August 2013 update from Ken Millwood

Dear All,

Welcome to the latest update. I wanted to do something a bit different this time, so below I have included an extract from Chapter 5 for you to see an example of what I have been working on.

It is only when we are in the deep end that we truly begin to depend!

Until we reach the point where we know we're 'out of our depth' our human nature is inclined to try and fix or solve whatever issue we are facing by ourselves. We act like we are the captain of our own ship and can steer it wherever we want. How many times does God need to show us that even with all the great gifts and abilities He has given us that 'without Him we can do nothing?' ...

Looking In The Mirror

I became acutely aware of my weaknesses, my sinful nature to be exact, during the summer of 1992. I was working in Thessaloniki, Greece with a lady missionary for four months helping to organise and subsequently lead a three week programme of evangelism. During the time I was in Greece I learned a lot about God, other people and myself. About God – His faithfulness and ability to answer even the simplest prayers; about other people – how important it was to maintain good relationships and clear lines of communication; and about myself – that no matter how hard I tried there were just some things I said and did which annoyed other people on the team, and even myself. I started to see my own imperfections, the ungodly behaviour which I seemed helpless to control, and instead often felt like it controlled me. I was very judgemental, quick to find faults and hypercritical, able to point out what was wrong with others, but unable to see the same flaws in myself. I was moody and prone to sulking if I didn't get my own way. During that summer I was confronted by my own fallen nature (like looking at myself in a mirror) and didn't like what I saw.

It all changed one night.

Near the end of my time in Thessaloniki I reached a crisis point. I could see my sinful behaviour, and knew I was without excuse. I did not want to stay the same but was utterly unable to change myself. As I prayed alone that night I cried out to God, “Change me! No matter what it takes!” A dangerous prayer, but one which I meant whole-heartedly.

God heard me immediately and within a few weeks had set me free from a generational curse (at that time I didn't even know such things existed). He started dealing with things from my past; going right to the roots (rejection, insecurity, fear and shame) which was responsible for the bad fruit (wrong attitudes, bad habits, and inconsistent behaviour) I saw manifested in my life. God began an intensive cycle by which the old sinful nature was exposed and identified so I could repent of it. The transformation was far from instant; dealing with the major roots took several years. Other areas now uncovered are still ongoing, but it has been such a complete work that I no longer act in those ways. It is even difficult for me to remember how I used to think and behave. I meant what I said when I gave God full permission to change me, no matter what, and He took me at my word for which I am eternally grateful.

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There are a couple of major changes happening in my life at the moment which I hope to be able to share more fully in the next update in October. Until then, every blessing,

Ken

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