

A roadblock called denial

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BIG SANDY, Texas—It can be difficult to attempt to help other people deal with their areas of denial. Yet it is even harder to deal with our own denial.

Let's establish a couple of facts.

First, God judges people based upon their understanding of truth (that which is true).

James 4:17—"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

John 12:47-48—"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

Second, everyone has areas of denial.

Matthew 7:1-5—"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Now let's notice three concepts which can help us overcome denial.

■ **ASK**—Ask to see yourself.

Jeremiah 10:23-24—"O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. O LORD, correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing."

Proverbs 27:17—"As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."

■ **HEAR**—Hear unsolicited truth about yourself.

Not all unsolicited comments are helpful. It is wise to recognize those people who are seeking to hurt you (2 Timothy 4:14-15).

One of the best examples in the Bible about the value of unsolicited advice is Nathan talking to David in 2 Samuel 12:1-7.

Proverbs 27:6—"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

■ **EXPERIENCE**—Learn from your experiences.

1 Timothy 1:13—" . . . I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

Hebrews 5:7-8—" . . . In the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."