

Spiritual Shin Splints

I've blogged here in the past about how grateful I am to the Lord for what He has been doing in my life in 2007. I know that He is always at work conforming me to the image of Christ, but this year has been big. I look back and just praise Him for the challenges, trials, and great times He has grown me in. It reminds me of when I was going through puberty. I got shin splints. I remember laying in bed at night and my legs aching. It wasn't fun but I knew it meant I was growing. Needless to say some of the challenges of this year have been harder than shin splints. But I'm so blessed because I know and can see the Lord working in me to bring Himself glory. He's been teaching me discipline and used the good times and hard to draw me in to a more intimate relationship with Him. I love it. He is making changes and doing so much that I have desired and failed at making happen. He is doing it. He is teaching me to roll all of my burdens on Him. He is teaching me to eat and drink of His word constantly. Growing is not easy but it is so good.

I've been lifting people and circumstances up in prayer like I haven't done in years. I am taking opportunities to let the Lord share through me. It is so exciting to see the Lord at work and by His love and strength join Him in it. One of the circumstances I've been lifting up in prayer for a while was about home groups at church. I felt for a while the Lord was prompting me to reach out and get to know some of the families in the church better than I know them now. My personality in the flesh is not adventuresome. I like to be comfortable and like to stay where I feel I have some safety and control. That is the flesh and I've been learning from His repeated teaching that He is in control not me. We will always have His peace and security but that doesn't mean we will always be comfortable. Several things this year have been used to move me out of the comfort zone. The home group decision is just one of them. I prayed about whether to stay in my current group or switch groups. After godly council and prayer, the Lord answered. I will be switching groups.

I'm writing this to remind myself of the things the Lord is teaching me. But I'm also writing to challenge you. The Lord tells us to take up our cross daily and follow Him. He tells us to put on the full armor of God. He tells us to work our salvation. He calls us to action. But I missed a step before the call to action. Maybe you have too. Jesus came lived a perfect life, died the perfect death,

and was raised from the dead. Did that forgive our sins? YES! Did that guarantee us life after death with the Lord? YES! But I had missed it or glossed over it. What was it? Christ's life, death and resurrection opened the door to relationship. God desires an intimate relationship with us like He had with Adam and like He has with Jesus. The door is open and the way made clear, but we have to desire and walk out that relationship. It is a two way street. Before we can be used by the Lord and before we can do the actions, we have to have that intimate relationship. We have to take the time and crawl up in His lap daily and spend time with the one who loves us perfectly. We need to hear from Him. We need to share every hope, fear, and thought with our Daddy. Only out of the love and intimacy of our relationship with God can we walk. We can serve, pray, love, share, and be out of our love for Him. This may seem like things you have heard before. I had heard it too, but it wasn't real to me. I still have to be reminded. I hope this helps remind you that what you are going through is like shin splints. It means you are ALIVE and GROWING. So eat and drink of the Lord daily. Taste and see that He is good!

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As a blog post from Tuesday, July 31, 2007