



THE FREEDOM OF LETTING GO

Pastor Bonita Sams

It is extremely hard to let go of the past. We tend to become complacent with all the things we are so very comfortable with and accustomed to. I would love to tell you it was easy to let go of the Esther Edition newsletter. It was difficult, but needful. Esther has been a big part of my life and others for 10 years. Yet, I could clearly hear the voice of the Lord saying, “It’s time to let go of Esther.” I believe she has served her purpose well.

So here we are, facing a New Year and hoping for something new to transpire in our lives. But what is it that we need to change in us to cause a newness in the atmosphere around us? In thinking about it, Holy Spirit reminded me that it’s ok to hope for the new but sometimes the old has to be left behind so that the new can evolve and grow. If we continue to hang out with the old, we become stale, obsolete and out of step with God. Things tend to fall apart because we are not open to the new or quite honestly...we’re not ready for change. Now hear this and receive it. Change is good! Without change, there is no progress. Our Father is all about progression and advancement which are both linked to change. There are times that holding on to the old can sometime produce disastrous results!

Case in point, Luke 5:37 says, “*And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.*” So the question to all of us is...Why are we trying so desperately to make something new and awesome happen but we are still using the same old methods? We are repeating the same cycle, hoping for a different end result, but things just continue to burst and overflow in chaotic ruin. Kind of like the wineskin I mentioned in the scripture above. The shift of change is here and God is challenging all of us to seize this moment of change as the window of opportunity is quickly closing. However, it requires letting go of the past and fully embracing the future.

Continue to wrap your mind around the new. Visualize yourself in a new surrounding and basking in high achievements including Kingdom Advancement. Will it all happen at once? No. But it certainly will not happen unless you can see yourself in a fresh place of habitation in His presence.

There is also the very challenging issue of changing the way we think. Most importantly, it is critical to change the way we see ourselves. These two components greatly influence the possibility of the new from ever occurring. Begin to see yourself as God created you to be. In that creation you are marvelous. Psalm 139:14 says it all. “*...for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:*” There is a fearfulness and wonderment that the Father has placed in each and every one of us. With that being said, there is no thing that He has ordained for us that we are unable to accomplish through Him. That alone should cause us to be able to let go and dance the dance of freedom. Knowing that He created us and He set in motion our days from the very beginning of our existence is enough to jumpstart us on the path of our real purpose. Psalm 139:16 “*...all the days for me were written in your book...*” See yourself as the Master sees you. 2 Corinthians 5:17 “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* Ah ha...there’s that word “New”! Accepting Him means accepting that the old things in the past are no longer relevant.

Prepare your heart to let go of the past and rejoice in your new found freedom!



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PASTOR SAMUEL SAMS, SENIOR PASTOR

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:45 A.M. LIFE APPLICATION – 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP AND THE WORD
(INCLUDES ALPHA ANGELS CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

TUESDAY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE BIBLE STUDY: 7:30 P.M.

IN THE KNOW



MALI IS BY MALI MUSIC



This Mali Music CD was released in June 2014, but it deserves a re-visit. Many were critical of it as it is not a traditional praise and worship mix of music. But, when you listen to the lyrics, you realize he's talking about his own life experiences. Yes, Mali is different and maybe radical, but the music speaks to the soul. "No Fun Alone" describes the woes of being famous and the temptation that comes with it. The message is whoever you are and whatever you've been called to do, make sure that you have someone that loves and supports you. "Beautiful" tugs at the heart strings and "Ready Aim" is about the powers and principalities of the air. "Fight for You" is a war cry concerning God's protection.

Mali's voice is unique and it seems to strike a chord within. The beats are urban and very soulful!

If you are looking for traditional worship music, this ain't it! But if you have a desire to hear the sincere emotions of a man who simply loves God...then this one will move you.

MOVE ON: WHEN MERCY MEETS YOUR MESS By VICKY COURTNEY



Talk about being transparent! Vicky Courtney shares with us the pitfalls of being a pretentious believer. She is very frank about saints coming together and pretending that their lives are so perfect because they know Jesus Christ. The central message of this great read is that we all need to be real with God, the people around us and most importantly, with ourselves.

She goes on to share some of her personal history which includes certain interactions with her friends, family and children. She further exposes a very painful mistake she made as a teenager that nearly crippled her as a Christian, a wife and mother.

To carry the burden of shame from past mistakes is, by far, extremely toxic. In staying with her theme of keeping it real...the bottom line is this...everyone has skeletons in their closet. Vicky encourages all of us to open the closet door and tell those skeletons to get to stepping!

If you are in need of freeing yourself from the burdensome chains of the past, the words on the pages will leap out and shake you. It's time to slam the door on your past and move on!

Upcoming Church Events

Married Couples Group Session – Friday, January 9, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Life Application 2015 Kick Off – Sunday, January 11, 2015 @ 8:45 a.m.

Quest for Knowledge Bible Study Kick Off – Tuesday, February 3, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m.