***Rescue and Recover* Summary**

Several years later, Dr. Kingsbury was led of the spirit to write a book called *Rescue and Recover.* This book was designed to help people who are inside of the church, yet struggling with addictive behaviors and besetting sins.

It is often when working with a student that attends church regularly; they’ll have one foot in church and the other foot in the world. Steve Curington talked about this process in his development when he came back to North Love Baptist Church. However, as he spent more time meditating on God's Word, attending church services, seeking council from godly people, he found himself spending less time in the things of the world. He eventually realized that by distancing himself from the world, it allowed God to begin working in his life in order to free him of his addictions. In this book, Dr. Kingsbury presents us with the 3 people some practical truths from 3 verses in 2 Timothy 2 on how to maximize our success in helping others.

At a quick glance you will find that this is a complete sentence made of three verses, and within those three verses you will find three characters that are all absolutely vital when helping someone in an addictive behavior.

**Let’s look at 3 key people who serve an important role in the overall recovery process.**

1. The first key person in the overall recovery is the **addict** himself who is ensnared by the devil - **2 Timothy 2:26.**

Many addicts just want recovery and reformation, but the RU materials goal and also the goal of the sponsor is for the addict to experience complete transformation. We often say in RU that we aren’t looking for a changed life; we are looking for an exchanged life. The addict must be willing to have a part in the transformation process.

At the end of the verse you will find the first character, which is the **addict** who is ensnared by the devil. The addict must have a part in their personal recovery. Many addicts want complete recovery, but they do not want to do what is expected in order to obtain it. When you first begin this journey with your student tell them that you are more than willing to listen to their problems and struggles; however, they need to also be willing to let you guide them towards a different way of living. It is important for the student to determine what kind of journey they want to be on. Some addicts are just looking for **recovery**; the definition of recovery is getting back to what you once were. Some are just looking for **reformation**, which means becoming better than what they once were. The RU material’s goal, and also the goal as the sponsor should be to see complete **transformation**, this means being changed into something that they never were before. We often say in RU that we aren’t looking for a changed life, but we are looking for an exchanged life. The addict must be willing to have a part in their transformation process.

1. The second key person in the overall recovery is **God** – **2 Timothy 2:25.**

* Repentance – the change of one’s heart and mind away from their own way of decision making to Christ’s principles and Word.
* Peradventure – the word peradventure is interesting in this passage because it explains that God may or may not give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.
* Acknowledging of the truth - when God’s Spirit and God’s Word is speaking, we must grasp the truth, meditate on it and make it a part of our lives.

In the middle of those three verses you find the second character, **God**, *"...if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”* What does repentance look like? It’s important that when you’re asking questions as a sponsor that you use open ended questions requiring more than just a yes or no answer. Ask questions that pull out what’s in their heart to see the areas that lack the truth. Then you can begin to reinforce those areas with the truth of God’s Word. Repentance is a change of heart and mind away from their own way of decision making, to Christ’s principles and the His word. The word peradventure is interesting in this passage because it lets us know that maybe God will and maybe God won’t give them repentance to the acknowledging to the truth. This is written in such a way to remind not only the student, but also the sponsor, that when God is speaking to us we should never put Him off and try to make those decisions later. When God’s spirit and God’s Word is speaking to us, we must grasp the truth, meditate on it and make it a part of our lives.

1. The third key person in the overall recovery is **you** **and I** (the sponsor, the leader, the helper). The Bible calls us servants of the Lord – **2 Timothy 2:24**.

A person who has ensnared themselves is not likely to be effective at rescuing others who are ensnared. Everyone serves someone – either you serve the Lord or your serve the devil. This is the concept: we are not an employee, not a slave, but a servant of the Lord. When we fall in love with Jesus and become willing to give up our rights and dedicate ourselves to His will, then and only then are we ready to bring freedom into the lives of those being held in captivity.

The third character we see in this passage would be you and I, **the servants of the Lord**. Dr. Kingsbury says that we are to be servants of the Lord rather than servants of Satan. There are no neutral parties in spiritual battles. “You cannot be Switzerland, but you are going to have to choose a side”, this phrase has to do with an illustration that Dr. Kingsbury gave in his book and I thought it would be interesting to you. A person who has ensnared themselves is not likely to be effective at rescuing others who are ensnared. Everyone serves someone. Either you serve the Lord or your serve the devil. It’s important for us to recognize that we are servants of the Lord. Later on in the book*,* Dr. Kingsbury mentions what the Bible says about a person who is effective in rescuing those who are ensnared. This is the concept: we are not an employee, not a slave, but a servant of the Lord. When we fall in love with Jesus and become willing to give up our rights and dedicate ourselves to His will, then and only then are we ready to bring freedom into the lives of those being held in captivity. Have you surrendered your life to God? Romans 12:1-2, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

The decision to surrender all to the Lord isvital in the transformation process. As a sponsor it’s important to be working toward this same plateau in your Christian life. We must be servants of the Lord.

**How are we to be servants of the Lord?**

1. If you truly desire to be a servant of the Lord you must not **strive** - **2 Timothy 2:24**. When we determine to sponsor a student through the RU curriculum, as well as our own maturity of transforming our lives by the Spirit of God, the arguing, fussing, fighting, and quarreling with one another is not the answer. We must be filled with the Spirit – **Galatians 5:22-23**.

2 Timothy 2:24 tells us what we need to know in order to be a servant of the Lord, “*And the servant of the Lord* ***must not strive...”***If we desire to be servants of the Lord we must not **strive**.Dr. Kingsbury explains the meaning of the word strive as to go to war, to quarrel, to dispute, and to argue. This same word was used by Stephen in Acts 27. Stephen described the two Hebrew men, separated by Moses, as striving and vehemently arguing with one another. When we determine to sponsor a student through the RU curriculum, as well as our own maturity of transforming our lives by the spirit of God, the arguing, fussing, fighting, and quarreling with one another is not the answer. We must be filled with the Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are found in Galatians 5:22-23, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* I am reminded in 2 Corinthians 10, that the apostle Paul came to the church of Corinth to address their mind and what they choose to meditate on. His goal was to help them overcome stubborn habits and addictions. In verse 1 Paul writes, “*Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:”* He is writing to Corinthian believers who were walking in or after the flesh. He explains in verse 4-5, *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;* *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”* This shows us that if we want to be received by the addict, we need to be in the Spirit.

It’s important to approach our students in meekness and gentleness in Christ. In fact, in 2 Corinthians 10:2 Paul tells us that he could have been much bolder with the church of Corinth, yet he knew boldness would only provoke them more. Through meekness and gentleness Paul encouraged them in Christ to do the will of God. As servants of the Lord we must not strive.

1. If you desire to be a servant of the Lord you must be **gentle unto all men** – **2 Timothy 2:24.** As a sponsor being gentle is to be considerate of how your student’s feeling.

The second quality we need to posses if we are to be servants of the Lord is, “**...*but be gentle unto all me...”*** Dr. Kingsbury tells us that our society has a distorted view of what it means to be gentle. Gentleness is not weakness nor is it exclusively a feminine trait. The same word is used in 1 Thessalonians 2:7, when Paul described how he ministered to the church of Thessalonica with the gospel, “*But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:”* Just as a mother cares for her child, shields them from danger, and gives them exactly what they need – this is how we should be to those we’re ministering to. As a sponsor being gentle is to be considerate of how your student’s feeling. However, the latter part of that verse says, ***“...In* *meekness instructing those that oppose themselves”*** along with meekness there needs to be some boldness. For instance, when a parent see’s their child in the middle of the road, with boldness they say, “Get out of the road!” because they care for them. As servants of the Lord we must be gentle.

1. If you desire to be a servant of the Lord you must be **apt to teach** – **2 Timothy 2:24.**

Dr. Kingsbury explains in his book, that the aptitude for teaching comes from a commitment to learn. Every Christian should read their Bible, study their Bible, memorize their Bible, meditate on their Bible, and talk to others about their Bible. No one is apt to teach who has not paid the price of learning. That word apt, as he tells us in his book, means to teach the same thing over, and over, and over again each time in a different way and with different illustrations. All people will have different ways of learning; therefore, it’s important that we communicate to our student as they go through the materials to ensure that they are grasping the lessons being taught from God’s Word.

The Bible goes on to tell us the third quality to possess in becoming a servant of the Lord, “...*but be gentle unto all men,* ***apt to teach****...”* Dr. Kingsbury says in his book, that the aptitude for teaching comes from a commitment to learn. I think that every Christian should read their Bible, study their Bible, memorize their Bible, meditate on their Bible, and to talk others about their Bible. He goes on to say that no one is apt to teach who has not paid the price of learning. That word apt, as he tells us in his book, means to teach the same thing over, and over, and over again each time in a different way and with different illustrations. All people will have different ways of learning; therefore, it’s important that we communicate with our student as they go through the materials to ensure that they are grasping the lessons being taught. As a sponsor, you should ask questions in an attempt to find out what they are meditating on, and how well they are grasping the truths from God’s word. As servants of the Lord we must be apt to teach.

1. If you desire to be a servant of the Lord you must be **patient** – **2 Timothy 2:24**.

Dr. Kingsbury explains the definition of the word patient is to be cheerful while enduring something that is very difficult. The transformation process takes time. Remember God offers to us patience when we fail and disappoint Him, let’s offer the same patience to our students. When you begin to say, “I can’t”... remember there **IS** someone who can – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally we see the last quality of a servant of the Lord, “*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach,* ***patient,*** *In meekness instruction those that oppose themselves...”* It says that we must be patient. Dr. Kingsbury explains the definition of the word patient is to be cheerful while enduring something that is very difficult. My time frame for things to be done is now. Often times we live in a commercial society. For instance, we watch a two hour movie and then we expect a conclusion to happen in 10 minutes. The society in which we live has trained our brain to look for immediate results; this can also be said when working with students in the RU program. The transformation process is going to take some patience. Remember God offers to us patience when we fail and disappoint Him, let’s offer the same patience to our students. When you begin to say, “I can’t”... remember there **IS** someone who can – the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. If you desire to be a servant of the Lord you must not strive, you must be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, and patient...yet all these things **must** be done in **meekness – 2 Timothy 2:25.**

Meekness is defined as the ability for God’s people to negotiate among other without causing friction. When you yield to the Spirit of God’s leading in your life you’ll be able to get along with others. Meekness promotes peace among people. Remember, meekness is not the absence of boldness, nor is truth the absence of mercy. As you study God’s Word, you will **always** find meekness and mercy presented before you find truth and boldness.