

A Message from the Control Tower – Ginny Porter

Ginny and her husband, Doug, are the leaders of the Healing Hearts group in Utica. Healing Hearts is a confidential support group for parents and family members of persons involved in homosexuality. For more information on the Healing Hearts group, call 586.783.9658.



For years I taught and believed that I needed to have everything under control in my life. I found the man I wanted to marry and chased him until he caught me. We had 4 beautiful children that I dressed perfectly (at least they started out that way), took them to the perfect church(s) where they attended the perfect Sunday school. Then, something awful happened, they became teenagers and I began to see my control slipping away. Oh, I know what to do, I thought. I will see that they attend the perfect youth group. But still, that didn't seem to work. I found out that they were some of the things that they were taught not to do (in varying degrees). How could this happen? Had I failed? How could I bring things back into control?

Well, nothing seemed to work. I tried yelling, grounding, taking away privileges, etc. etc., but they seemed to turn around and do something stupid again. I began to feel more and more desperate. How could "I" have raised such rebellious children? What did "I" do wrong? What if "I" had been a better parent? The enemy of my soul had me so condemned that I nearly had a nervous breakdown.



Then God sent a special messenger to my house one night in the form of a very dear and honest friend. I had come to the point where I had to ask one of my children (at that time she was 19) to leave the house. It was the only way to bring peace back in our home again. I was a wreck. I felt so guilty. What had I done? So, I called my friend Shirley and she came right over. After she let me cry and get out a lot of mixed up feelings, she asked me a question. "You are blaming this on yourself, aren't you?" "Why of course I am, I am the parent." "Let me ask you another question, she said. Is God a parent? What kind of parent is He?" Why I said "Yes, he's a perfect parent." She responded with "Do his kids rebel?" I was truly taken back by that. Could it not be all my fault? Could my kids possibly have had the audacity to develop their own wills? Did I no longer have control over their decisions? If I didn't, then who did? You're not saying they made these wrong decisions by themselves are you? Well, the reality is that I was no longer in control it was between them and God. I could pray but I was not responsible for the outcome. I had done the best I knew how to and now it was up to them to establish their own relationships with God.

I would love to tell you that everything was fine after that and that I had learned instantly to trust the Lord with my kids (adult children). Over the years we were met with many trials. But there was one in particular in which I began to see God working in my life in regard to letting go of control.



To make a long story short, we found out our youngest daughter, Tracey, had left her husband of nine months for another woman. We asked her if she knew what the Bible said about homosexuality and she said she did. How would we ever handle this one?

Over a long period of time and with much thanks to God for leading us to Healing Hearts, I have learned to love her and her partner unconditionally. It's been four years now and I have learned to leave her in God's hands. One day, God told me that I was to quit worrying about her salvation because it was between Him and her. All I had to do was enjoy the gift he gave me in her. I can honestly say that I love Tracey just the way she is and I am proud to say that I am her Mom. She and I are great friends and have a mutual respect for each other. I have learned to love her in a Christ-like way without condoning her homosexuality. I was sure that things would start to fall apart and she would repent, but quite the opposite has happened. She and Marcy are doing well naturally and emotionally. I don't know what God is doing but I don't have to know because **He is in the Control Tower** and I know I can trust Him to direct me and my family on to the right path.



I would like to leave you with one last thought from the Word of God that I just "happened" to read today. These are the *"Be Attitudes"* according to The Message:

Matthew 5:3-10

³"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are--no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

⁶"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

⁷"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'careful,' you find yourselves cared for.

⁸"You're blessed when you get your inside world--your mind and heart--put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

¹⁰"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

If you are a Christian parent who is struggling with your child's homosexuality, call 586.739.5114 and find out how you can join us for Healing Hearts. We would love to talk to you and make sure you receive invitations to our monthly meetings. Each day that you suffer alone is one day too many.