

Quicksand: Forgiving God
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OFFENSE: *Greek – skandalon*, a trap or snare

Proverbs 18:14 NLT

The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear a crushed spirit?

If our hearts are closed off to the only One who can help us, we've already lost.

Three Filters to Run my Frustrations Through:

1) Am I Focused on GOD or PEOPLE?

“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and **deny Him by their lifestyle**. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.” – *Brennan Manning*

1 Corinthians 11:1 NIV

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, including leaders.

1 Corinthians 1:11-13 NIV

My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "**I follow Paul**"; another, "**I follow Apollos**"; another, "**I follow Cephas**"; still another, "**I follow Christ.**" Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

Three Filters to Run my Frustrations Through:

2) Am I Focused on COMPLAINTS or CHARGES?

Psalms 13:1-2 NIV

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

PAIN internalized turns to **POISON**.

Jeremiah 12:1-3, 5 NLT

Lord, you always give me justice when I bring a case before you. So let me bring you this **complaint**: Why are the wicked so prosperous? Why are evil people so happy? You have planted them, and they have taken root and prospered. Your name is on their lips, but you are far from their hearts. But as for me, Lord, you know my heart. You see me and test my thoughts... **“If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you race against horses?”**

Three Filters to Run my Frustrations Through:

3) Am I Focused on TRUSTING or KNOWING?

Matthew 11:2-6 NIV

When John, who was in **prison**, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. **Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.**”

Isaiah 61:1 NIV

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...**

Romans 8:18 NIV

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, **so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**”

“To **pray in pain**, even with its messy struggle and tough questions, is an act of faith where **we open up our hearts to God.**” -- *Mark Vroegop*

God, I'm sorry that I've held onto grudges and offense against You. I confess You have never wronged me. So, today, I choose to focus my faith on You over people. I choose to drop the charges I have against You. I choose to trust when I don't understand. Today, I'm getting out of the quicksand of offense. I want relationship with You. I let You into the places of my heart that have been blocked off. I give You my pain and my sin. And, even if I never know why that event did or did not happen, I will still love You and serve You all the days of my life. I put my faith in You, Jesus, as the Son of God. Restore me. Heal me. Forgive me. I love You God. Amen.