

I have a destructive attitude in my marriage that God has been dealing with for years. I can name half a dozen books that I've started that address the issue, but I still struggle with the behavior. Events during the last year brought this attitude to a point where I couldn't run from my disobedience any longer. I knew I needed to change, so I ended the year feeling overwhelmed at the task before me. I had the weight of my sin on my shoulders and wasn't sure how I would change. I didn't like how I was acting, but I also wasn't sure how to get past it.

I woke up January 1<sup>st</sup> with an overwhelming sense of renewal. Not only was I was thankful that 2010 was over (FINALLY!), but I was grateful that the New Year was bringing a new beginning. I don't think this feeling was because I had committed to change, or because I was going to "try harder." That had never worked in the past. It was a sense of knowing that I didn't have to stay in the past. I knew God was the Master of making things new, and there was a feeling of hope that would lead to healing.

Some of my favorite verses come from Isaiah 61. "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners . . . to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations." My attitude hadn't devastated generations – at least not yet – and I wasn't willing to let it either. But I knew I had already hurt my marriage, and I needed to start being obedient to the attitude God was asking me to have.

Today I heard Ezekiel 36:24 on KLove: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." In the past, my heart was really hard in this area of my marriage. I believe God was speaking those words to me, right when I needed it. He was affirming that He would make the difference in this situation. Of course, He wasn't going to force this change on me. I needed to confess that my behavior was sin and ask for help.

I don't think 2011 will be instantly free of my sinful attitude in my marriage. But I do believe this is a change God wants to see in me, and He loves it when we ask for help. I believe the struggle is helping to bring about obedience in other areas of my life, too, and I praise God for His ability to give me a new heart.

**Questions to Consider:**

As we make New Year's resolutions, it's important that we focus on setting our goals with our heart on Jesus. 1Mosaic would like us to get healthy in 2011 in the following areas: marriage, community, finances, spiritual life, time management, relationships, our minds, family, self (emotional/physical) and the church. To be healthy, all of these areas must be viewed as God sees them.

What do I need to confess that is an area in which I am not healthy?

What do I need to give up in order to pursue a healthy lifestyle, in God's opinion?

What do I need to begin in order to pursue a healthy lifestyle, in God's opinion?

Can I find a specific verse that addresses this issue? Will I commit to memorizing it and praying that God will change my heart and help me with my need?

Who can I ask to help me on this journey? Who can hold me accountable? Who can pray for me? Can I find someone that will give me a godly example of what this behavior looks like?

Am I willing to be obedient in this area of my life?

**Additional Verses:** *Romans 7:15-25, Hebrews 12, Luke 18:35, John 5:3-9, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Isaiah 61, Romans 12:2*

**This week's memory verse:** *"I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed. I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands." (Ezekiel 36:26-27, THE MESSAGE)*

### **REMINDERS:**

January 9, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 pm!

January 16, 2011 – 3<sup>rd</sup>:culture! See the website for more information.

January 23, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 pm! We'll share communion together.

January 30, 2011 – MOSAIC FAMILY FUN NIGHT!