

Heart Menders International, Inc.

Heart Beat Newsletter

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“DECEIVED? WHO, ME?”

by Carol Gordon

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.” (1 Cor 3:18-19a)

Have you already let go of your “New Year’s Resolution”? It is far better to set measurable goals and keep pursuing them, even when there are setbacks. The best goal is to keep our hearts right before God. We all want to feel like we are “right” - a Father implanted desire, by the way! However, we often settle for being “right in our own eyes” (Deut. 12:8, Judg. 21:25, Prov. 12:15 plus others), rather than pursuing our righteousness in Him.

We are all easily self-deceived. Not only is the Enemy setting traps of deception, we keep ourselves entrapped by not comparing our views to the Lord’s. Our pride, in many disguises, blinds us to truth. We must love the truth, even if it means we must change our thinking! In fact, resistance to making changes is the biggest red flag we could wave to get Satan’s attention. It is an open door for him to use us adversely. The Lord is the one who gets to direct us in every detail. He places clear choices before us, a good path to follow. He is continually guiding our hearts by His peace. If we do not obey Him, the consequences are our fault.

We all tend to set up our own plans, pursue our own agendas, and stubbornly forge ahead. Often we end up serving an idol of our own making rather than worshiping our Father. Isaiah 44 and other references has a lot to say about the futility of making our own gods. Beyond agendas and projects, idols can be offenses or fears hiding deep in our hearts all the while we think we are walking in love and faith.

Our Lord warned us that this would be a sign of the times. **“And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you...And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet...then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another...And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.’”** (Matt 24:4,6,9,10,12) Does this not sound like the 21st Century? Yet it is not a new pattern, but one that has repeated itself many times through history.

We are easily duped by the empty words and influence of the culture around us. Some people plan to do wrong, most just go along with things and slip into it. What are you influence by - friends, media, traditions, circumstances? We should be looking to the Word of the Lord for our directives. He has a fresh answer for every problem. His love should be the greatest comfort and influence we know.

I have had several interesting messages from the Lord of late. He has been doing more healing in my life and has showed me a number of old patterns I was still comfortable in. We all need to stay open to His revealing our heart. The Holy Spirit is constantly ready to show us the hindrances to healing that we are holding to. Our prayer group had a Word, that He keeps adding to, that 2009 would bring a “lifting of the veil”. So we should expect “stuff” to be revealed, and not just in other folks!

The Lord specifically said we are often deceived by our perception of our “strengths and weakness”. We all want to see ourselves as strong, and generally either deny or ignore weak areas. Conversely, some people wallow in weakness and unhealed hurts and make this their identity. If we perceive ourselves as strong in an area, we are not likely to seek the Lord’s help for this. The old “I can do it myself”, independent Western mindset is separating us from the Lord hers, so it is really a weak area. Where we recognize and humble ourselves before Him for help and healing in our “weakness”, then He can receive Glory by His strength being manifested through us.

Another thing He spotlighted was the dynamic working of independence and responsibility. We all try to teach our children that you cannot have the former until you embrace the latter. While a healthy interdependence is a good goal for our natural relationships, He want us to depend on Him and let Him be responsible for us. Being “independent” from Him gets us in a peck of trouble. Likewise, being “dependent”, in adulthood, can be very unhealthy.

From reports I receive the Lord is pressing all His own to grow, be healed, and yield to Him at a deeper level. We have a message to share with the world. Our character, as well as our calling, must be a shining light glorifying

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Him. We all have let too many life patterns slide when we should be pressing for all the wonderful healing that is available to us. Every one of us has a unique witness of Him to present to our world. Let us be about our Father's business in 2009!

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Matt 24:14)

(All Scripture references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted)



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NEWS AND NOTES

Dear Partners and Friends:

The New Year is off to a rollicking start! We have lots of prayer challenges before us. Please let us know your prayer needs, so we can pray for you more specifically. The calling to touch Father on your behalf is strong for Heart Menders.

I have enjoyed a birthday and so did Karen. I am looking forward to a a trip to Texas for a conference and some visits. I love to travel, and haven't done much of it the past year. We are still working out details of moving the Couple's Retreat, as our usual facility had to close. We will have a booth at the AFFAIR OF THE HEART craft fair, a big event in OKC, the first weekend in February. We are in Booth 43 in the Modern Living Building. We anticipate the filming of the Healing Intensive beginning in March. More on these events as we have details.

I am so thankful for our financial partners. Your faithfulness is so precious to us. Your gifts, large or small, are deeply appreciated. It is always exciting to see who the Lord involves in His care for us! The Lord said I was to "value the anointing" and make it available to more people. Our goals reflect this mandate. You being part will bless you!

Our assignment requires strong prayer support! Your individual prayers for HEART MENDERS, Heart MENTors, and HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS are essential. Also consider being a part of our prayer teams. Keep praying, "LORD, HELP CAROL FULFILL YOUR CALL ON HER LIFE!"

Your sister in Him,

Carol Gordon

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- Prayer for me and Heart Menders
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