

SERIOUS ILLNESS MADE ME LOVE JESUS MORE!

CONFESSIONS & LESSONS FROM ONE OF HO & ESTHER'S OLDEST!

From Hosea (age 15), Orient:



The main lesson the Lord has been trying to teach me was that I was putting my work & the things that I was doing with my hands above the Lord's work & His Word & the shepherding of the little flock, the other teens in our Home, which the Lord had given me to shepherd. I was so into my work at the farm that I forgot all about the Lord & His Word, & it's been a tendency of mine to lean on the arm of the flesh.

I've had some bad accidents because I have not been loving the Lord & listening to Him. In the MOP it says that if the shepherd does not love the Word & listen to the Lord, then the sheep will be the same way.

Getting away from the Word can cause many other problems in your life, so I was not being a good shepherd & I was hurting the sheep & pushing them along in my own proud spirit instead of leading them in the Word & leading them along in love.

I was also murmuring in my heart every time it was time to go out singing. I would say, "Yes, maybe we should", but all the other boys were dancing around & getting ready to go, & I was always the last one, not really very eager. Once I got ready to go I was over the hump, but the hump was still there. It should never be a trial for one of God's Children to go & preach the Gospel, so it was a bad sample. It didn't affect the boys so much until a little while later. I always thought it was a lot of work but that's not the truth, it was just a lie of the Enemy. After we got into it, it was really a lot of fun.

One other thing that I was doing was I was being dishonest in the little things, not in the great things or big things, just in the little things, like questions that people would ask me that I didn't answer honestly, which caused me to stumble & fall in the next few days & weeks & months. One day I had an accident with my little baby sister & knocked her over, but I didn't tell everything that happened.

Also when I was going around town &

witnessing to some of these girls, it caused me to pick up bad spirits & be proud & worldly & to look at how they look at things. Instead of how we look at things. Although the Lord has used us & we have won quite a lot of souls, some of these people have been very worldly & have influenced us to slip into that really "cool" attitude.

That goes along with desiring the girls in the System, & that was not really the Family way, like cooing & aahing over them as we'd drive by in the car. There are sheepy boys as well as girls, but we would just witness to girls because of how pretty they were, not because of how sheepy they were. So that was really a lie of the Enemy that he tricked us into.

Another thing was that we tried to go around town being "cool", but if when I had to go around town with Mommy I felt ashamed because I couldn't act cool because I was with my Mother. It was very wrong. Being ashamed of being with my Mommy was a really System attitude that I picked up from the other teenagers that we were witnessing to, how they were rebellious to their mothers & fathers. The Lord really showed that to me in the middle of one of my highest fevers, & I really cried out to the Lord & asked Mommy to forgive me.

The Lord is really breaking me in this time to really yield to Him & His Voice & His Will & be what He wants me to be, & I'm really asking Him for His Spirit & being willing to do what He wants me to do, to follow the Lord & His Word & my parents. Instead of trying to go all along on my own, I can get in a lot of trouble because it really gets to my pride. Pride is my major weakness. I really prayed that after the fire of this fever that I am a new boy now, & I know He wants me to confess to you all.

One of the first things that caused me to get worldly along with my brothers, was when we joined this worldly swimming team. At first we felt it was a good chance to be a witness, which it was, because we really got to witness to all the folks on our team. But after the first race we had, they really encouraged us to race, & our captain was really into speed & racing & pushing us to put our whole hearts into swimming forgetting about all the people around us that we were witnessing to.

After awhile we began to see that the people on our team were not very sheepy at all. They had already made up their mind,

I just stopped bothering to talk to them. I was so wrapped up in the swimming & practicing & seeing how well I could do in the races that I really strayed away & got into worldliness & the spirit of competition.

Also because we thought that we were such good swimmers we were disobeying the Family swimming rules. We would go there & swim as far as we were supposed to & doing it just like everybody else & there wasn't really anybody watching us in this very dirty swimming pool. It was very unhygienic.

We were putting all of our energy into the swimming instead of into our schooling & our everyday life & the Word & loving the Word. We would always drag our feet when it came time for school.

(Esther: When you first became sick & we thought you had the measles & we thought you may have picked it up when you were out witnessing, it came to me that it was when you were at the swimming pool. When I went along to watch you & be with you there, I saw that you boys were picking up more of the spirit of the other kids, & I got a check then that you were so weak in the spirit that you could pick up not only their physical diseases but perhaps their worldly spirits too.)

(You were being spiritually weakened & weakened physically, & also we as parents were weakened spiritually because we weren't as aware as we should have been of how much of an affect this was having on you, therefore the Enemy was really allowed to get in. So therefore the measure of protection that the Lord usually gives us when we're out witnessing in the System, was taken away from us because rather than our imparting our spirit & being strong in the Spirit, we were partaking of their bad spirit.)

Also I wasn't being very fair to my sheep. I was rebuking them & telling them off for things that I would then turn around

& do right in front of their eyes, & they would see. So they could see that I was really very hypocritical in those things. When they would correct me, I would tell them that they really shouldn't correct me. It was very unfair. I'm very sorry to all the boys that I offended in this way. I want you to know that I've really been wrong & the Lord is really spanking me.

One more very important thing is that I wasn't being very loving to the other teens & I wasn't showing them love. I wasn't really helping them & encouraging them to do better. I was just grumbling & mumbling around the house & being a very bad sample & discouraging. The Lord really showed me how if you want to be grumpy He can really make you sick & grumpy!

I also still had a problem being around the adults, that if I didn't get my way, I would become very rebellious about it. It was just like being rebellious with God, because if you're a little bit rebellious with anybody then you're being rebellious against God & God won't bless it.

No matter how high the fever was I just started praising the Lord & thanking the Lord & staying in a positive spirit no matter how high & hot & hard it got, no matter how many nights it went on, & finally I slept through half the night & I was so happy. (Esther: This came at a time when you had just finally learned to be willing & submitted & yield your heart, & you said that you weren't going to be pushy or trying to tell God when to heal you or how God should do it. At that point is when the Lord finally gave you the complete victory & released you from the fever. It didn't happen until that point, because even though you were learning the lessons, your spirit had to change.)

TTL for the victory! I'm thankful for how He has taught me so much! ILY! Love, Hosea (See "Is It Cool to Serve Jesus?" in this book.)

Be a Dropped-out Soul-winner!

FORSAKE WORLDLINESS & LIVE YOUR CALLING!

From Daddy Hosea

The thing that was coming to me when we were praying for Hosea & praying about what it is the Lord is doing, is it's because the Lord is dealing with him about his getting so tripped off in the things of this world & the affairs of this life instead of getting into the Word. Some of you teens are getting into the worldly through your contacts with the worldly people that you have supposedly been witnessing to. I wonder who is becoming more like whom? Are they becoming more like us or

are we becoming more like them?

It reminds me of how I got off the track hanging around with worldly people when I was in Hong Kong. Now you boys in different ways have been manifesting how much you have become like some of these System kids you have been with. Of course, being with them is for the purpose of being a witness. But when the means to an end becomes an end in itself & you get tripped off in it like "The Little Dog Dream" & you forget where you're