



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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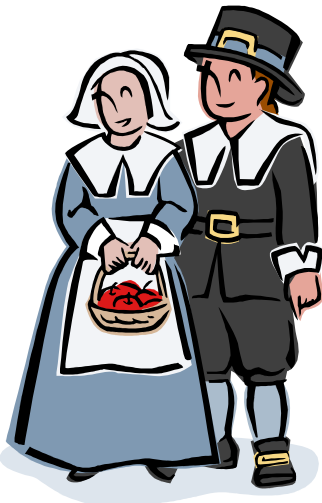
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Dear Friends,



I resist doing audio teachings in Nightlight that require an extended series. Usually topics that may require more than one hour will not exceed three sessions. Yet the current teaching on the imagination is an exception. Why?

I am aware in myself, and in so many I try to help, that we all suffer from a terrible mental malady. We think we know a subject if we have heard a sermon on it once, or read a bit about it, or listened to a tape, CD, or now mp3. We think we have it! No, we just heard an introduction. We form this false idea of hearing and not engaging or doing, from listening to sermons. I am thankful for sermons (good ones, that is). But I have been aware for decades that hearing and never doing is not only fruitless for long term change, but is actually detrimental to it. For as James tells us, to be hearers and not doers causes self deception. We end up being full of partial information and calling that mental cartoon, awareness.



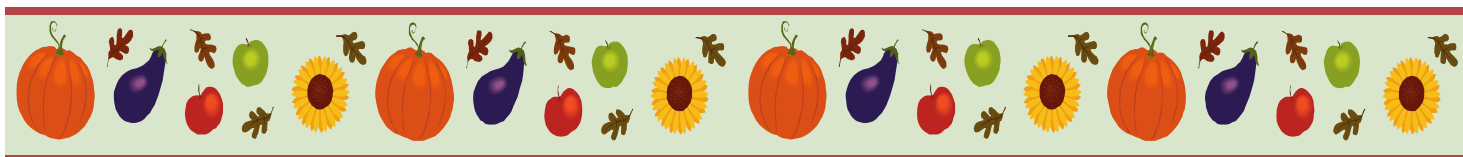
When I deal with people who are suffering mentally from depression, compulsive thoughts, lusts, painful memories, or romantic confusion (to name a few), I find they are looking for something different than the message that addresses their pain. They have already 'heard that' and 'it didn't work.' So they are on to the next gimmick, or new teaching, or whatever. As Chesterton said of Christianity as a whole, "It is not that it has been tried and found wanting, but it has been found difficult and therefore never been truly tried." Let's apply this to addressing mental suffering at the Cross. We want a painless, even effortless mental exercise homogenized into a method. We are afraid of the Holy Spirit taking us any place we are not able to control. We may allow some prayer into the struggle, but we may or may

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not realize that we have our self protections so firmly in place we refuse God entrance. We disallow our real issue with its core pain to rise up into the Light. So we 'tried it and it didn't work.' Then we move on to the next thing.

We also cannot work on our mental pain in isolation. We not only are healed in listening prayer, but in fellowship, study, and just plain living and engaging with others in Christ. We cannot pick and choose. We have to take the whole treatment, and that for a lifetime. So that is why we are spending an unusual amount of time on the subject of the imagination.

Here is GOOD NEWS! There is the real God who is waiting for us to come to Him on His terms. He will help us deal with real things in His Presence. And when we engage with Him concerning them, there will be healing grace that brings true and lasting change in the mental strongholds that have kept us sick, lustful, depressed, confused, lonely, grieving, hurt, fearful, raging, etc. Don't look ahead for the new thing. Go back to the old ways, revisit the ancient paths. You will find rest for your souls.



MOVIE: HIDDEN SECRETS

I got several knocks upside my head from some of you over the Zombie review. I guess I didn't get my heartfelt emotions across over the soft gentle side of the film which I did genuinely see in it. But... we will move forward...

We don't want to be snide and snarky towards Christians who are trying with all they know how, to make really good, meaningful, and artfully well crafted films. That is a hard combination to achieve. The film needs to be simply good: enjoyable, watchable, entertaining. Then it needs to be meaningful. It needs to have something that leaves the audience better for having seen it. Then it needs to be well crafted, and that takes money and creative genius. So lets (Clay!) not be too hard on them. They are not only trying, they are making real strides even as Hollywood is losing its monopoly.

Mary and I happened to see one we want to pass along to you. And we would love to hear from you about it, pro or con. (There are no Zombies in it.) It's called **HIDDEN SECRETS** (2012). It's about a group of early 30-something friends (sort of like **THE BIG CHILL**) who have re-gathered for a mutual friend's funeral. As the secrets come out in their interactions, there is a shocking surprise ending. We thought it was a great effort in trying to achieve those three difficult goals. What do you think?



Leanne Payne Resources



It has been a long time since I have made space in this letter to point the *Nightlight* audience to the collected works of Leanne Payne. There is not an original word in my mouth. Of course Leanne would say the same of herself: we are all students of those who went before us. BUT I can say after having read not only all of Leanne's works, but most all of those who went before her, that she was raised up as a unique gift to our generation. She addresses the hard core realities of what is killing us and why, and then points to the only Source of our Hope more clearly than anyone I know. She does so with theological soundness, psychological coherence, and literary skill like no one before her. She has thoroughly equipped us to take on the giants of this age. If you who read this letter monthly have not taken the time and made the investment to read REAL PRESENCE, THE BROKEN IMAGE, CRISIS IN MASCULINITY, THE HEALING PRESENCE, RESTORING THE CHRISTIAN SOUL, and LISTENING PRAYER, then make it a goal of the coming year. I often feel I am holding a mere flashlight and pointing it at the sun when I seek to restate these huge topics in the light of her pioneering work. Pray for her. She is

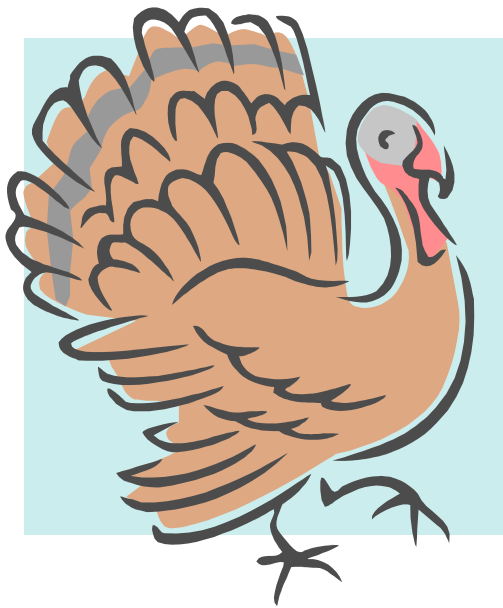
retired and no longer able to work. But her work goes on 24/7, not only through these classic books, but also in the many lives she has transformed by her loving investment, my own among them!



Closing Thoughts

Messages reach us from many out there who are facing very large and demanding battles. Those who are not at this time in such struggles may tend to think we all go through hard times. But these are beyond the normal wars. If we all could compare notes, we may find that most of us are being called upon to press in closer to the Cross, to take stock of any aspect of our lives that we have allowed to coast along. It is Love that is doing this. Let the battles, struggles, relationship conflicts, disappointments, and needs be the instrument of Grace to bring us all more into conformity with the heart of Jesus. It will be a gift to us to have been stretched now, should we face real difficulties later. We will all be HOME soon.

With thanks for each one of you, Clay & Mary



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