

# Dare to Draw Near

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## RESPONDING TO GOD'S INVITATION

### Lesson Three Reflection: Bronze Laver

**Review** The Bronze altar is pivotal --- literally. This is the place we can go to again and again to pivot from going our own way back to going the Lord's way. The Bronze Altar is always open and always the way to grow closer to the Lord. It represents *repentance, confession, cleansing and forgiveness.*



The verses that sum up the Bronze Altar are **I John 1:8-9**

*“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel. It is the whole reason that Jesus came to be born as a man and die for us. It is what the Lord freely extends to all of us. Because we are the recipients of His so great grace as expressed in His forgiveness of our sins we must be people who forgive. Forgiveness needs to be a hallmark of our lives as believers in Christ.

Refusing to forgive puts us in dangerous territory. In II Corinthians 2:11 Paul has just been talking about the importance of forgiving one another and then he says, “in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

Do you hear what he is saying? When we refuse to forgive someone we give Satan an advantage in our life, this is one of the primary schemes of the enemy!

We need to make sure that we are not holding a grudge or refusing to forgive someone, even if that someone is our self.

## **Reflect** Prayer Exercise

Go to a favorite place for a time alone with the Lord where you will not be interrupted. You may want to take a walk outside with the Lord, or fall into a comfortable chair in your home.

Take a deep breath and dial it down. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and lead your counseling session with Him.

Ask Him, "Lord is there a sin in my life that you want to reveal to me?" Wait on Him. He will not condemn you or overwhelm you with a thousand things; He will gently convict you of a specific attitude or action if there is something He wants to deal with.

If He brings something up, take it to the Bronze Altar --- repent, confess and receive His cleansing and forgiveness.

Now ask the Lord to search out your heart and life and to bring up anyone you need to forgive. Allow yourself to feel the hurt the memories bring up. Write down any names or situations that come to mind. (You may need more paper if you have never done this before!)

Give your hurt to the Lord and release forgiveness to each person.

You may feel led to write a note or give a call to someone you have forgiven --- or you may not need to do that. Once you have dealt with this before the Lord, you may feel led to burn your paper to symbolize that forgiveness is complete. Just follow the Lord's leading in each case.

Now pray, " I forgive these who have hurt me. Thank you that this is in my rear view mirror and under the blood of Jesus. Lord you are the God of exchanges, as I give you my sin and release these who have hurt me to You, what do You want to give me in exchange?"

Wait on the Lord and see what He wants to give you.

Lecture Notes:

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