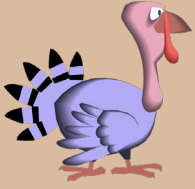


Honoring God With Our Whole Lives



Make Bricks Without Straw

<https://byfaithministries.org/home/by-faith-stories/make-bricks-without-straw-2/>



Character building lesson God was trying to teach:

My joy and personal growth should not be contingent on the success of other's actions toward me.

"If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy
"or sick, angry, frustrated...!"

As long as Satan can keep us bombarded with our emotional, physical, and psychological needs unmet he will keep us from our SPIRITUAL need of a closer walk with the Lord...bondage under unmet wants and needs!

Let's talk about Exodus 5:7-9

- 👤 No longer supply the necessary straw
 - We're used to getting what we need.
 - Now that source has stopped.
 - What do we do now?
- 👤 Demand the same quota
 - Do we demand things stay the same?
How?
 - continued attention...
- 👤 Harder work creates distractions
 - How does hard work distract?
 - What is our hard work?
- 👤 What are the lies Pharaoh refers to?

What are your bricks? i.e. strong marriage, a better job, successful, to be more content in all things...??

What is your straw? Husbands' attentions, promotion/increased salary, complete my check-off list, validation, approval, recognition...??

Who provides your straw? In whom do you depend on to provide love and attention, recognition. What are these needs—really? In our previous lesson we discussed a list of needs and determined how many of your needs represented 30%

Who is withholding your straw? Who do you see as your "Pharaoh", making your life difficult, unhappy or unsuccessful?

Does this person or obtained wants really provide and/or fulfill all your needs?

How do we refocus our only source back on God alone? (See Privilege & Opportunity pg. 2)

Now, with God as our source, What are your bricks?

Now, with God as our source, What is your straw?

Scriptures: Exodus 5:9; James 4:1-2

What is your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?

zoom
Joining a Meeting

Privilege and Opportunity

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” 1 Peter 4:12-13

Please bear with me for a moment as I'm sure many of you might be thinking, "Christ bore our sins and died on a cruel cross, how can you compare your marital or other worldly struggles with Christ's suffering?" I had that same thought and tried to reject comparing my so-called trivial struggles as "*participating in the sufferings of Christ*" but they always came back. The struggles have been in my face for over 30 years. I started to think that God was trying to tell me something (you think?) and that I needed to take a more precise look at Christ's sufferings and how they pertained to our marriage relationships and His "*church*"; His *bride* relationship. I began to see quite a lot of sufferings Christ might have had and (*continues to have*) but they just aren't directly, verbatim quoted in the Bible pertaining to marriage. Uh Oh! Now I'm really in trouble! But hang in there, please! They're in there, but you may have never related them to your marriage or current struggle.

Seeing your struggles as a privilege and opportunity offers one more chance to see how God will work in your life when you are willing to do what is necessary to grow into the Christ like character you will obtain. If your spouse did all the wonderful things taught at the greatest of marriage seminars it would certainly make life sweet (offering straw for your bricks) but what if he/she don't? What if you have a spouse who won't even attend marriage seminars and if they do, they forget within a week or so and it's back to the old habits --and let's not forget your own inabilities to follow through and remember to meet needs.

I had gotten to a point in my marriage where I honestly felt it would have been better for all involved to just end the marriage and allow all the struggles to go away. BUT, every time I had this thought God would say, "*You have another thought coming...it is not my will that you leave your marriage.*" *It is through this union I am going to teach you more about myself.*

BY FAITH MINISTRIES' hope is to share with you some of the privileges and opportunities the Lord has offered us and that you will also begin to see your own struggles as a privilege and opportunity.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3

