

E X C E R P T S

A Diamond In The Rough, But Full Of Potential By Latisha Biggs

Being A Diamond in the Rough

Being a diamond should make you want to be a blessing in someone else's life even more. Being a polished diamond means that you have seniority and authority over being the lump of coal you were ages ago. But don't mistake this for pride. All of the glory you receive as being a polished diamond is through God, and the glory is really for God.

The Rape

When I was about thirteen or fourteen, I opened a physical door, which in turn opened a spiritual door and I was literally tormented for over four decades.

I lost so much of myself that day. My mother didn't know I had been raped.

After being violated, I felt so bad physically, mentally and emotionally. All of my self-worth seemed to have diminished. I felt so helpless and out of it. It seems like it is so hard to recover. You can't go back in time and fix things and without the help of God, you really can't recover; you have to be healed.

I never spoke of the incident again; I just buried it deep down inside of me, so deep that it would never resurface again. What I thought I was burying was guilt, because I thought it was my fault that it happened to me. I kept telling myself that if only I had not opened the door it would not have happened. I tried burying the shame and the embarrassment.

I finally realized that it was not my fault that I was raped and I learned how to stop punishing myself for it.

Self-Esteem

I didn't even love myself anymore after that incident. I got involved with men even though I was a teenager; mostly men in their early twenties. I certainly knew they didn't love me, but I didn't care, I just wanted someone to show me some attention.

I had such low self-esteem; had been abused and abandoned; was very insecure; and had no self-love. I was a total mess!

Suicide

There were times when I thought about committing suicide by overdosing on pills or driving off of a bridge with my car. I even contemplated shooting myself, but I was afraid of guns. I thought if I just took my life it would end all of my pain. I think the only reason

that I didn't go through with it was because I didn't think I would be forgiven and I loved my daughter and didn't want to leave her without a mother.

Scars and Shame

I especially never wanted my daughter to know. I never wanted her to be ashamed of me, so I smoked in secret; I was a secret crack smoker.

The scars remind me that I am a walking miracle. The scars remind me that no weapon formed against me shall prosper. What Satan meant for ruin, God used it for His good and I will forever remember the face of the angel I met in the emergency room.

The scars remind me of God's saving grace, a reminder that He spared my life.

Healing

I had so much baggage that it actually manifested itself into a back problem.

I didn't know that God had to heal me of that hurt, and that it would literally destroy me if I didn't deal with it.

What I learned from this whole experience is that by not dealing with issues in life, they will ultimately resurface in some form or fashion. Terrible experiences can cause sickness, depression, hypertension and other disorders.

When I realized that my body was the temple of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit of God was dwelling in me, it was easy for me to give up drugs.

By acknowledging that it was okay, my body reacted to and held onto all of those things that I allowed those people to do to me. So in order for me to get free from all of that stuff, I needed to speak out loud what was done to me; how I felt about it and how it affected me, and finally I forgave them for all of those things so my body could release it and I could finally be set free and be healed.

Forgiveness

It takes God to remove unforgiveness from our hearts and to love in spite of how we have been treated by others.

I wanted to go home and hurt those boys who hurt me; I wanted them to suffer the way I had suffered. I literally had to pray for those boys and I also had to forgive them. At first when I said with my mouth that I forgave them, I knew it wasn't yet in my heart because I still wanted to hurt them. But eventually I did forgive them because God is my vindicator.

The old flesh keeps before our eyes the wrong that has been done to us and it makes us want to get revenge; but vengeance belongs to Lord.

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Hope and Love

God has truly blessed our lives and our home and we are a blessing to each other. I love my husband very much. I know the word teaches that when a man finds a wife, he finds a good thing. But I found a good thing in this man and I praise God for him.

My experiences told me that no one would ever love me or that I wasn't worthy to be loved. Although I still saw myself as a lump of coal, he saw the diamond in the rough.

The Lessons of Life

In order to grow up and become mature adults, we must live our lives and allow life to teach us lessons. We learn the difference between right and wrong and what the consequences are of making right and wrong decisions. I believe that while we are still in our mother's womb that God has a plan and purpose for our lives. Satan, our adversary, has a plan for our lives also and that plan is to make sure that God's plan and purpose for our lives does not come to pass. But Satan doesn't have any power over us or our lives. Remember that the enemy cometh not but for to kill, steal and to destroy.

Storms do come, but it's what we do in the midst of the storm that determines victory or defeat.

Spirituality

God will not test you without preparing you for what is to come.

... but when you are walking with the Lord, you have to be obedient and you have to do things God's way because God knows the outcome. He sees the big picture when we can only see the situation that we are presently in and we can see no way out of it.

I had nothing else to lose, so I decided to try it God's way.

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"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16