

OBSTACLES WILL HELP YOU GROW

Family Devotion – Lesson 45

MEMORY VERSE – EPHESIANS 1:7

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”

- We have redemption through the blood of Jesus (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Redemption is the act of gaining or regaining something in exchange for a payment. The blood of Jesus was the payment for God to redeem sinners. It is through the blood of Jesus we have complete forgiveness. This is all because God is rich in grace (unmerited favor; kindness).
- If we place our faith in what Jesus did, we are redeemed from hell, forgiven of all our sins, and Heaven bound. Redemption is a wonderful thing. It brings assurance, joy, hope, revival and restoration.
- Most people in the world today have an obstacle that prevents them from being redeemed (saved). One of the most common obstacles is PRIDE. Pride can be defined as:
 - self-righteousness
 - thinking you are better than others
 - wanting to take credit for things
 - wanting glory for yourself / bragging
- Pride deceives a person into thinking they are above the need for God’s grace. They believe they can earn their way to Heaven by doing good works. If working your way to Heaven was possible, then Jesus died for nothing (Gal. 2:21), and people would be able to brag about earning salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).
- When a person realizes he is a sinner and in need of the Saviour, he is ready to be redeemed. Confessing sin and seeing yourself in need of God’s grace and forgiveness is a humbling experience. Getting over the obstacle of pride (“swallowing your pride”) is crucial for spiritual growth.
- “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6).

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- How would you explain Galatians 3:24?
- What does it mean to glory in the flesh (1 Corinthians 1:29-31)?

PRAYER TIME

- Ask God to show you where you may have pride in your life.
- Thank God for forgiving you of your pride.

CHALLENGE

- The next time you buy something, remember that you too have been bought (1 Cor. 6:20).