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Racial Reconciliation

Roadmap to Reconciliation

Roadmap to Reconciliation has been a blessing to read. I have noticed they are things that I want to do in my life to make changes outside of myself but also know that I need to do the work inside first. This book also helps me realize that the work doesn't only begin when you start making changes within but during. Setting a foundation that is found in Jesus is essential. Jesus told Peter, "on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18) The foundation that is found in Christ is a foundation that is unmovable so beginning there is a grand start. While reading this book I made some correlation between reconciliation in the church and in the body.

This book has been crucial not only to the subject of racial reconciliation but many areas in life that I recognize need change and recognize what has changed. The contents of this book provide the category of change and transformation I am experiencing as a new Christian. This book also provides a blazing trail for those seeking to demonstrate a positive example that Jesus began while He was on earth. Reconciliation is the wide message of the word of God. Brenda McNeil shared in her book that "Reconciliation is truly a journey, not a destination. It is a process that leads to personal, spiritual, social and systemic transformation." Humanity had been separated from God by sin and He had a plan to reconcile humans to Himself once and for all. This message is a lifelong process that happens after salvation.

This book provokes thought of my walk with Christ but also how we can begin a process of change to ourselves and with others. The best explanation is the roadmap she provides in the book which starts with a catalytic event, something that changes our steps forever. After we have experienced an interruption, we begin a process of transformation that doesn't happen overnight. But we come into a place of realization which is the first step, we are becoming aware of the faults that are taking place and where new needs to begin. As I began peeling back the layers and facing the ugly truths about myself, I became more aware of where to start the work. Next, I found a place within a local community where I started to see the people who attended the church as family. I found a place I could identify with Christ and His people began to become my people. I now can relate to them as though we are family and at one point, I never knew them.

The next step in her book is Getting Ready for Lasting Change. This is where I find myself, I am being prepared for the lasting change that is taking place in my life. This change is not stagnant but constant. As I grow in Christ, I am being brought to a new level in Him and heading toward the purpose He has set forth before I even knew it was there. There are places He is calling me to that I want to have knowledge about before I get there, and it is up to me to do the work required. This is the preparation stage and finally the last stage is Activation, where it all happens. Where mistakes are made, where tears are dropped, where blood becomes apparent in the work put in. This is where things start happening that all the planning and preparing begin to make sense. Solutions are being provided after going through the trials of

one's project. I am looking forward to fighting for something bigger than me. Slaying giants with God and not without Him because without Him, I can do nothing.