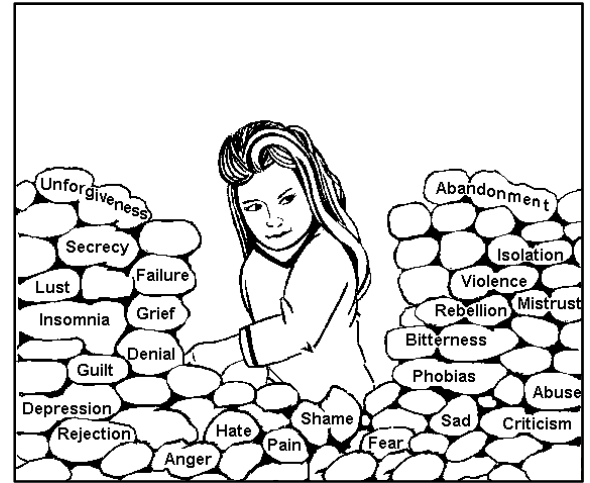


WHY WE BUILD WALLS AND LEARNING TO TEAR THEM DOWN GOD'S WAY!

by Katie Kee

BLAME:

1. We have a tendency to blame others when things go wrong in our lives.
2. We blame people when circumstances around us are uncomfortable. We look for a scapegoat.
3. We often blame those who are the closest to us; it seems more natural (easier).
4. Blame is used when one person has injured another (there is a rift in the relationship).



WHY DO WE BLAME OTHERS?

1. It prevents us from having to look inside our own hearts and addressing the issues there.
2. It prevents us from taking responsibility for *why* various situations happened.
3. It prevents or slows us down in finding a solution and applying it. *Many times* the responsibility for a solution rests with the person who is *not* to blame.

HOW WE BUILD WALLS

1. We lay the first brick when we blame another person or an injury—a wall is started.
2. The injury itself is *not* what builds the walls, it is how we *chose* to receive and react to the injury.
3. From the sense of injury that has followed the rift (misunderstanding, disagreements, strife, etc); no matter who is to blame, a door is opened in our heart to allow the roots of anger, bitterness and unforgiveness to enter. *Wrong (destructive) attitudes* then develop; hence more bricks are added to our wall (s). *Destructive words create strife and wound deeply.*
4. *Wrong attitudes can never* be justified. The fact is that we will never live our lives without being hurt by others (people hurt people). Insensitive and hurtful words and actions are part of our daily living. It is part of our humanism. (Speech is a popular topic in Proverbs—see Proverbs 18:6, 7, 21; 21:23; 25:23). The negative impact of words said without thinking or with evil intent cannot be underestimated.
5. Gossip will add bricks to the wall. Gossip serves as a temptation and snare to any listener who would join in such unkindness and is just as bad as spreading the words of hurt. James 1:26 tells us to have control over our tongues.
6. We allow permanent barriers to remain between us and others. It is our choice.
7. Everyday we *choose* to build our walls **or** we *choose* to overlook and forgive an injury. Justified or not, the building of walls *is our choice*. Walls are the tools of Satan. We believe that they are for our protection, but in reality they keep us locked in our pain and unhealthy patterns. Remember, our choices bring life or death. Choose wisely.

TEARING DOWN THE WALL(S)

1. We are so inclined to say the words, "*It's not my fault!*" **or** "*It's all your fault!*" The word *fault* will trip us up as it implies blame. We quickly start justifying ourselves which enables our walls to become higher and stronger and the powers of darkness continue to have firm stronghold in our lives.

2. Tearing down a wall is our responsibility, no matter who may have originally been to blame. We are the ones who are holding onto the injury and building upon it. We have allowed the negative attitudes to take root in our hearts as we continue listening to the lies and deception of the enemy. *Self-pity* is what I call a “Granddaddy Root” and is a major stronghold in our lies that is not readily broken. Roots of sin need to have the ax of God laid to them and cut out so that the tree may bear good fruit and not be cut down and thrown into the fire (Matthew 3:10).
3. We need to quit playing around with the partial truths of the enemy and start dealing with God’s full truth which will set us free (John 8:32). It means breaking out of the comfortable zone, face the unpleasantness directed at us and allowing the “*Stretching*” of God to take place in our lives. *It is our choice!*
4. We need to face the facts that we are running from the truth, blame shifting, because it is the easy way out, not putting aside our self-centeredness or releasing wrong motives and not allowing ourselves to trust in God’s help. When we seriously start working on these issues (strongholds) we will see the walls start to crumble and eventually break down as truth and healing prevails over the lies of the enemy.
5. Self analysis brings hard facts for us to face. Denial is hard to recognize when it has been hidden by the wearing of various masks. It means taking off those masks that we have worn for years and allowing the truth of God to bring healing to festering wounds as we take a candid look at our soul. It is often an ugly sight and they are facts that we have avoided for years, but face them we must. It is necessary for our healing.
6. Many of us have to hit *rock bottom* before we can come to grips with the despair, disconsolation, ugliness, selfishness and denial that we have been living in. It is God’s hard truth that will open our eyes, painful as it may be. God reminds us that He will always walk through the areas of change with us. His promise to *never leave* us brings strength for the challenges we face when breaking down walls of unhealthy patterns and boundaries.

OUR TRUTH

- We allow unforgiveness and bitterness (which are unhealthy) to enter into our lives.
- We harbor wrong attitudes and allow negative sin roots to form and grow.
- We are responsible for building our walls.
- We are responsible for tearing down our walls.
- We are responsible to lay the ax of God’s Word to our sin roots and cut them out.
- We are responsible to choose God’s truth, freedom, healing, wholeness and to walk therein.
- We are responsible to live our lives submitted to God’s Spirit and not live unto the flesh.

“They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the Spirit” (1Peter 4:5,6).

Write out personal scripture that ministers and encourages your heart in this area of your godly walk