thoughts did not go willingly to captivity on their cross - I had to march them down one by one as each reared its ugly head in my mind, and see to it each died in the presence of revelation from my Father which revealed each as a liar.

I had to counter thoughts like that nearly every day, for about a year before His thoughts became first nature, and I knew I was loved unconditionally and I could trust Him. I refused the idea of not growing in Him - I wanted all of Him and the only way to know Him was to think like Him because He sure wasn't going to start thinking like me.

It was a similar process forgiving my dad, which I did at age 16, but it took 10 years before the feelings lined up with my decision. I had read in Mark 11:25 Jesus said 'When you stand praying, forgive...' which meant forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. So I decided to forgive though I still felt hurt, rejected, and angry at the injustice of it all.

Those were genuine and justified feelings and I wasn't going to be religiously manipulated into denying the facts of the situation - it was not right that he did what he did and I was right to feel angry and rejected. But those facts had nothing to do with my decision to forgive him. The forgiveness was instant, the feelings I had to work through because my hurt and the injustice was legitimate and real, took 10 years.

Every time one of my siblings would bring up 'the divorce' it would stir strong emotions of hatred, anger, rejection and more, all over again. But I had to mentally and with determination, counter every thought of anger and hatred towards dad with "I forgave him years ago so feelings settle down because he is already forgiven." I did that over and over and over again through 10 years.

It wasn't until I was 26, looking at my wife and sons and wondering how in the world my dad could walk out on us when I was young, causing a huge void in my life making my teen years incomplete, that I realized the final piece of injustice I had to resign myself to was that I didn't have teenage years with my dad. Once I settled it that I would never get my teen years back, somehow becoming okay with that though unjust, as I was then in my 20's and there was no turning back the hands of time, the final feeling of rest and peace

lined up with my decision 10 years earlier to forgive. Now I had the memories but no longer any hurt attached to each memory. He had been forgiven 10 years earlier, but now my feelings lined up with the decision.

There is no other way to grow in Christ than to do the dirty work of countering each thought of man/Satan with the thoughts based on revelation from the Father. It is a process, but the end result is a transformed mind and life. You can do it.

New subject next week, blessings!

John Fenn

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