

## **The More Steps I Take**

**By Kent Heaton**

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load” (Gal. 6:1-5).

Moving is never an exciting experience and this is especially true when you have to do a lot of moving boxes and things from one place to another. With the exception of someone doing all the work for you, it can be an exhausting work. Friends are great to give a helping hand with the majority of the move but there are still so many little things that must be done. In a recent move, a trailer full of stuff sat in the garage awaiting a miracle to cause it to disappear. A good friend, Lindsay Clark and his wife stopped by to see how the madness was going. As we looked at the trailer full of boxes he commented, “Let me help you, because the more steps I take, the less you will have to take.” Burden bearing. That is what I thought of and what a beautiful way to describe how we can help one another.

There are many brethren who have helped and will help in the move, and Lindsay's words of encouragement sum up what Paul was exhorting the brethren in Galatia to do with one another. All of us face challenges and difficulties in life and often we need a little burden bearing to take a load off. Sometimes it becomes a burden of spiritual warfare where a brother or sister is overtaken in the temptation of sin. We need to step in and walk with them to lessen their journey. The more steps we take with them the fewer they will have to walk. We have concern for one another because of our love for one another. Bearing the burdens of one another is helping with the loads of life. It is telling our brother, “Let me walk with you so that you will have less affliction and troubles.” We need each other. Fulfilling the law of Christ is walking with one another.

Jesus came to earth to walk a path we did not have to walk and because of His life, we can walk easier. He left it all that we could have it all. Jesus gave His life to give us life. He took a step so that we could walk with Him. Our spirit should be the spirit of Christ where we help one another bear their burdens. It is clear we will bear our own load but let our load reflect the care for others to share in their burdens. A word fitly spoken can make a difference in someone's life. Doing a kind deed to help a needy brother or sister will show the love of God. Checking on the home bound will let them know we are concerned for them. Walking a few steps for others will lessen the steps they have to take. Burden bearing. As we bear our own burdens, ask the Lord to give opportunity to share the load of someone else.

### **Moving Too Fast**

“And the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful” (Mark 4:19). Several years ago, newspapers carried the story regarding a new Navy jet fighter which shot itself down. Flying at supersonic speed, it ran into cannon shells it had fired only a few seconds before. The jet was traveling too fast and ran into its own cannon fire and thereby destroyed itself.

Perhaps you, too, are traveling far too fast in this life. If you don't have time to worship God, study the Bible, and pray, surely you are going too fast. If you can't find time to do the Lord's work, visit the sick and needy, and teach your friends and neighbors, truly your desire and love for other things has over accelerated. If you have allowed the things of this world to choke your spiritual life, you need to slow yourself down or, like the jet, you will destroy yourself.

## Hoarding Yesterday's Hate

People that have trust issues only need to look in the mirror. There they will meet the one person that will betray them the most. The more you talk about it, rehash it, rethink it, cross analyze it, debate it, respond to it, get paranoid about it, compete with it, complain about it, immortalize it, cry over it, kick it, defame it, stalk it, gossip about it, pray over it, put it down, or dissect its motives it continues to rot in your brain. It is dead. It is over. It is gone. It is done. It is time to bury it because it is smelling up your life and no one wants to be near your rotted corpse of memories and decaying attitude. Be the funeral director of your life and bury that thing!

People that hold onto hate for so long do so because they want to avoid dealing with their pain. They falsely believe if they forgive they are letting their enemy believe they are a doormat. What they don't understand is hatred can't be isolated or turned off. It manifests in their health, choices, and faith. Their values and religious beliefs make adjustments to justify their negative emotions. Not unlike malware infesting a hard drive, their spirit slowly becomes corrupted and they make choices that don't make logical sense to others. Hatred left unaddressed will crash a person's spirit. The only thing he or she can do is to reboot, by fixing him or herself, not others. This might require installing a firewall of boundaries or parental controls on their emotions. Regardless of the approach, we are all connected on this "network of life" and each of us is responsible for cleaning up our spiritual registry.

Blame doesn't empower you. It keeps you stuck in a place you don't want to be because you don't want to make the temporary, but painful decision, to be responsible for the outcome of your own life's happiness. (Shannon Alder)

## Some Ancient Moments Wisdom

--"To know whom you worship, let me see you in your shop, let me hear you in your trade; let me know how you rent your houses, how you get your money, how you kept it and how you spent it." (Theodore Parker, 1849)

--"God hath ordered it that we may learn to bear one another's burden; for no one is without fault, no one but hath a burden; no one is sufficient for himself." (Thomas A Kempis, Imitation of Christ, 1441)

--"The love of power is oppressive in every sphere, but in the religious most of all." (Romano Guardini, 1953)

--"Each night is but the past day's funeral and the morning his resurrection: why then should our funeral sleep be otherwise than our sleep at night. (Arthur Warwick, 1637)

--"The prouder a man is, the more he thinks he deserves; and the more he thinks he deserves, the less he really does deserve." (Henry Ward Beecher, 1862)

--"The church in the New Testament never thought of itself as being in a rest camp; it was obviously on a battle line." (Halford E. Luccock, 1930)

--"What greater rebellion, impiety, or insult to God, can there be, than not to believe His promises? (Luther, 1520)

--"To lift up the hands in prayer gives God glory, but a man with a pitch fork in his hand, a woman with a slop pail, give Him glory too. He is so great that all things give Him glory if you mean they should. So then, my brethren, live. (Gerard M. Hopkins, 1844-1889)

--"Christ is with those of humble mind, not with those who exalt themselves over His flock." (Clement of Rome, c. 100)

--"The simple expression of the publican, 'God be merciful to me a sinner,' was sufficient to open the floodgates of the divine compassion. (John Climacus; 525-600)

--There are only war veterans in Heaven, who have fought the good fight for the Kingdom of God.