

CHRISTIAN SEEKING IDENTITY NEWSLETTER

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CBC Atlanta in Cucuta, Columbia



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ARE YOU A PBA?

First of all you are probably asking yourself, what is a PBA? This is the acronym that described me for a major part of my life. It stands for Performance Based Acceptance. Now you still might be asking yourself the question, what does that exactly mean. Let me ask you, have you ever gone the extra mile and done a little extra just to be able to receive an accolade like “Wow, you did a great job!” or “ You really do great work?” That was what I did for many years of my life. I would never set my goal at 100%. No! I would strive to perform at the 120% level just to be able to hear my boss or my friend’s, associates say those words.

You may be asking yet another question, what would cause a person to live their life like that? Well, let me share with you how I came to be like that and how God delivered me from that tormenting spirit. As a young boy who was an only child, my Dad always encouraged me to do my best. He wanted me to succeed so that I could get ahead in life.

His way of encouraging me was the only way that he knew how to do this because he himself did not grow up with a father. His Dad died when he was five years old. He was the middle child in a family of

seven, and he had to struggle to make his way. So his way of encouraging me was by saying to me, “You did a good job-BUT next time try harder and you will do better.”

This was encouraging for a while, but after a time, it seemed like no matter what I did or how good I did it, I always heard the same words, “ You did a good job, BUT next time try harder.” As I grew in years, I graduated from both high school and the university and got married. The words I heard in my head never changed and neither did my constant drive to do better.

I wish I could tell you that when I got saved, I was instantly delivered from that tormenting spirit but that was not the case. In fact what the enemy did was lie to me by telling me that if I really wanted to receive everything God had for me, I would need to pray more, fast more, attend church more and do more things to help people. This all sounded correct to me and I was certainly used to “going the extra mile” in order to receive an ‘at a boy’. So there I was stuck in the same rut that I had always been stuck in! Now you are probably saying, “Wow, you were really deceived,” and I would have to agree with you.

But in my defense let me explain the way I was thinking. When you are in school, what do you need to do in order to pass on to the next grade? You need to get good grades.

The harder you try, the better the grades. When you get out of school, what do you do to get a job? You fill out an application. You go before a HR agent who determines if you are “qualified” for the job. Ok, you get the job, so now you work and you get paid-correct? Now what do you do in order to climb up the ladder in your company? You work hard so that you can excel in what you do so that you get a promotion. Notice the pattern that began when you were in grammar school: You qualify, you get promoted, you work, you get paid. The harder you work, the greater your reward! When the devil began speaking all these ‘to do’s’ to me it just went along with what I was already so very accustomed to hearing.

Now I wish I could tell you that when I started pastoring that I was delivered from that style of thinking but that was not the case. In fact, that debilitating mindset only intensified because as associate pastor I was in charge of the flock and ministering to the needs of the people. In fact I was sucked even deeper into that same performance mentality. I felt like I needed to be “the one” that had to resolve everyone’s problems.

Just a side note here, remember that a PBA person is looking for acceptance in order to feel good about themselves. He is searching for a sense of identity and purpose and he believes that it all depends upon how well he does his job. It is fueled by familiarity because this is the way things have always worked in the past. It all sounds correct because this is the way that the things in the world work. Yet, this is not the way that the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God work!

Yes, you can read God’s word that states; you are more than a conqueror thru Christ Jesus; you are Gods beloved; you are the light of the world; God loves you unconditionally; you are the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus. All of these are truths relating to who you are and how God sees us as His beloved sons and daughters.

The god of this world works with the natural desire that we have to please God and refers us to the world’s system by whispering things like this in our ears: If you want to walk in these things then you need to fast more, tithe more, read more pray more etc, etc. The fact of the matter is, we all want ALL that God has for us and many of us will do whatever we think it takes in order to get those things .

Now I knew in my heart that something was not correct with all of this but it took getting a revelation from God in order to discern the lie. The Holy Spirit spoke to me one day as I was doing some things for a family in the church. He asked me, “Mickey, what are you doing?” I said, “Well I am helping this family.” Again I heard the Holy Spirit say, “Mickey, what are you doing?” I repeated my answer, “I am helping this family with some things that they need help with.” There was a pause and silence and then once more I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit ask, “Mickey, What are YOU doing?” I knew that the Holy Spirit was not deaf. He had heard my previous answers. He was not asking me what I was doing but rather, what is your motive for what you are doing?”

I responded, “Well this family needed help and I was helping them so that you would be proud of me and reward me with a blessing.” This is when the Holy Spirit in His ever so gentle voice asked me the question that delivered me from that PBA mentality that had tormented me all of my life. He asked me, “Mickey, what do you think that you can do that will be greater than what Jesus your Lord and your Savior did when He died on the cross for you once and for all?” I bowed my head in shame and with tears streaming down my cheeks I said, “Lord that is unthinkable, there is nothing that I could ever do that could exceed or add to what Jesus has already done for me.”

Then the Lord said to me, “My son, simply receive what your Lord and your Savior Jesus Christ has done for you on the cross and partake of all my blessings that I have for you. They are all yours. Those words were liberating.

Now when I come across people that have the same thing going on in their lives, and there are many, I can share with them how God set me free because He wants to set them free as well.

Blessings!
Your friends,
Mickey & Suzan.

**If the Son therefore shall
make you free, you shall be free
indeed John 8:36**