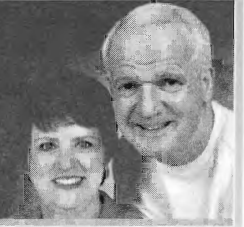




FREEDOM IN THE WORD

Matthew 25:36...I was in prison and you came...



RON BRIGMON MINISTRIES

www.ronbrigmon.com

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Ron Brigmon

Adversity can be a great university if we obtain knowledge and acquire wisdom from the challenges that come our way. Trials, troubles and tribulations go with the territory of wearing an "earth suit." The bottom line is you can't have a victory without a battle, and you can't have a miracle without a crisis. We must first identify what kind of problem that we are facing and have a plan.

Some challenges I will call "fallen world problems." Tsunamis, tornadoes, and storms are negative circumstances that happen to the just and the unjust. (Matthew 5:45) We want to stand on the promises of God for protection and be continual in our walk of obedience to His commandments. Proverbs 19:23 is a great promise. *"The fear of the LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil."* NKJV

The next challenge to overcome is "devil assignments." We are in combat because the devil's agenda is to kill, steal, and destroy. (John 10:10) Predators will prey on the young and weak for obvious reasons. In God's Kingdom, the young and weak are simply those who lack knowledge. The devil uses adversity to knock us off our faith and to focus on our pollution instead of our solution. When circumstances become hard we must press harder into God's Word and use it as a two-edged sword against the enemy.

The third category of challenges gives us MOST of our problems. I've never had as many problems with any other person as I have had with Ron Brigmon. Yes, that means that SELF is the source of most of our adversity because we make poor choices. It is a natural tendency even for believers to sometimes be in denial, to self-justify, or play the victim role and blame game. Some will blame all of their problems on the devil because they don't want to take responsibility for their disobedience.

When adversity comes, look three directions:

1. Look inward – Is it I? Psalm 139:23-24 – Repent if the Holy Spirit convicts you.
2. Look upward – God is looking downward according to Psalm 34:15 and He WILL hear.
3. Look outward – Be about the Father's business. John 4:35 – Galatians 6:2

Now your focus is on others and their problems, and you realize that your clouds of adversity have dissipated!

DON'T TRUST YOUR HEART

Katie Brigmon

Proverbs 28:26 - He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

Advice givers are quick to tell us to 'just follow your heart.' Sounds like really wise counsel doesn't it. So why does the wisdom of the Word contradict that?

I can't tell you how many women we minister to in prison who are there because of a bad relationship. Their families were telling them to 'stay away from that man' but their heart was telling them differently.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

The pilots that I know tell me that you have to trust your instruments and nothing else. John Kennedy Jr. was probably convinced that he had leveled out his plane but sadly he dove it right into the water.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 119:10 says, "I will seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands." Then vs. 24 says, "Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors."

We can't trust the heart that we are born with, but we can trust the new heart that has been recreated by the Holy Spirit and has the Word of God written upon it. The Spirit bears witness with this heart and won't lead us to do anything contrary to God's Word. We can't let feelings or the lust of our flesh determine our heart's desires.

MINISTRY FOR AUGUST 2011

- Bartlett Unit..... Aug. 1, 4, 8, 15, 18, 22, 29
- Travis Unit..... Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Three Rivers FCI / FPC Aug. 2
- Halbert Unit Aug. 11
- Lockhart Unit (Women)..... Aug. 14
- TCCC Del Valle Aug. 5, 12, 17, 19
- Bastrop FCI Aug. 21
- Hughes Unit Aug. 31

One on One County Jail Visits

Ministry Diary

Several of the volunteers that go into prison with us have also served time in prison. At a service recently four former prisoners gave their testimonies of God's deliverance to the inmates. I was blessed to be sitting in a position to watch the faces in the room as these monuments of God's grace told their stories: Some out for 30 years, some for 10 years, and one out for 3 years. I watched with joy as hope filled the inmates' faces. I could almost hear them think, "Maybe that can be me someday." When it was time to give the call for salvation, I asked for hands but instead men began to stand, one after another. It was an awesome evening. I left knowing that lives were changed for eternity.

PRAY THE WORD

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail , but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. NIV

SOMEONE ONCE SAID :

1. Failure is not final.
2. View failure as momentary, not monumental.
3. View failure as a fresh opportunity, not a final defeat.
4. Treat failures as friends, not foes.

Last Month our partners equipped us to minister the Word at: Bartlett Unit, Lockhart Unit, Travis Unit, Kyle Unit, Bastrop FCI, Bryan FPC, and TCCC Del Valle as well as one on one jail visits.

MAIL BAG

Ron: I wanted to say thank you for being a catalyst that changed my life - you, Martha, Ben and your wife are extraordinary and wonderful people. I am now located at the Montford Unit trusty camp. I pray this will be my last step before my release. Bartlett is truly BBI (Bartlett Bible Institute) in every since of the word. I really realize that now that I am located at a place that does not have people like yourself coming on a regular basis. Again, thank you so much. P.C.

Ron - I just wanted to let you know where I am at. I'm going to give you an update from time to time about my journey back home to Chicago. I wanted to say that you and your wife have been a real inspiration to me. I see so much happiness between you two. I really appreciated the extra research you did for me about the places back in Chicago and the time you take out of your lives to spread

the Word of God. The people you bring out for Prison Fellowship like Ben are a real inspiration. The rapping that you do is funny but it has a message. Most importantly the message that people hear is the Word of God. When you guys sing that song, 'You Can Make It' it reminds me of Archie & Edith Bunker (better singing) ☺ I really love you guys and yall have shown me the true meaning of caring. Love you. Thanks for all the love and support, not only to me but for all the prisoners you see in this state or elsewhere. I will dream big, like yall told us to do. I will keep God first in my life. D.P.

Ron & Katie: Talk about being about our Father's business, you all are definitely passing that test. You are doing well, our good and faithful servants. If I was asked who my role models are today it would be the two of you. Much love and God Bless. C.M.



**MATTHEW 25:36
TEAM MEMBER**

...I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME...