



Philippian Ministries New Beginnings

Treasure in Heaven

Principles

A. It isn't wrong to have treasure on earth if it enables us to give even more to God's kingdom.

B. All we imagine we own really belongs to God.

C. Not every one of our treasures turn out to be financial.

D. God desires for us to see our treasure with His eyes and heart, from the perspective of heaven.

*Father,
Show us the treasure You have invested in our lives. Those that You want returned to You, and show us those priceless jewels we once thought were living nightmares and are now used to show forth Your glory!*

Amen

Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

Sometimes I think we forget that every single thing we have really belongs to God. I know there were times when I forgot or at least acted like I had forgotten.

Then I learned to ask God, for instance, where He wanted me to put tithe money. I did not believe He wanted me to give it all to a particular church.

There are more than half a dozen places He put on my heart and the church I attended was only one of those. I love letting God lead my giving!

We also need to realize that finances are not the only treasures.

Most of us have done things in life that are a grief to the heart of God, yet in His mercy He has used those very things for good.



After giving my heart to Jesus and going through emotional healing prayer I began to see that the trash of my past was being turned into treasure for His kingdom.

Then as I began to share with others how He had changed me, I saw the results right before my eyes. I saw it on the faces of those with whom I shared.

Now as I think of my treasure chest in heaven, I don't see myself at all, but the beauty of God's creative power. It is so true that nothing is wasted when He touches it. Because of His great mercy He uses all of these things in our lives. How can we not stand in awe of such an amazing and grace-filled God!

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I'll never forget praying with my first young lady who had experienced an abortion. We watched in sweet prayer as the Lord allowed her to see an infant in His arms so she could ask and give forgiveness as she took responsibility for what she did.

What terrible pain she felt looking at that baby. She sobbed with such shame and loss, but He didn't leave her there. My heart soared as she looked at that little one and said, "I am so grateful that no one can destroy what God has made for eternity and that you are alive with Him.

God said that where my heart is, there will my treasure be also. You, my little one, are a very great part of my treasure in heaven."

On that day, for the first time, that young woman understood that God had transformed her agony and quilt into forgiveness, assurance, and joy.

Yes, treasure in heaven comes in many forms, doesn't it? What an amazing God we serve! How can we ever stop praising Him and showing others His goodness in our lives? He has made us His living testimony!



Sharing Our Walk

Some time ago Lana Bateman spoke to the Baptist Student Union. I was privileged to be able to sit in on a few of the sharing sessions with Lana and the students. I sensed a real gifting of God in allowing her to bring others in touch with the hurt in their lives.

At times when she was sharing with the staff at the retreat center, I found myself close to tears as many of the principles and examples were communicated. At times, I've sensed myself responding to my children the very same way my father had responded to me. I've often found myself critical and angry especially with my children when they are sick at home.

A few times I've been aware of a deep fear of people rejecting me.... not good for a college professor! It is like there is a cowering child inside of me saying, "Please don't hurt me." I sensed that all of us on the staff needed to be trained in and then pass through such a special time of prayer. What healing awaits us.

After going through my prayer time I realized I had always looked to my parents to meet my emotional needs... ones that only God could meet. During the prayer I was at last able to release them from this burden. I also gave and received forgiveness for the hurts the Lord brought out as Lana spoke with me.

Not long after I returned home for a family reunion I found I was able to repond with a new strength and an ability to relate to my parents in genuine love. I was free to love them the way the Lord would desire. In other relationships I've been able to look to the Lord now for acceptance and security and even my relationship with my wife is far more open and intimate.

Now I minister much of what I learned and experienced to my counseling students. How God longs to heal our hearts and relationships. I pray God will continue to bless His work through Phillipian Ministries in the years to come! Thank You, God, and thank you, Lana!

What Have You Locked Away?

Praise be to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

II Corinthians 1:3,4 (NLB)

There are many things that could be said in response to the question of why God allows pain and trials in our lives, but here is one you may not have considered: God allows trials and hardship in your life so you can help others. As a result, what-ever difficulty, or suffering you may be going through need not be wasted.

I have shared how surprised I have been that the pain and struggles of my childhood have given me a testimony that many will listen to, especially the Arab women and the Arab

What does Paul have to say about our past pain and sorrows and why we were hurt in those ways?

Muslim women. That has been a genuine shock!

Until I was thirty-five and experienced healing prayer, I kept those things locked away in my heart. I even buried some of them. I didn't want people to know all of those things about me, but then God began to heal my wounded heart and within a short while He pressed me to begin to give to others what He had given to me. At first I said "No", but the verse in Corinthians haunted me and finally I was able to say "Yes" and Phillipian Ministries was born.

Have you ever taken that verse in Corinthians seriously? How are you comforting others in the same way our God has comforted you? Have you become vulnerable with your past pain? Or, have you locked it away imagining that others will think less of you if they knew?

Many just sit and hold that comfort God gave, keeping it locked away in the safe of their hearts. Paul makes it

clear in II Cor. 1:3,4 that our merciful Father comforts us (not just because He loves us) but **SO THAT** we can comfort others with that same comfort.

Perhaps it is time to search our hearts, asking our tender-hearted Lord to reveal to us if we are doing that very thing. Let us ask Him if we have packed "that safe" inside our hearts with that valuable comfort we were given. Others need us to be vulnerable and help them to find the comfort He has given to us. Let us be brave and bold, either giving them that same comfort or helping make a way for them to receive it. I believe for some, our God is just waiting to be asked so He can show us how to minister His gift!



1. Please pray for Lana as she is now seeking the Lord regarding (God willing) a return to the Middle East to speak and minister in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq in September and October. Mohammad will be visiting her in Dallas soon to pray about the trip.

2. Pray for Lana's son Brett who is seeking custody of his two sons, one of which is autistic.

Pray for God's very best for these two boys and for Brett's safety.

3. Pray for the PM training seminar to be held July 20-22nd in Glendale, CA.

4. Pray for Brian Barlow, who Lana prayed with and who came out of the gay lifestyle. He is married now with a third child on the way. He is also in seminary ministering throughout our nation regarding gender identity and God's true

plan for men and women. You can only imagine, His spiritual attacks are many! He is a brave soul.

5. Continue to pray for Lana's strength and for her stamina!

Please be
in Prayer!



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