

ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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Dear Friends,

Our work at Alpha is to help hurting Christians find answers to their problems. These problems are what God uses in our life to draw us closer to Him. Most of us are quite happy to live as we always have until a problem crops up that we can't fix! Eventually, the blessed ones ask for help! I could say the smart ones or reasonable ones but my experience has taught me that no matter your IQ if you ask for help, from God, you are blessed because He loves to answer a call for help.

The most common problem I have seen while at Alpha is that Christians DO NOT know that problems are meant to draw us to God. Most of the hurting people we see want immediate answers to their problems and nothing more! However, God has given us the job of trying to deal with the root of the problem rather than just tinker with the symptoms.

I believe the root problem is simply that most Christians do not know we have an inheritance from God. Paul in his wonderful prayer starting in Ephesians 1:16 is asking God to give the Ephesians, and us, a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Unfortunately, we seldom look for revelation from God except when we are in pain. I think He wants us to get the message but we don't listen until we are hurting. Then Paul asks for enlightenment so we would know the hope of His calling and what are the riches of His inheritance given to us. By saints, Paul means all truly 'Born Again' people. So many Christians struggle in this life because they do not know about or live in their inheritance. Paul's prayer in chapter 3 reemphasizes this thought with even stronger words. In counseling, I regularly say to people that it takes more faith to believe what God says about our inheritance, than the faith it takes to become a Christian. The inheritance statements are scattered though out the New Testament. We are a new creation in Christ, our newness is made like God and is righteous and holy, in spirit we are seated in heaven with Christ, we have power to consistently say no to all temptation. He will never leave or forsake us no matter how difficult life gets. The list would fill pages and all this is only part of our inheritance in Christ!

Would you live differently if you received millions of dollars? I must admit if I inherited millions it would have a big impact on me! I would live differently! Now apply this idea to our walk with God. The reason we struggle with temptation, and sin, and depression, and anxiety, and anger is because we forget our inheritance in Christ. We are to live differently because we have inherited all we need from God. It's not only for the next life but for right now! Our inheritance isn't millions of dollars but a new life, a spiritual life that can overcome all this world can throw at us.

As summer heats up please continue to pray for Alpha. We are weekly seeing new folks searching for help. Thank you for our prayers and gifts to Alpha! God bless you!

Richard