



Held Back By Shame

Early one morning I was speaking with a dear friend about an issue I've been carrying for a long time. It has produced great anger in me over the injustice of it all. I wanted things to be put right, for the truth to come out. It has been a terrible burden to carry for so long.

This friend told me there is a blockage that is not allowing me to move forward. She said I see you reaching for God but the enemy has you around your stomach holding you back. I admitted that this issue has affected my worship. I was having trouble praising Him in my quiet time; there was something in the way.

She began praying for me and really crying out to God saying, 'Lord she is reaching to you like the woman with the issue of blood. If she could but touch the hem of your garment Lord, she knows she

will be healed.' The more she prayed the more I wept. What she didn't know at the time is I was on the floor on my face reaching out to the Lord and sobbing. I knew God was able to deliver me, to heal me but I needed wisdom. I needed to understand what it was exactly that was holding me back.

I realized I had a lot of guilt over not being able to open my mouth at the time the incident occurred and had been punishing myself all this time. To be honest I truly felt that on some level I got what I deserved, that it was my fault. I walked through repenting, renouncing and breaking these agreements I had made with the enemy regarding deaf and dumb spirits (closing my mouth) and a spirit of guilt. (Learn more through Cleansing Stream Ministries).

However it wasn't until the Holy Spirit showed me it was the spirit of shame that was truly causing the blockage. You see I felt damaged, unworthy and shame was blocking my praise and worship to the Lord. It was blocking my freedom and the blessing of God in my life. God showed me I had partnered with a spirit of shame that acted like veil covering my face. I hid my face from Him. I could not lift my head up because of the weight of shame. So I looked up scriptures on shame and found this in Job 11:14-19:

14 If you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, 15 then you will lift up your face without shame; you will stand firm and without fear. 16 You will surely forget your trouble, recalling it only as waters gone by. 17 Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning. 18 You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. 19 You will lie down, with no one to make you afraid, and many will court your favor.

If you struggle with guilt or shame today, do what the Word says. Put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent. Ask God for forgiveness, forgive yourself and then repent, renounce and break those spirits off your life so you can forget your trouble, recalling those experiences like waters gone by! AMEN!