



BARN WINDOW

Let God clear the clutter of your soul.

by BOB HOSTETLER

THE MUSTY SMELL heightened the mystery of the place. I stepped carefully into my grandfather's aging barn and peered into its dark recesses, wondering what treasures lay buried in its corners. The barn was lit only by slits of sunlight sneaking between the wall planks.

Except for one window.

It was too high to reveal anything but sky through its open space and too small to permit rain or snow to damage anything in the barn. I suppose it provided ventilation and a little light — just enough light, I noticed, to render the contents of the barn. Old wooden chairs and fixtures, leather belts and harnesses, metal cans and tubs — simultaneously enigmatic and enchanting. If the window had been larger, the barn may well have appeared littered and dirty.

I've often wondered if I have built that kind of window in my soul. I fear I have developed the habit of letting just enough divine light into the dark recesses of my heart to make its contents seem enchanting. I fear if the window were any larger, my soul may appear littered and dirty.

But my soul is not a barn, and its contents are not charming reminders of olden days. I don't want my heart's window to be too

high and too small for the cleansing light of God to enter. In fact, any window may be too small, so I'll knock out the wall, and I'll invite the searching gaze of God to show me what must go. Some relics may be difficult to part with, but I know He not only can clean all the darkest recesses of my soul but also in

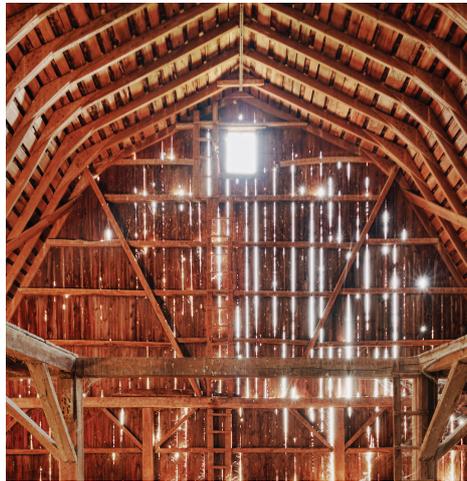
doing so will make space for better things to come.

The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). No matter how cluttered or dark your heart may feel, a sincere prayer to God can invite all the light, all the forgiveness and cleansing your soul needs. Simply say, "Heavenly Father, I come to You as a sinner who needs forgiveness,

cleansing, and a fresh start. Please sweep through my soul and my life, take control, and help me to follow You from this moment on. Thank You for Your gift of salvation through Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend, or call 888-537-8720.

BOB HOSTETLER is an award-winning author of 50 books, including the award-winning *Don't Check Your Brains at the Door* (co-authored with Josh McDowell) and *The Bard and the Bible* (A Shakespeare Devotional). He lives in Nevada.



I'll invite the searching gaze of God.