

THE BIRD WITH THE BROKEN WING

Yesterday, our youngest daughter came home from college for a visit. She sat down in the living room and shared the following testimony. Apparently, a beautiful yellow bird was injured and in pain, with a broken wing, on her college campus. The bird was afraid, clearly panicking in the street, while people walked right past, hurrying on toward their destinations. No one seemed to notice or care. Hour after hour it was struggling and in pain, probably close to death. But my daughter stopped. She scooped up the bird in a little box and spoke softly, “Be not afraid. It’s going to be okay.” Then she drove thirty minutes to a special wildlife hospital and personally handed it to the hospital staff. She didn’t leave until she knew the bird was safe. Today she’ll call the clinic to check on her little friend.

I couldn’t help but be proud of her, because we’ve always taught our daughters to show true compassion to both people and animals. I’ve seen her buy lunch for a homeless person and be moved by the plight of those less fortunate. Her compassionate heart of empathy blesses me more than words can say, because it’s such a rare quality in the day in which we live.

I believe that in this hour, God is raising up those who have compassion for others, to demonstrate in living color, the compassionate heart of the Father.

Just like the helpless injured bird, there are many wounded souls lying helpless along life’s road, who think no one sees or cares. Abandoned and alone, they’re too injured to fight, too weak to go on. Whether they caused their own injuries or were victimized by others, they have no place to rest or recover. Who will care enough to rescue and restore them to health and honor?

In Scripture the Lord spoke often of the importance of ministering to the truly poor and hungry, and visiting those in prison. He went on to mention clothing the naked (Matt. 25:36). If He places that much emphasis on meeting physical needs, how much more should we clothe and minister to those with wounded spirits? We are to tenderly clothe the wounded, covering them with love, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, enfolding them with the blanket of forgiveness and support.

These desperate ones are on my heart right now. They need compassionate “spiritual medics”, to offer words of encouragement and love and give gentle, ongoing ministry. In fact, in the Old Testament there were whole cities, called ‘cities of refuge’, where the needy could go to be nursed back to health. Let’s be the church and become a living picture of refuge, where every wounded warrior can feel the love of God in action.

For those readers who have, themselves, been wounded, I have a word of encouragement for you. I believe the Lord is saying, **“Beloved, today is the day of your healing, if you will let go of your hurts and forgive those who hurt you. Today, you will find healing as you praise Me with all that is in you, and stand strong,**

believing that I have your back. I have called you to be an Overcomer. Victory is yours, so grab hold of it with everything in you and march on!”

We know a single individual cannot help everyone, but each of us can reach one, with a kind word, a simple prayer or a loving embrace. Or if needed, we can offer supportive care, in order to demonstrate the love of God in real time, whispering in their ear, “Be not afraid. It’s going to be okay.”

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Steve and his wife Diane founded Refuge Ministries and a presence-driven publishing company Deeper Life Press. Steve is a regular contributor to many prophetic publications including the Elijah List, Spirit Fuel, and the Identity Network. His writings have been read worldwide by hundreds of thousands of people. He also has been interviewed by the Trinity Broadcasting Network and a few other TV programs. Steve's books, articles, and videos have touched countless lives around the world. The Porters reside near Rochester, NY.