

**THE IMAGE** by Allison Bown

### **Chapter 3: Doors of Opportunity or Offence.**

Chapter 3 is short. It focusses upon us, God and how we react to situations where we are faced with offence. It usually happens spontaneously and we mostly react in a defensive or negative manner. I am reminded that 'if you react defensively and become wounded, due to what is said or done, then you are the one with the problem...not the other party. Quite often they are oblivious as to what they said, did or meant. Some of us are overwhelmed by the situation, while others take it in their stride. Strangely, it is our identity that comes into play here. It will determine whether we react positively or negatively to the situation. I am reminded of a man, a CEO of a big corporation, who when confronted with bad news, would sit down with the board members, who would then meticulously examine all that was before them. They always came away with something positive which they could then act upon.

We must step back and ask "What is really going on here?" "Who is behind this?" "Why should I be upset?" "Have I actually caused the offence?" "What is the best and right way to deal with it?" Remember, we are responsible for the choices we make no matter what the circumstances.

You see, God unapologetically allows doors marked 'opportunity' and 'offence' to often be in close proximity to each other to see which we will choose to walk through. If you are upset with God about this, then you have taken offence! See how easy it is? Jesus did tell us we were going to have problems and life was not going to be like a box of chocolates. However, God does have compassion in our adversities but he will not automatically rescue us because he knows there are opportunities to be found if we will only look for them.

We have learned previously, that when God looks at us, He sees us as who we are in Christ, because it's our primary identity to Him. He anticipates we will be as Christ and be victorious....if we choose the 'opportunity'.

### **Chapter 3: Doors of Opportunity or Offence.**

#### **Landmark.**

New ideas or a fresh perspective from this chapter. It maybe a key truth you want to investigate more.

eg.

This one is easy but you need to thoroughly come to the conclusion that if you are offended...you are the one with the problem! Jesus understood this truth. He never blamed the Father for his crucifixion.

#### **Questions for Exploration.**

These should act as a compass to give some sense of direction in future situations where offence shows up.

eg.

I need to change in regard to 'offence'. It is going to take time and many repetitions to regularly make the right choice. So, It is best to take a step back, keep the mouth shut and have a good look at what is going on before making any decision or saying anything.

#### **Questions for God.**

This is where you are doing the asking and he is doing the answering...hopefully.

eg.

Can you help me change my approach in the area of 'offence' so that I develop a strategy of not only coping but being more successful with situations and people.

**New Thought.**

This is about actively looking at new opportunities when 'offence' rears its ugly head., Finding new words and language that work better for you. "She'll be right is not one of them!"

eg.

It is about developing a new mindset isn't it? The enemy knows our hot buttons and operates through strongholds. The power of these need to be broken.

**Activating your Discoveries.**

How do we activate what we have learned. Spiritual development is always meant to partner knowledge with real-world encounters. Describe one such encounter of offence.

eg.

You may have heard that a friend made some untrue or derogatory comments about you to another who then told you about what was said. Think about how you would process this and what action, if any, you would take.