

WHEN THE SPIRIT OF QUIT COMES KNOCKING

She dabbed her eyes with a tissue as she handed me a piece of paper. “I am sorry, but I have too much going on and I am going to have to step down as Lighthouse President. I love Aglow and the people in it, but I have so much going on right now...” her voice trailed off as I looked at the paper. “That is my formal letter of resignation...” she dissolved into tears again.

We spoke about what she felt was weighing her down in life. She shared of all the time consuming things she had going on, mostly things that had no eternal impact. I asked her if she felt the Lord was moving her into something new; if she had a release from Him from this season of leadership. She hesitated. “Well, not really. But I’m so frustrated...”

Ahh. The key word. Frustration. This was a demand from the flesh, not a brooding of the Holy Spirit. When the old man is squeezed, he squeals like a pig in the chute. He whines. He demands recourse and relief. And that is a good way to tell the difference between what is the old man trying to resurrect himself and have a pity party, and what is an authentic move of God into a new season: does it make you run away from circumstances or run deeper into God?

When we run into challenging circumstances through the old man, the spirit of quit is quick to come and demand to be entertained. Self-pity is the bosom buddy of the spirit of quit. The old man feeds on them. He wants people to cluck their tongues in sympathy at how the challenge is pressing him and he sings a song of agreement with the pity. The new man, on the other hand, pushes in even more intensely to God, to hear His voice, to align himself with God’s peace, to sing a song of agreement with God’s plans and purposes.

Quitting something as a response to stress and frustration will only leave you more frustrated, stressed, and dissatisfied. Be still before the Lord. Get into His Presence and shovel more dirt on the grave of the old man. There are seasons in our lives with a beginning and an end, but a move of the Lord will never cause you to walk away from something that is unfinished. His remedy to a challenge is never to succumb to the spirit of quit, but to learn in the challenge, to move even higher in His calling upon you.

Graham Cooke says, “It is not an adventure until you are challenged by something bigger than you. So He understands that story and journey are messy affairs... He knows you.”

And that Lighthouse President who thought she needed to resign? She is now an Area Team member, joyfully serving God as she walks in His plans and purposes. And you? You are cut from the new cloth and you have new wine and new wineskins. Never revert back to the old.

Luke 35:36- 39: And He was also telling them a parable. ‘No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment, otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old, and no one puts new wine into old wine skins, otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will burst out and the skins will be ruined, but new wine must be put into fresh new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wishes for new for he says the old is good enough.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Being a *GameChanger* means you are learning now to step into your truest identity. You are beginning to understand how you are known in Heaven and you are learning how to live on earth out of that identity. It is equally important that in our groups, we are supporting each other. We must begin to relate to each other out of our Heavenly identity so that when the 'spirit of quit knocks' no one answers!

1. One of the most important things each one must do is to prepare an individual identity statement because your perception of yourself must change. An identity statement reflects your partnership with God's view of you.

Remember that your statement will require upgrades as you become more familiar with who you really are from Heaven's view point. And once you have your identity statement done, you must share it with those in your group so that everyone begins to relate to each other out of the new man and not the old, dead man.

To help those in your group prepare an identity statement see the document *How to Prepare a Personal Identity Statement*. (This document can be found on the Aglow website under resources or in the back of the *GameChanger* manual.) If your group does not have identity statements, take the time to begin working on them now.

Keep identity statements on all those in your Aglow group and replace with updated statements when needed.

2. Not only does *your* thinking about yourself need to align with how you are known in Heaven, your thinking about *others in your group* must now begin to align with how *they* are known in Heaven.

Take the time for everyone to read aloud the beginnings of their identity statements prepared in step one – even if each person only has 1-3 sentences.

3. A third step necessary in becoming the person who God sees every time He looks at you is that your language about yourself must change. So, we are going to do an 'instead of' exercise now.

Taking a few minutes to think, jot down any negative statements or thoughts that you have toward yourself. Next, make an exchange in each negative statement for something God thinks about you.

Examples:

NEGATIVE STATEMENT

I am so dumb.

I am so angry!

I never can do anything right!

INSTEAD OF STATEMENT

The Brilliant Holy Spirit lives in me, making me brilliant, too!

God's peace causes me to be slow to anger.

I can do all things through Christ.

Now, do some on your own. Share with the group. If you can't make the exchange, have others help.