



Touchstones of the Heart

The Ultimate Touchstone

As illustrated in the painting “The Hand of God”, there is no greater touchstone for our faith than that of the cross. Each of us has to first come to the cross of Christ and have the blood applied to our life before we can walk in freedom. Unfortunately many have received this freedom only to return to bondage once again, forgetting the great work that was done for them there. In this first issue of “Touchstones of the Heart” I want to go to the cross once again. I want to be reminded of His great love for me and what He did there to cleanse and heal me from sin and disease.

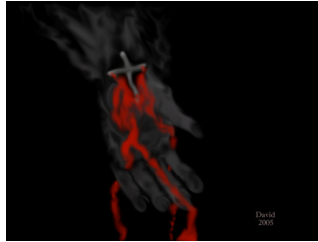
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Men’s Boot Camp Retreat

Next month Rescued Heart Ministries will have it’s first ever Rescuing Men’s Hearts Boot Camp Retreat. This will take place at Camp Bob Cooper on beautiful Lake Marion near Summerton, SC. The highlights of this event are challenging topics centered around the theme of recovering and restoring your heart. This will be done through multimedia presentations, stories and adventure all in an ideal outdoor setting on the shores of Lake Marion. Participants of similar events have come away with a sense of awe of our Father’s love for us and the great lengths He has gone to, to rescue and restore our hearts. Though this retreat is strictly a Rescued Heart™

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Hand of God
Painting by David R. Shields
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Newsletter Spotlight

But like Nathaniel in James Fenimore Cooper’s novel “The Last of the Mohicans” who had to flee, leaving Cora and her sister to an uncertain fate in order that he could live to fight again. He has not left us for good, but as the great lover of our souls He does things that seem contrary to what we would expect, only to reappear again as the hero who is ready to fight for and save His lover.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
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How do we fight an enemy we can’t see? How do we distinguish our own voice from that of our enemy? How do we distinguish his voice from that of God? A study of 2 Corinthians 4:18 will help us find the answers to these difficult and often perplexing questions. “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV)

In the battle field for your heart there are three things that are waging warfare against you as John Eldredge says in Wild at Heart, “...you will always encounter three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. They make up a sort of unholy trinity. Because they always conspire together...” What we need to realize is that there is more going on than meets the eye. Once we begin to realize that there is a

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Touchstones of the Heart

The Ultimate Touchstone (Continued)

I am a firm believer in touchstones. Those reminders that God gives us throughout our lives to show us His love. I know of no greater touchstone than the cross. It stands as a firm reminder to all who come to it of the One who shed His blood to give us freedom. Another equal and important Touchstone is that of His resurrection. The fact that the cross stands empty as does the tomb is a testament to the life that He offers to us now. Yet still the enemy comes in with his lesser stories and shoots arrows straight at our hearts meant to destroy and rob us of our freedom. These arrows come in and we forget the message of the cross and the God that calls us to a much larger story; the one that He is writing. So I say come back to the cross, touch it, feel it and let it's message of hope resonate once again in your heart! This is not a sentimental journey, nor one for the faint of heart. For when you really get a revelation of the cross and what it means, you will never be the same. There is no going back once you have been touched by the "ultimate touchstone". Let us take this journey together as we share the power of this great story that God is telling called our lives. Looking for touchstones along the way to remind us that He has not abandoned us to the fate of the arrows or the smaller stories. But like Nathaniel in James Fenimore Cooper's novel "The Last of the Mohicans" who had to flee, leaving Cora and her sister to an uncertain fate in order that he could live to fight again. He has not left us for good, but as the great lover of our souls does things that seem contrary to what we would expect, only to reappear again as the hero who is ready to fight for and save His lover. Be sure of this one thing as you gaze upon the ultimate touchstone, He loves you with an everlasting love and will never leave you nor forsake you!

Men's Boot Camp Retreat (Continued)

Event it is patterned in part after the Wild at Heart Retreats of Ransomed Heart Ministries in Colorado. David attended one of these retreats in the fall of 2004 as God had been calling him to this type of ministry and wanted him to prepare for it. It went beyond preparing him though and he experienced God in a powerful way in his life. Shortly after returning to South Carolina he was deployed to Kuwait with the U.S. Air Force. While there he led men in a study of the "Contemplative life" and God moved in a wonderful way in that work. He returned from Kuwait with a renewed passion and vision to see men delivered and set free. He has since left the Air Force after 22 years and is setting out on this journey with God to direct Rescued Heart Inc., write books, create art, and live life with a passion. David is an avid outdoorsman and loves to hike, camp and run. He is married to Theresa Shields and together they have 6 children.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

battle going on for our heart and it is happening in a realm that we cannot see, then we are able to knock out the first of the devil's lies, "I'm not here." Now that we know he *is* here and is conspiring with the other two in the "unholy trinity" we can practice knowing God's voice. Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27) Too often we try to distinguish between the voices and end up focusing on our own or that of the enemy. However, when we spend time with God—through prayer, meditation and reading the word—we will listen to (know) His voice and follow Him. Therefore, this month's tidbit is: Spend time with God in the "unseen" realm for it is more real than all of the reality around us. You do this by being in prayer, meditation and in His word.

May I give one more small piece of advice? Don't do these things because you "ought to", but do them because you understand that without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!