PHYLLIS STEINBORN

I am so excited that we have a Celebrate Recovery here at Living Hope now every Friday night. One reason is that the Celebrate Recovery program literally saved my life. When I first learned about CR I was having suicidal thoughts because I felt hopeless about a situation in my life, condemned about my past, was grieving and felt alone. I was told to get the gun out of my house (Yes, This was a serious situation) and to get into CR immediately by a Christian counselor and I did. There I found a group of believers who became like family to me who stood with me as I faced my issues. I began attending a Celebrate Recovery Step Study and was finally able to put my past behind me, forgive myself and forgive everyone who’d ever harmed me. I also have learned how to walk out my healing daily as I still deal with difficulties in my life. I am also a person who has had addiction issues but my main issue was a lifetime of depression.  I can now say that I am free from depression and I live a life of hope and not despair. God has healed my heart in so many ways. Today I walk free from the pain of my past because Jesus has healed me. I heard an analogy at a recent Celebrate Recovery Summit: The Church is the Hospital, Celebrate Recovery weekly meetings are the Emergency Room and the Celebrate Recovery Step Studies are the Intensive Care Unit. This has been so true in my life.

This picture of the broken bowl on the left represents my life of brokenness and sorrow that I was feeling 4 years ago before I started going to Celebrate Recovery.

And the picture on the right represents my life transformed by the Master’s hand.

This is a picture of the Japanese art of Kintsugi in which artists take a broken vessel and put it back together using lacquer infused with precious metals like gold, silver and platinum . It turns a broken vessel into an item of great beauty much stronger that before it was broken. You can see where it was broken and you can see how beautiful it becomes after the repair is made.  These photos represent my life before and after Jesus healed my heart. My heart was broken and it doesn’t look the same now. Jesus came and mended my heart and sealed the breaks back together again. He left gold where the hurts, habits and hang ups were as a reminder of His healing power. He took a heart that was broken and  He has transformed my broken life and made my me whole again. I can now look at my once broken heart and see the scars of the past healed by the master artist’s hand. It is stronger that before.  The golden repair lines also remind me  daily of  my heavenly Father who loved me so much that He would have send his only Son as a sacrifice for my sin so that He could have a relationship with me.

John 3:16 says:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

If God has a wallet with all of his children’s pictures in it, my photo is in it.  He would pull it out and show it to the angels and say, ‘That’s my girl. She was living a broken life away from my presence but I sent my Son to bring her back to me. He has healed her brokenness. See the beautiful repairs that Jesus has made. She is so beautiful and I love her so much. I have taken her hurts and healed them. I have given her a testimony of my love, forgiveness and healing to share with others. Yes, that’s my girl.’

I will ask you today, Do you know that your photo is in God’s ‘wallet’?

Thank you for letting me share.