



# The Healing Stream

Matthew 19:26 Ministries - February 2015



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## **Power For the Journey**

*“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. “*

Phillipians 3:13,14 (NIV)

## **PRESS ON**

BY BOB HONEYSETT

When leaders renounce their long held beliefs, and take their lives in a different direction, the people who followed them and their teachings get hurt. Out of that hurt, there is pain, disillusionment, and a nagging fear that perhaps they themselves are running the race in vain.

Two years ago, Exodus International closed its doors with former President Alan Chambers stating that most of the people he knew (about 99.9% of them if I recall correctly) did not experience any change in their sexual orientation. He went on to apologize to the lesbian and gay community for all of the “harm” that Exodus had caused over the years.

Prior to this disclosure, John Paulk, former chairman of Exodus and the co-author of *Love Won Out: How God's Love Helped Two People Leave Homosexuality and Find Each Other*, “renounced his past involvement in the “ex-gay movement,” and expressed remorse for his actions. Paulk now identifies himself as a gay man, and no longer believes that sexual orientation can change.

The latest train passed through the station in January 2015 when Randy Thomas, former vice-President of Exodus International, added his voice to the mix when he renounced his former beliefs in an emotional blog post entitled “*A Peaceful Disclosure*”. In the blog Thomas states that after much pain and soul searching he came to the conclusion that he is gay.

To be clear, I have no desire to shoot the wounded, and we all should be praying for these former leaders. May the Lord draw their hearts back to follow Him in the fullness of His truth. I’m not sure what may have happened for them to make these stunning admissions, but my prayers go out to them in the midst of their confusion.

With that said, let’s talk about the rest of us who contend for our faith on a daily basis. DON’T GIVE UP! The actions of a few do not determine truth, nor should it be mistaken that these men speak for the majority. In my opinion, they are men of God who lost their way, but that doesn’t mean we need to lose ours.

When I walked away from homosexuality almost 33 years ago, in my pain and soul searching I made a decision. I was never going back! I shed the label “gay” and moved on into a life with Jesus Christ, and trusted Him to lead me to be the person He wanted me to be. I pressed in and never looked back. It was not an ex-gay program, reparative therapy, a deliverance session, nor did I pray away the gay. It was Jesus and His transforming power that changed me and countless others who walked away from homosexuality and never went back.

*(continued)*

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Regardless of public, or even ministerial leadership opinion to the contrary, Jesus Christ is still in the business of changing lives.

### **Get Up and FIGHT!**

Three merciless enemies of the person walking away from sexual sin and same-sex attractions are apathy, passivity, and failed expectations. Somehow we expect that the Lord will pass over our struggles, and all of our problems will be solved. Nothing required from us, just an altar call miracle, an intense prayer, a slain spirit, and rising from the sanctuary floor into the fullness of God's life and promise. Let me clear this up for those who may be waiting for God to move. Jesus already died, and rose again, so if you want something different for your life, get up and FIGHT FOR IT.

In Matthew's gospel, we find an odd Scripture in chapter 11(v.12) "*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence (another version states 'is forcefully advancing?'), and the violent take it by force.*"

Here is my perspective on that Scripture. If the Kingdom of God is taken by the actions of violent men who forcefully lay hold of it, then it is reasonable to believe that only aggressive actions on the part of the struggler will eventually set them free. Jesus died and rose again, so everything you require from the Lord is at your disposal. If you want freedom, then you have to stand up against everything that fights against you.

How do I do this, you might ask? It starts with a "NO"! After you say, "NO", put on the full armor of God (see Ephesians 6 if you're unfamiliar with that terminology) and fight.

Many believers underestimate the power of the word "NO", but it is the greatest tool we have in the fight against the feelings and desires that come against us. The scripture tells us in Titus 2:12 "*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say, "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...*" By the death of Christ on the Cross, we have the ability to use the human will that God gave us to say, "NO" to the passions and ungodliness that rage inside of us.

There is no sense in waiting for a heavenly magic wand to conquer your internal struggles. It's not going to happen. Part of taking the kingdom with violence means you have to press in and trust the Lord to empower your attempt to live according to His will. You may fall, you may fail, but He can't. If you press in continually to what you know is God's will, He has the power to take care of the rest.

If we press on and exercise our God-given human will, I believe we can expect the Lord to meet us in the fires of temptation, and meet whatever need is begging to be met.

As I have said a thousand times before in countless newsletters, feelings and desires DO NOT pull the train. Jesus does. The indicator of our success in Christ should never be rooted in changed feelings or desires. Our indicator is what the Word of God says about us and the One we serve.

I encourage each one of you reading this; keep your eyes on the only one who can make you holy and faultless before God, Jesus Christ. He has sanctified you and will continue to sanctify you (regardless of how you feel) until the day that you stand before Him in glory. Some may fall, others may crash and burn, but Christ in you is STILL the hope of glory, today, tomorrow and always.

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