Key to Life is Death to Self

Debora Barr

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Marketing firms offer many remedies to achieve a new life of satisfaction and purpose through travel, career changes, educational pursuits, the acquisition of material possessions, and other means.

The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross, so we could have new life—a life no longer controlled by the ways of this world, but by the Spirit that makes us new creations in Him! If we remain in Christ, we die to our former way of life—old things have passed away—and all things become new, making us new creations with a new outlook on life and a new power to live a life that is pleasing to God. We are able to experience the abundant life that Jesus died to give us now and for all eternity!

To be in Christ means we surrender our whole life to His Lordship. Every day we need to die to self and yield our mind, our will, our emotions, our bodies, our finances, our plans, our desires, our future, our everything to Jesus. When we abide in Him, the old things in our lives must die. We no longer operate from our own understanding. We instead seek the direction and guidance for our lives from God.

John 12:24 says unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. The impact and effectiveness of a single grain of wheat is greatly multiplied only if it dies to what it formerly was. This is also what happens to us when we die to our former selves and allow God to transform our lives and fulfill the plans and purposes He intended for us. Our new life in Christ looks as different as the grain of wheat that goes into the ground from the plant that arises from the soil when the seed dies to self.

The amazing thing is that we do not have to do the work or perform or strive for this new life. All we have to do is surrender and remain in Christ. John 15:4 says we are to abide in Christ and allow Him to abide in us. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can we unless we abide in Him. Jesus is the Vine, and He freely gives us everything we need for new life.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

January—the Board of Directors held our winter retreat in Colorado Springs at Glen Eyrie. It was tremedously productive and I introduced the board to Family Talk and Focus on the Family leaders. I am grateful for the Restored Hope Board’s leadership and investment in this ministry.

February—Our first EQUIP Conference happened in Taylors, South Carolina and was well attended with over 180 Christian leaders. Garry Ingraham (RHN Board Member and Director of Love & Truth Network/Transforming Congregations) took the lead on making this happen and he did a tremedous job. Our thanks also to Pastor Peter Hubbard and North Hills Community Church for sponsoring and making the event their own.

March—National Religious Broadcaster’s Proclaim19! was in Anaheim, CA and Restored Hope once again had a booth at the convention. Interview sessions for RHN member resources were some of the many blessings of being there. Denise Shick (Living Stones Ministries/Help 4 Families), Debora Barr (All Things New), Brian Barlow (Living Waters So Cal), and Debora’s mentor Ramona Moore helped staff our booth.

Looking ahead—Our 8th national conference—HOPE2019—will be in the Twin Cities, MN area on June 21-22. We are so glad to have these tremendous keynote speakers: June Hunt, Alex McFarland, Juli Slattery, and Phil Courson. Lovely Salem Radio host Georgene Rice will join us again to emcee HOPE. Visit our website to learn more or register: RestoredHopeNetwork.org/HopeConf. After our conference, we hope you can join us at the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul.

Blessings out of challenges. The withdrawn AB2943 threat to religious freedom in California in 2017 & 2018 united Restored Hope Network with broader community in the Church, counseling, policy, and legal groups. God is good—as always—bringing good from evil intent! To Jesus be the Glory,

MEMBER NEWS

Albany, OR—Mid-Valley Fellowship is a ministry for those dealing with unwanted same sex attraction, overcoming childhood sexual abuse, or porn addiction. You can find out more about Mid-Valley Fellowship here: midvalleyfellowship.org.

Springdale, AR—AboutHOPE is a ministry of Cross Church and is a support for family and friends of those involved in the homosexual lifestyle. crosschurch.com/abouthope

Yuba City, CA—Hearts of Hope provides confidential support groups for family and friends of LGBT identifying loved ones. They offer classes and seminars for churches on How to Develop a Compassionate, Biblical Response to Homosexuality and more.

Taylors, SC—Pastor Peter Hubbard of North Hills Community Church recently hosted our inaugural EQUIP Conference for pastors and Christian leaders. Peter and his leaders have a real heart for the hurting including those dealing with unwanted same sex attraction. website: http://nhcconline.com/

West Lafayette, IN—Pastor Linda Seiler oversees the campus ministry at Purdue University when not working on her AGTS doctorate and is currently doing research on transformed lives. Please do pray for her. To read some of Linda’s research visit: lindaseiler.com

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN—Outpost Ministries, host of HOPE2019 conference in June, has offered care for those dealing with unwanted same sex attraction since 1976. They have groups for men, women, spouses, and family. “Outpost emphasizes obedience to God’s Word, which begins the healing process. As we grow in our submission to Jesus Christ, we also grow in friendship with Him. It is in relationship with Jesus that we are healed and transformed.”

FEATURED RESOURCE

ALL THINGS NEW

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ALL THINGS NEW is a resource for people who want to experience an intimate personal relationship with God.

It will help release you from the bondage of sin and the shame associated with sin as you experience the true love and healing power from the Lover of your soul, Jesus Christ. If you are not currently experiencing the abundant life that is promised to you in the Bible - this resource is for you.

Life Transformation begins when you get connected with the One who created you:

- Learn what God thinks about you
- Receive healing for your heart wounds
- Discover your life’s purpose

For ANYONE who desires release from bondage to life - controlling issues. Embark on a life transforming journey of healing and intimacy with Jesus!

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, for sample pages and ordering visit: AllThingsNewLifeTransformation.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8, 2019--Gainesville, FL
Alone No Longer
Debora Barr speaks Identity Ministry Conference
For more information, identifyministries@gmail.com

May 9, 2019--Tampa Bay, FL
Pastors & Counselors Luncheon
New Hearts Outreach
For more information, www.NHOtampa.org

July 6-12, 2019--Kansas City, KS
Leadership Training Seminar
Desert Stream Living Waters
For more information, desertsream.org/events-2/

August TBD--Raleigh, North Carolina
Transforming Grace 2019
Beyond Imagination Ministries
For more information, life@beyondimagination.org

August 25-31, 2019--Kansas City, KS
2019 International Summit
Desert Stream/Living Waters
For more information, desertstream.org/events/2019-international-living-waters-leadership-summit/

September 20-21, 2019--Ft. Worth, TX
HOPE Gathering 2019
Help 4 Families
For more information, help4families.org/hope-gathering-2019

For a full listing, go to restoredhopenetwork.org/events