Dear Depressed Woman,

Your letter sharing all your pain just makes me want to cry for I have thought those thoughts and I know that pain.  It is a pain that only one who felt it understands.  I can also tell you where those thoughts come from…they are from the DEVIL.  He is working very very hard against you, you did not know spiritual warfare of the mind until you trusted Jesus, because the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking to whom he can devour.

Anytime we focus on our failings, what about me…ME MONSTER rears his ugly sinister head!  The root is selfishness.  We think about ourselves and it is wrong.  Just like my article, we have to realize that Christ did not die so we could worry about ourselves.  I have to tell myself that often because I have a very strong pull to feel sorry for myself.  Not because of what happens to me but because I feel like I am a failure.  The FAILURE response is something that is a selfish thought.  It seems the opposite in our minds when we are thinking about that.  To be honest, I was saying to my husband just recently, that I was such a failure.  I felt like a failure because I allowed myself to become depressed. I was ashamed that I let things of life get me down. I should know better, too.  It just proves to you that the Devil works hard.  We have to be very diligent to not open doors in our minds to him and to understand who we are in Christ.

Until you understand WHO you are in CHRIST, the war will continue in your mind.  This is it in a nutshell.  Okay, this could take a while to explain.  So in the garden of Eden God created a man and a woman.  God told them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They ate and then Sin entered in.  God told them that they would surely die the day they ate.  Until that point, God’s intension was that they would obey and eat from the tree of life and never die.  When they disobeyed, God said they would die.  You may or may not have heard it told this way, but I will tell you all the same.  Okay, so….did they die?  Is God a liar?  Even Satan said, no you will not surely die.  Even Satan tried to shed doubt on God’s word.  Did they die?  Absolutely not in that moment but something did die.  Before that time, animals and people ate grass and plants.  There was no death, just perfection.  No BBQs, no steak and onions—just salad, fruit, and nuts maybe.  They felt naked.  Why did they feel naked?  They felt naked because now they knew good and evil just like the name of the tree.  They had knowledge and they now knew they were naked.  Have you ever stopped to think about a small child.  Why do they insist upon running through the house naked?  They do this because they have not reached the age where they know the difference between good and evil.  Slowly as the child grows up, they slowly feel naked.  Did you ever think about that?  Did something die that day?  The answer is YES!!!  I bet  you never pondered that one.  It is not real noticeable by just reading because we live in a different world now.  But pay attention.  Adam and Eve put fig leaves on to cover their nakedness.  Did that suffice to God? Absolutely NOT!!!  He covered them in animals skins.  Why is that significant? Because something DIED.  In order for God not to be a liar, death entered in that day and the sheep where a substitute for their lives.  Just like Christ died in our place.  Then Cane and Abel.  Only blood sacrifice pleased God.  Even though Cane worked hard to offer the fruits and vegetables from the earth, God was not pleased.  He was only pleased by death and blood.  Sounds creepy but you will see the connection later.

Abraham:  He did not know that he would be a father of a great nation when he did not have any children and they were old.  It took FAITH for him to trust in that promise and BELIEVE even when there was nothing to show for it.  Of course we know that he went to the concubine and boar a son that was not the promised son but later God calls him righteous because he BELIEVED and that faith was counted as righteousness.  He had the promised son and God asked him to offer him.  Abraham, no matter how much he loved that son, he still trusted God and knew that he had to obey.  God offered a substitution.  There was a ram in the thicket.  It died in place of that child.  God is still not a liar.  Something died that day, too.

Later Moses was dealing with Pharaoh.  and Pharaoh would not let his people go.  The last plague was KEY.  It was the plague where the angel of death would claim the firstborn in all the land.  This is exciting for me to tell you.  So, they had to kill a perfect blameless, spotless lamb in the place of the firstborn child.  It was substation again.  They were commanded to drain out that blood and apply it BY FAITH to their doorposts.  Some of the people wavered I am sure and thought, why would that work, and besides, it probably won’t happen to me.  BUT God is not a liar.  They woke up to find their firstborn dead just as God has promised, even the Jews.  BUT for the ones that obeyed By faith, those people where spared.  By faith of being covered in the blood and obeying God they were spared.  Something had to die for God not to be a liar.  Blood had to have been spilt to cover.

And when the Laws were set into place, God commanded them to offer sacrifices to pay for their sins.  Blood was the only way to have remission for sins.  The animal died in their place.  The alter was a stinky gross, blood stained place.  Can you imagine having to bring your sins to the alter then???? And the priests would take your spotless lamb or fatted calf and slice open its throat?  You would look into this poor creatures eyes until the last drop of blood took the life out of them.  You, knowing that this animal died for your sins that year.  That this was the only way to come clean in the face of God.  Can you imagine living like that?  I can’t, I know it would not be fun.  And then if you did not sacrifice for these sins of breaking the commandments of God, you would be stoned to death or hanged, or your head cut off.  We truly live in a better way now.  God has provided a better way…

Why do people not run to God?  Everything is doable with the proper fix.  Your bored, you watch a movie, your sick, you take a pill, your lonely, you go to the bar and drink, you get nervous, you can light up some cigarettes or drugs.  You are sad, you can go on a vacation, somewhere far away.  Who needs God anymore?  It is very sad.

Well, all this being said, God KNEW we could never measure up to his commandments.  We all FAIL.  You are not the only one! We ALL FAIL.  Especially in the light of the commandments.  None of us is good, no not one!  Our minds are continually wicked, says the bible.  We all fall short of the Glory of God.  All our best efforts are DUNG! SOOOOOOOOOOOOO the good news is that God knew that!  He knew we could never get there, that we are wicked, nasty, dirty, filthy, rotten sinners who deserve hell.  But he did not want to send us there, he wishes non would perish.  I love this part.  He made Christ to be sin, so that we could be righteous!!!  Did you just hear that????!!!  Christ took on the form of the man, he took upon himself the sins of the world.  That means that God looked down at him and saw only sin and he took it even though he was sinless.  Just like that lamb took the Jews sin.  God punished the lamb, its blood shed so that the person would be washed clean until the next sin was committed.  So, God sees Christ as a filthy rotten wicked sinner.  He was crucified and died a sinners death He took the blame.  So that God could see us as righteous sons of God.  Jesus was the substitute.  God was pleased.

Now if we believe God’s word, then we know that we are now put in a position of Righteousness by FAITH.  We are no longer looked at all naked, but covered in the blood of Jesus. So just like the wrath of God passed over the firstborn in Israel when he saw the blood covering the doorpost.  In like fashion, the wrath of God will Pass over us when he sees us through the blood that we trust to be covered in.  Isn’t that amazing!!!  So who are we and what kind of power do we have access to?  Once you are born again, you have more than what normal people have.  They have their mind, will, and emotions.  The flesh, the spirit, and the soul.  When you actually get born again, you get another layer.  So you no longer operate with the just the three.  You have 4, four!!!!  The fourth is the spirit of God or what most people refer to as the Holy Spirit.  What does that mean for you?  That means that you have super powers!  That is right!  You do.  Remember David.  A man after God’s own heart?  Okay, so He had access to the Holy of Holies.  As did Moses, as did the chosen priests, as did Joshua.  There was a veil and the ark of the covenant was behind that veil.  Only chosen people were allowed access to God.  Can you imagine living in that time and you did not have access to God.  It was something only a chosen few could behold and experience?  When Christ died, that veil was torn forever in the temple of God.  No more sacrifices needed to be made.  The ultimate one was made on our behalf, once for all.  The Holy spirit now lives within us, the holy of holies in our being.  It is true and reality.  We actually have more access to God than any of those chosen men even King David.

That truth is amazing to me—actually mind blowing!!!  So we can feel God, talk with God, ask God anything, pray to Him, walk with Him, all in the privacy of our mind and heart. That is a miracle of miracles.  wonder of wonders.  A mystery even.  But that means we do not HAVE to sin.  We have the power to overcome sin, especially in our thoughts.  We can say, “I have the mind of Christ!!!  Satan, you have no authority!!!”  Or we can say, “I am a righteous daughter of God, Sin has no dominion over me.  I am free from Sin and I have the power to sin no more.  I am not a failure in Christ, I am the victory and glory of the Lord!”  You can say those things because to God they are true.  If God sees you as a sinless son of God through his sacrifice of his firstborn on your behalf, why would you believe a lie from the devil that you are not?  When you sin, you are sinning as a righteous, blood bought saint of God.  You take him with you as you sin.

Repentance.  That is another big thing.  What do you think repentance means?  Many Christians have no power because they never believe exactly what the word of God says.  They believe popular theology, a theology that is void of truth and real power.  Most people say, I repent from my sins each night before I go to sleep.  Rather you should say you are sorry for your sins.  Most people see the words sorry and repent as one in the same when they are not any thing remotely the same.  Not even a little bit.  I think you are sorry for your sins but you never repent of them.  Repentance is not sorry, it is turning.  It is just like you decided to walk to the store to buy a candy bar and half way there you decide not to.  You turn all the way around and walk back home. That is true repentance.  It is a decision of your will to stop doing one thing and to completely do something entirely different from that point on.  If you continue to struggle with sin, you have not actually repented.  You have only been sorry about doing it and you feel a bunch of guilt for doing it.  But it is not dealt with.  Only Christ can nail it to the cross and when you realize you are dead to sin and that sin no longer has dominion, you will be free!

Okay, so what is it to be dead to sin?  There is another thing I learned also.  So when we become born again, we consider our flesh to have died with Christ and also we rise with him in His glory and we are alive unto Christ.  You have heard this, but do you actually believe this?  I know this is all very deep, but I love you so much I want to share everything that I know with you so you can also learn and experience the same freedom.  I believe this.  It is like, in the spiritual realm, when you allow your flesh to reign, it is like you are carrying a dead body around with you. You can actually say and believe, “I am dead to gossip.  I am alive unto Christ.  I am dead to lust.  I am alive unto Christ.  Lust has no power over me.  I am dead to it.  I am dead to it.  It is dead.  Christ is alive.  I am alive.”  That is what it is like.  It takes faith to believe these things but they are there.

Okay, here is another thing that I realized in the last year or so.  We have all this power and all this life, all this freedom, all this access to God, right?!!!!  So what do we do with these precious gifts?  When we do not use them we basically trash them, crumple them up and throw them into a waste paper basket.  Then of course it is no wonder we feel trashy and bad.  Instead we need to use these tools we are given by God.  They are there for the using, they are free, they are paid for, they are waiting for us to use them.  But we don’t use them?  How stupid.  God can give everything for us so that we can break the bonds of the devil, he gives us all power in heaven and earth to stand against the devil in our minds, and he give us all power to be alive and to have joy overflowing.  It is all there for us.  We just waste all the good gifts when we do not use them or believe them.  Just writing all this down strengthens my resolve to use these gifts and to overcome the enemy of my mind.

I had every intention to become a reclusive person.  Avoid helping people.  Avoid the drama.  I just want to have a quiet life like I hear other people have.  But I heard God tell me this morning…”You are called to help people and I won’t let you stop.”  Well, that is settled.  I am meant for this.  This moment right now, to be here for you and to share my heart, my faith with YOU.  That is how God works, in mysterious ways.  And now, you have a choice.  You can choose joy, repent from your wicket thoughts, and be free and alive unto Christ. You can read these words and put them to use.  You can take all the Christ came and died to give you and trash it or you can take those things and USE them to be a mighty woman of God.  Now you could take these hard times and minister to others in need.  Ministering to others is the KEY.  We need to pour.  We are made to be vessels that pour into others lives.  Christ can give us the strength to do it.  Only He can and He will if we let him. I am learning so much through this too.  I am getting out of my slump of weariness of heart that I ALLOWED to happen.  I opened the door.  Well, I am shutting that door, right now! I am turning away from it and repenting from it once and for all.  I am making a choice right now, and you are my witness plus God, that I am going to choose joy!!!  Are you going to stand with me, my dear sister?  Will you stand with us?  Me and Jesus?  Will you choose life today?  Will you choose to repent?  Truly repent and turn from those wicked thoughts.  I have had victory many times and then when I think I am impervious to it, it creeps in, but I have POWER to still have more victory more victory in Jesus.  So can you!  We can do this!!! Together let’s stand!

Love in the UNFAILING MERCY OF GOD!

Erin