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Timothy Williams
1500 1st Ave SE
Seattle, WA 98104

Last letter of Athena Dean, October 2011
www.hardtruth.us

10/25/11

Dear Timothy;

I cannot blame you for ignoring my calls, as I am no different than the boy who cried "wolf." Like Mike said last night, "I don't know what to say...we've been here before and it never went anywhere."

I am determined that this time will be different. On Sunday night after Mike admonished me, I begged God to let me feel the pain I have caused you (and Carla, Malcolm, Jan, Mike and James, the TOC committee, not to mention Tim Noreen whom I completely destroyed).

He is answering that prayer and the pain that I have caused you to endure is horrible. I finally "get" the post you put on the boards about how nice I am while stabbing you in the back. I am so easily flattered by those who write lovely words about me, but the truth is, those people don't really know me, they don't live with me, so it's easy for them to have positive things to say about me. They've never crossed me, stood up to me or pointed out my sin, so ofcourse all they see is my good side.

The truth is, I've destroyed every close relationship I've ever had in my life because I'm a bully, a manipulator, a liar, a user, and completely arrogant. No wonder I've always gravitated to business and excelled there, because I never have to get close enough to people for them to see the real me.

I am, truly, no better than a man who calls himself a Christian and is well respected by all, who secretly beats his wife and kids at home behind closed doors.

You and Malcolm warned me when I shredded my journals that if I did not fill myself up with the Word and the Holy Spirit then I'd have 7 x the demons coming back to fill up the empty space in my heart. Instead of filling myself up with good, I've filled myself with bitterness, resentment, and arrogance, and I've flattered myself too much to detect and hate my sin.

Job 36:13 "The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help.

Amos 5:7-10 You who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground (he who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns blackness into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land- the LORD is his name- he flashes destruction on the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin), you hate the one who reproveth in court and **despise him who tells the truth.**

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Instead of holding onto Jesus' commands, and obeying them, I played the fool and have been overcome by these sins.

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,

Ephesians 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Instead of obeying Romans 11:20 and being afraid instead of arrogant, I became like Romans 1:28-32.

Romans 1:28-31 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

For months I have allowed my broken relationship with you and Carla, Malcolm, Jan, Mike and James, and the rest of the body persist. So what is the point of my prayers? If I will not obey, leave my gift at the altar and be reconciled with my brother, He will not hear my prayers for a job, a soft heart, or an obedient spirit, as I am in rebellion as I pray for an obedient heart.

I have stabbed you in the back repeatedly, every time you rebuke me, in my heart I grow more and more bitter and rage against you (the Lord)

Proverbs 19:3 A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.

This is my pattern and the way I avoid the pain of the cross...if I harden my heart and blame you for my condition, I won't have to feel the pain of all my rebellion, pride, bitterness, resentment, betrayal, lies and self love.

I do not want to stay this way. I must face up to the truth now or there is no hope for me.

I do not expect to be able to fellowship with you and Carla as it will take a long time to prove myself faithful and worthy of such fellowship. But I must make it right, some how, I'm not sure how but I must at least be restored to you as my father in the Lord. You were an answer to my prayers 12 years ago and instead of treating you as such I have treated you as if you were a curse. I have hated you in my heart, the one and only earthly father in my life who has loved me enough to stand up to me.

Please accept my confession of my sins against you. I am deeply grieved over all the pain I've caused you and Carla. I intend for this sorrow that I feel to lead to true repentance.

