WALKING IN FREEDOM



THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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WALKING IN FREEDOM

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to say something about a book that is so necessary in our time. There is a tremendous need for knowledge and understanding in this area. In a simple, stylish way Pastor JV Bienedell introduces to us the origin of many discontents and frustrations in our lives. The truths and principles contained in this book will drastically bring a change in your life.

As someone who suffered effects of inner wounds, I recommend this work to you so that you can experience what it means to walk in freedom. The words of **John 8:36** will give you a glorious reality: "If the son makes you free, ye shall be free indeed."

What makes this book so interesting is the fact that Pastor Bienedell wrote it from personal experience and intensive research of this topic. It is my prayer that God will use this book to answer all your troubling questions and solve your problems so you can walk in freedom.

Min Williams

April 1988

INNER WOUNDS

A young woman in her thirties sat before me. The signs of grief and misfortune were clearly visible on her face and in her mournful eyes. She told me about her problems and frustrations. For years she has been living with inner fears, depression, tension, a feeling of inferiority and a deep-seated bitterness. These are now becoming a threat to her marriage; her family is suffering, and even her spiritual life deteriorates. She has no vision for the future and has considered suicide.

My heart bleeds for this woman because she is like many others in our society. People lose control of their lives because of negative elements in their personality. As a result they become emotional and physical wrecks. Unfortunately an unstable emotional life does not only cause moral problems, but also physical problems. The young woman who came for counselling has really suffered from headaches and nervousness caused by tension. This resulted in a habit of taking drugs to cope with every day. In addition, she was consumed by the habit of smoking. What caused her condition and many others like her? The greatest cause of misery and needs in man is inner wounds. We find this phenomenon in all areas of life. Even believers, who are professing Christians, suffer from physical and emotional problems due to inner wounds.

THE COMPOSITION OF MAN

To understand these problems we should look at the composition of man. Man's existence as human being is a threefold person - spirit, soul and body. Scientists do not share this vision. They see humans only as a duality - the psychological and physical side.

The Bible views man as consisting of three parts - spirit, soul and body.

| Genesis 2: 7 - "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground (body), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit); and man became a living soul (soul)." Hebrews 4:12 - "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow" (body). 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 - "and may the God of peace sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body entirely be preserved blameless." | |
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| THE SPIRIT OF MAN | |
| Every man has a spiritual nature which is created in the image of God. This is the part of man that is in contact with God. When the first man in disobedience turned his back on God, he died spiritually (Gen. 3: 3). When I, in obedience to the Word, accept Christ as my Saviour (John 1:12, 13) my spirit becomes alive in God. (Eph. 2:1, 2, 4, 5, 6). I am a reborn man (John 3:3, 5) and am a new creature in Christ (II Cor. 5: 17); so my spirit is saved and restored and placed in the right relationship with God. | |
| THE SOUL OF MAN | |
| The aspect of the soul is another matter. The Greek for "soul" is "psyche". My soul is a psychological composition - my will, intellect and emotion - my thoughts, my feelings, my desires. This is the part in which we have our daily battles. The part of which Paul says, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:19). This is the part of which Galatians 5:17 says, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Your spirit is saved by regeneration, but your soul is in a process of salvation. Therefore James 1:21 says, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." | |
| THE SALVATION OF THE SOUL | |
| The word for salvation in the Greek is the verb [sòzò] which has a much wider meaning than "salvation". It means in fact "brought to safety", "fetched from danger," but it also means "to care", "heal", "protect". To accept Jesus Christ means to accept being a member of the Kingdom of God. Your spirit is saved as well as your soul, but it is an ongoing process of salvation. | |
| Your spirit is saved and immediately alive to God, while your soul is saved and becomes more alive as you submit yourself to be renewed by the Word of God. When I discovered this truth, a new light entered my life. I could never understand why I, as born again Christian, could sin by getting angry or struggle with many other weaknesses. I discovered that I am not perfect and the aspect that caused all my struggles and frustrations was my unrenewed soul. Now we understand what the scripture means by: "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." (2 Cor. 4:16) | |

| THE HEALING OF THE SOUL | |
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| The meaning of the word "salvation" must come to its fullness, namely "to heal"; "by caring" and "protection". The soul aspect must receive healing from all the pain and conflict of the past. This is where all the conflicts are experienced and it is also sensitive soil where all impressions are received. This is the area where wounds are inflicted, harm experienced and pleasant or unpleasant events or experiences are stored. When someone uses harsh words against us, we could quickly say, "Now you hurt me." We are not physically hurt, but the inner person is wounded. So many things happened in our past, that have hurt us and the memories of it are still stored in our subconscious. These inner wounds and memories affect our walk of life. | |
| YOUR EXPERIENCE FORMS YOU | |
| Every experience that you have had shapes your personality. We respond to others and situations from our previous experiences. A child who burned his hand on a hot stove will definitely not touch it again - his experience taught him it is hot and it hurts. The person will respond similarly in situations which remind him of experiences where he got hurt. His thoughts will warn him, "Beware, it hurts." As a child in adult company, I was often sent to my room. It affected me so much that even as an adult I am unsociable in foreign company. The same applies to humiliations and hurts. You will develop an anxiety that can affect your body. These are all things that make you unhappy and prevent you from experiencing true happiness and fulfilment in your life experience. | |
| THREAT FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS | |
| The mind of man can be compared to an iceberg. The top (the part you can see) is like the conscious mind that is aware of himself and the things around him. The part of the iceberg underneath the surface is like the subconscious mind of man. As the size of the iceberg under the water is seven times larger than the visible part, so is the unconscious much larger than the conscious part. | |
| The biggest problem of the soul is the things that have been forgotten or suppressed in | |

The biggest problem of the soul is the things that have been forgotten or suppressed in the subconscious. These things are a threat to your life because they influence your actions and experiences. In fact, your subconscious does not know the difference in time. An incident that affected you traumatically twenty years ago is experienced in the subconscious as if it happened the same day.

A certain neurologist, Dr. Penfield, performed experiments during a brain operation at a university in Montreal in 1951. He found that when certain areas of the brain were stimulated, the patient could recall an incident clearly as if it just happened. It is not surprising, because it is an acknowledged fact that our brains record everything that happens to us. What is most interesting is that the patients not only remembered the incidents, but experienced the accompanying emotions. Dr. Penfield said that the person again experiences the same emotion triggered in the initial event and he therefore is aware of the same feelings that he experienced during that time. It was not the actual incident, but a reproduction of what the patient had seen, heard, felt and understood.

A certain woman, who came to me for counselling, who suffered from various fears at that stage, was a nervous wreck. During the interview she told us how her drunken

husband killed their watchdog before her eyes. When we prayed for her for this area of her hurt, her experience was so real that she began to cry aloud and cried out, "Do not, do not kill him." At times, her husband forced her to drive his car as he was under the influence of alcohol. At that stage of her life she could not drive a car and was therefore under tremendous stress. In addition, her husband started shouting at her that she was going to kill them. These incidents left such deep wounds in her mind that she revealed untold fears and nervous conditions. She was also physically ill and addicted to nicotine. After praying for inner healing, she was completely cured of her negative symptoms.

Unknowingly man's whole behaviour and attitude is influenced by his subconscious mind. You act in a certain situation according to the feedback received from your subconscious mind. An incident from my own life confirms this truth. At one time we experienced financial problems and my wife had to work to keep food on the table. One evening she told me that she would start working the next day and that she had hired a reliable maid to take care of our children and the household. Suddenly I responded sharply on hearing this and a quarrel arose. A sense of powerlessness and frustration came over me. I immediately realized that my reaction was due to something that I had experienced in my past. Suddenly an incident from my childhood came clearly to my mind. When I was a child my mother also had to go to work and left me in the care of the servant; I remember how lonely and rejected I felt. I cried a lot and longed for my mother at that time. When I was confronted by a similar situation, my subconscious let me experience the same feeling I experienced as a child.

AREAS OF INJURY

All of us have experienced situations where we had been deeply wounded. Despite my theological training I thought that there were certain people whom I could not help; those who came to me and said, "I know that I am a child of God, but sometimes it feels as if God left me and I'm overwhelmed by a feeling of loneliness and sorrow." In our ministry experience we discovered that these people feel that way because of the inner wounds, past unpleasant memories and wrong attitudes that were never corrected. These wounds are often deeper and more painful than a physical wound. The wounds I'm referring to are caused by two things:

- Deep inner wounds due to rejection and deprived love.
- Atrocities experienced like brutality, violence, and assault or traumatic events.

You can continue your life in subjection to inner wounds. There are areas in your life which I believe are most sensitive; here are a few such sensitive areas:

1. PRENATAL INJURY

More and more facts are discovered through research of the unborn baby. Medical science tells us that an unborn child is sensitive to the mother's mood-negative and positive. Further research has proven that during the third month after conception, a foetus can respond to sound. The mother's voice can cause permanent impressions on the unborn child's mind. It is a well-known medical fact that babies are affected by alcohol and nicotine in the mother's bloodstream. In the same way impressions are transferred to the emotional areas of the unborn baby. One of the most prominent impressions conveyed this way is the feeling of rejection. It is either rejection the mother experiences or rejection of the child by the mother because of an unwanted or unplanned

| pregnancy. Such a child is born with a sense of rejection that will influence his whole life negatively. This is an injury in his life that causes him to suffer many complexities, fears, unpleasant experiences, sadness and loneliness, but also joy and pleasant things may in this way be transferred to the child. | |
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| INJURY IN CHILDHOOD | |
| There is a sensitive period directly after birth in which a special relationship is formed between mother and infant. In this area an expanding vacuum could develop where a feeling of rejection could arise in the baby's mind. A mother should have skin contact, eye contact and voice contact with her baby within the first 30 minutes after birth. | |
| A baby born with a birth-mark on the face was brought to the young mother. When she saw the baby she uttered a loud scream and did not want to hold the baby. The baby was immediately taken for surgery to remove the birthmark. Can you imagine what emotional impact it had on the new-born baby? Babies are taken away from their mothers for various reasons which could result in feelings of rejection. | |
| For example: If the baby is born by Caesarean section. If a transfusion is needed. If the baby is born too early and placed in an incubator. The most dramatic: when a mother died after the birth. If an illegitimate child is earmarked for adoption. | |
| If you are aware that you or your children had the above experiences, it will be advisable to receive prayer for inner healing. During the first six years of a child's life, he or she is most vulnerable to impressions. It is also called the formative years. The perceptions and experiences of the child during these years contribute greatly to the formation of the child's personality. If a person has experienced any traumatic events during this time like an accident, rejection, abuse, fear, or divorce of parents, it is possible that he/she is wounded and therefore inner healing is needed. | |
| INJURY AFTER YEARS OF MARRIAGE | |
| In our counselling experience, we discovered that to a woman, this is the most sensitive area. The experiences during this stage sometimes leave deep and lasting impressions in the woman's mind. The inner wounds of nine out of ten women, who come for healing, were inflicted in this area by a thoughtless and careless spouse. One woman was bitterly disappointed in her husband's actions in their married life. She told me, "I thought he was my knight on a white horse, but then I discovered he was a weakling on a donkey." Inner wounds in this area do not only affect relationships or marriage, but also affect women's personalities. | |
| INJURY BY WORDS | |
| It should be emphasized that this is the factor that causes most injuries. Many people walk around with inner wounds caused by careless and inconsiderate words. The Bible mentions this fact in Proverbs 12:18 - "There are those who speak like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise heals." | |

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| Examp | <u>les:</u> | |
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| • | Words snapped at you in childhood. You were possibly teased about your size, appearance, poverty or shortcomings. | |
| • | A woman had lost interest in her marriage and family and consequently neglected herself. Her husband was the cause: he had continually humiliated her by saying, "You dress like a slut and you are not fit to be | |
| • | called a housewife. I should never have married you." Remember you are a sensitive soul - words and impressions can heal | |
| • | or wound. Words can build or offend. Proverbs 15:4 - "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness | |
| • | therein is a breach in the spirit". Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and all who love it will eat its fruit". | |
| Spirit to | are countless things that can cause wounds in your life. Ask the Holy or bring your particular injury to the surface. Jesus is waiting for an unity to heal all your painful memories, fears and wounds. He wants to me way back to the root of evil, to heal your inner wounds completely. | |
| not hel emotion truth is | beginning I said that with all the theological training I received, I could be these people. The reason is that the believers were taught that all their hal problems are resolved when receiving salvation. This is not true. The that when we receive the gift of eternal life, only then we gain the ability with our problems. | |
| | you can receive help and healing for your inner wounds, there are three you will need to clarify in your mind: | |
| 1. | You must admit and accept the fact that the injury exists in your heart. Do not ignore it. The sooner you realize that this is the cause of your problems, the sooner you can get help. | |
| 2. | You should also take responsibility for your condition. Even if you are the one who is offended, rejected or deprived of privileges, you still have a choice how you will react to the situation. You could either forgive the person, or have a sense of bitterness towards him. It is important that we receive forgiveness from God for our incorrect attitudes before we can really deal with the problem. | |
| 3. | You must first ask yourself if you really want healing and deliverance. Jesus asked that question to a man who has been paralyzed for 38 years. You see it is possible that your problem became a crutch to arouse other people's sympathy. Some people thrive on the sympathy and attention of their fellow man and then use the injury as an excuse. Such people will not really receive help. Not until they acknowledge the fact that they really need help. | |
| | With these three things taken into consideration, you can now go to God and trust Him to heal your inner wounds. | |
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| INNER HEALING | |
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| It is not God's will for His children to be poor and needy and to live with inner wounds. Many people suffer from conditions that they themselves created by indifference to God's Word. The largest percentage, however, have problems and live with conditions caused by inner wounds. | |
| From the following texts in Scripture, namely Isaiah 57:14-16, Luke 4:18-19, Psalm 147:3, emerges the strong understanding that Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit to heal inner wounds. Everything that dismantles and destroys your life is not of God. (John 10:10). James 5:11: "You have heard of the patience of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is full of pity and of tender mercy." | |
| Problems, accidents, sickness and sadness come from Satan. Satan is the author of sickness, sorrows and difficulties. God is the author of life, goodness and abundance. | |
| In the area of inner wounds Jesus basically came to do two things in the life of man: He heals the mind of every injury of whatever nature. Then He fills every area of life where there was a feeling of emptiness with His love. | |
| Inner wounds are caused by misunderstanding, inconsideration and lack of love. Man's deepest desire in life is love and understanding, therefore God has put relationships in our lives: husband and wife; parent and child; minister and member; boyfriend and girlfriend. He put us in these relationships so that we can assist and supplement each other in love, but it does not work this way in society. Everyone lives for himself and his own interests; each person is trying to fight for his own place in the sun. In the process of seeking happiness and self-indulgence, we step on each other to reach our goals, even if it hurts another; and usually it is the one closest to you that gets hurt or hurts you. Someone said, "I'd rather be hard, because if one is soft, one always gets hurt." This comes from someone who faced selfish and unloving people. | |
| If any one lacked love as a baby or child, or at any other time in his life, it could influence his life in such a way that: • he does not give love, or • he does not trust other persons or even God. This is no reason for people not to lead a victorious and successful life. | |
| If you experience inner wounds in your life, Jesus Christ can heal every pain through the Holy Spirit. He knows everything about you. He knows your grief and your frustrations. He will set you free from any emotional wound and binding. Inner healing | |

REQUIREMENTS FOR INNER HEALING

1. <u>Jesus Christ must be placed in charge of your life</u>

This is done by accepting Him to as your personal Saviour. True peace and happiness come through the reception of eternal life. Romans 6:23 - The "gift" includes:

new life

brings inner peace in our minds.

- forgiveness of sins
- cleansing of sin and blessings of the Lord. (Acts 3:19).

| | The greatest blessing that salvation brings to your life is forgiveness of | |
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| | sins. When any living soul experiences the reality of forgiveness of sins, it already has a healing effect in his life. It is possible to also receive healing during the reception of salvation, but it does not happen | |
| | automatically. | |
| | Isaiah 53:5: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, pierced for our iniquities, He was bruised, the punishment for our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed." | |
| | A believer must again confess Jesus as Lord and Master in his life. | |
| 2. | Emotional ties to the past should be broken with a quality decision | · |
| | Make the decision with a determined mind to forget the past, especially the words and events that caused wounds. If it is not done without doubt, it can be a stumbling block in your future life. | |
| | Paul says in Philippians 3:13: "I forget the things behind and reach forward to what lies ahead." The things of the past can affect a person's life negatively if you do not put it behind you. If you realize that those things will no longer affect you, you will achieve positive things in future. You must believe that God has a wonderful purpose for your life. You will change the impossible into the possible and you will discover a new life. | |
| 3. | Forgive those who have injured you | |
| | This is very important for inner healing. It helps to remove all the bitterness and feelings of hatred you still harbour. Jesus wants us to reconcile with our fellow man, before we come to Him (Matthew 5:23, 24). | |
| | If we want to receive God's forgiveness and help, we must forgive the persons who have hurt us. (Matthew 6:14, 15). If possible, go to the person and tell him / her that you want to reconcile; alternatively write a letter to the person in which you assure him of your forgiveness. Remember, forgiveness is not a feeling but a decision. Forgive completely without any conditions. Do not think - "I will forgive him when " or "I will forgive but not forget ". | |
| | Then the person must be absolved from guilt by your decision of not keeping anything against him. (Luke 6:37). | |
| | Ask the Lord to put His love for this person in your heart. If you are sincere, He will do just that. | |
| 4. | Pray and ask God to heal those hurts and wounds | |
| | There are two facts that you should remember before you pray: God loves you unconditionally, and God is omnipresent. He is with you. Just like you accepted Christ by faith, you must believe that He is with you to heal those hurts and to remove the sting of the memory (Heb.11:6). Recollect the memory of that particular incident where you were deeply wounded; then see Jesus in your imagination when recalling that particular hurting incident. See how Jesus is with you in that situation and how he heals those hurts you experienced. | |
| | It is advisable to go through this process with a Christian counsellor. Inner | |
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| | healing will not happen automatically. Experience has taught us that many | |
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| | believers do not gain healing because they are unwilling to trust others. Sometimes inner healing is not obtained suddenly but progressively. | |
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| 5. | <u>Deliverance must be received when there are deep and persistent</u> <u>symptoms of hurt</u> | |
| | It may happen that the negative feelings you harbour towards someone can | |
| | result in bondage on your life. Uncontrolled emotions and feelings can be a breeding ground for demons. Here we think about King Saul who harboured a | |
| | raving anger against David. It later developed in such a way that an evil spirit possessed him (1 Samuel 18:9-11). When any feelings or uncontrolled | |
| | behaviour are abnormal, it is a sign of a possible bondage in your life. Immediately consult a Christian counsellor for help in this regard. | |
| If y | ou sincerely follow these steps, you will be released to walk in glorious freedom. | |
| | THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS | |
| Never i | n history have we experienced a time where there were so many broken | |
| | ships between people. There is discord between one church and another; and one person and another. We find this phenomenon particularly prominent | |
| among | family members, spouses and church members. These are the tactics of Satan | |
| | division in the church and society. He knows if he can break relationships people, he has already won. We discovered that people who live in dissent | |
| | ken relationships, do not receive physical healing and they cannot be released | |
| The rea | ason for this is that they cannot or will not forgive; this is to their detriment. | |
| Forgive | ness is crucial if you want to receive inner healing. As already mentioned in a s chapter, you have to forgive those who injured your heart. | |
| | THE PRINCIPLE OF FORGIVENESS | |
| In Matt | hew 18 Jesus teaches us about the principle of forgiveness. At Peter's question, | |
| | ften shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?", answered, "No, seventy times seven." Jesus wanted to teach us that there is a | |
| principle | e or law of forgiveness that should be maintained as a lifestyle. Then He tells a | |
| • | to teach the principle as well as the consequences for those who do not not. A certain lord had his servant, who could not pay his debt. When he pleaded | |
| with his | master he was forgiven and released. This servant however, had a fellow | |
| | who owned him much less and demanded immediate payment. When this pleaded with him he refused to forgive him and cast the man into prison. When | |
| the ma | ster heard this, he was angry and delivered his servant in the hands of | |
| | ors; till he repaid everything he had owned his lord. Listen to the spiritual ion of this parable: "So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also to you, unless | |
| | ne of you from your hearts forgive his brother their trespasses." (Matthew 18:35). | |
| | ill our Heavenly Father do with people who refuse to forgive? Just what the lord servant did: | |
| • | He withdrew his forgiveness, so that he once again was guilty. | |
| • | He delivered him in the hands of tormentors until his debt was repaid. | |

| someon prevents suffering | we repeatedly seen this truth and principle working in people's lives. When the is unforgiving toward people who wronged or injured him in any way, it is physical and emotional healing of this person. In some cases a person go from bondage cannot be saved. Scripture teaches us that if we forgive that we break the bondage and consequently set him free. | |
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| Heaven John 20 sins you Therefo acquittir Luke 6:3 Exonera | | |
| sets you | on, God has set you free by forgiving your sins. And if you receive forgiveness it u free to love God, to restore your fellowship with Him and to attain His highest of for your life. | |
| | TWO WAYS TO FORGIVE | |
| He com | me two ways or methods to forgive. Jesus clearly commanded us to forgive as manded us to love. This instruction must be obeyed regardless of how we feel. ngs us to the first method of forgiveness: | |
| 1. | Forgiveness by a decision of your will | |
| | You forgive because God said so, because if you do not, you will block your fellowship with Him. You cannot have anything against a person while at the same time walk in the love of God. 1 John 1:7 "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with oneanother." | |
| | Perhaps you may want to ask God to make you willing to forgive. | |
| | The second way of forgiveness is more than an intellectual decision, more than forgiveness obtained by your will. It is forgiveness on a deeper level. It reaches deeper into your emotions and your subconscious level. | |
| 2. | It is forgiveness from within an inner healed soul | |
| | This way of forgiveness is important if you want to be a truly happy and effective believer. The fruit of a soul-healing prayer is granted when you receive the ability to forgive completely and permanently. To forgive someone does not mean that you accept his influence or morality, or to become his best friend. If the other person is not in the right relation with God, it is not expected of you to bring him into your home to allow him to influence you and your family badly. You will know when someone forgave sincerely, when you treat him the same way as your best friend and not try to avoid him. The "bitter test" for forgiveness comes when you pray for him with love (Luke 6:27, 28). | |

| As we r | eview forgiving others, we must also look at our own need for forgiveness: | |
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| 1. | We must receive forgiveness of our original sin. All your problems come from one source namely broken relationship and communion with God. (Romans 3:23). Jesus came to restore this broken relationship. Thus, forgiveness of original sin is through confession and repentance. This means asking God for | |
| | forgiveness and to accept Jesus as your Saviour. | |
| 2. | The second way to receive forgiveness is by receiving cleansing of our daily sins in body and soul. We are injured by others who have hurt us, but what | |
| | about the people who are hurt by our words and actions? It is important to ask forgiveness for your own sinful behaviour and attitude. If you have offended | |
| | someone you have to ask his forgiveness. Do not procrastinate - the longer you wait the harder it becomes. (Matthew 5:23, 24). Remember that your forgiveness does not depend on the restitution. | |
| | If you freely repent, God will forgive you. There is a special blessing and | |
| | healing effect on us when we confess our sins to one another (James 5:16). There are situations where someone may get hurt deeply as we confess certain | |
| | crimes against them. Confession of sin against another person must be done with great wisdom and tact. Remember that you are not supposed to act on | |
| | their behalf to confess to their sins. If other people are involved in your misdeed | |
| | they themselves must obtain forgiveness. You may not reveal their names or sins. To confess your sin or crime to a reliable witness can be an uplifting and | |
| | liberating experience. It should preferably be a pastor or a trusted Christian | |
| | counsellor who in turn, can ensure you of God's forgiveness. He does not forgive your sins, but he gives a voice to the scripture that justifies God's | |
| | promise of forgiveness. | |
| | HOW TO HANDLE INNER WOUNDS | |
| It is onl | y God who can reach deep into our hearts to heal that wound and set us truly | |
| | also knows how sensitive we are and that being human, man often can be hurt nd again. God heals the inner wounds of the past, but we must deal with the | |
| • | ounds ourselves | |
| | ne Lord heals the hurt other people and situations have caused us. Some | |
| | must unfortunately be brought back to those situations and people where they ore become an open target to be hurt all over. | |
| | re certain principles that God's Word teaches us whereby we can be protected any injury. | |
| 1. | FORGET THE PAST | |
| 1. | | |
| | Decide to put inner wounds in the past by forgetting it. Paul knows the pain of inner wounds; co-workers put him in the lurch and false brethren had wounded him. How did he handle inner wounds? | |
| | In Philippians 3:13 he gives us the answer: " I forget the things behind and reach forward to what lies ahead" | |
| | He did not spend time licking his wounds, or to meditate on the past. He decided to forget. Do not let the memories of yesterday affect your future. | |
| | Guard against this tendency to remember the past, it may cause bitterness in your heart (Hebrews 12:15). | |

TWO WAYS TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

| | H VOL | INISECTION NO ONE CAN DUD VOU. YOU CAN AllOW VOURSEIL IO DE WOUDDER DV | |
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| | plant | ng the seed of false actions. The healing power of Jesus mended all ds, but we must not let the things of the past affect us again. | |
| 2. | WAL | K BY FAITH | |
| | walk one. any verthey verthis to Luke shall | at we receive from the hand of God are obtained by faith. We must daily by faith. Faith is the shield which quenches the flaming arrows of the evil (Ephesians 6:16). Every word, action or situation that could injure us in vay should be treated by faith. In Luke 21 Jesus warned his disciples that would be persecuted by parents, brothers and be betrayed by cousins and be hated. Hereafter His insurance is so encouraging that we can apply of our own injured situation. He gave us this wonderful assurance of faith: 21:15: "I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries not be able to gainsay nor resist." Verse 18: " not a hair of your head will in." Verse 19: "By your patience you will gain your souls." | |
| | can h to de you s you s | eed to make these words and promises our own. By walking in faith, we andle any harmful situation. Another precious promise that God gives us all with injuries is written in Isa 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against hall be blessed; and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment, hall condemn. This is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord, and their ousness is from Me, says the Lord." | |
| | | our faith is used in this way it becomes a shield with which we protectlves against any injury. | |
| 3. | REN | EW YOUR THINKING | |
| | continue demonstrate demonstra | may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: may have been getting along for years with a conviction formed by allowing facts: | |
| | 1. | Dead people have no feeling | |
| | | Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Consider yourself dead to criticism and injury. A young man asked his pastor what it means to "no longer live." The minister told him to go to a certain John Brown's grave at once. There he had to address John Brown and tell him how good his life was and to praise and exalt him. On his return, the minister said, "What did John Brown say"? The answer was, "He said nothing, because he is dead." Then the minister sent him back to the dead man to tell him how bad he was and how useless his life was. The young man did as he was commanded, and on his return he was again asked, "What the dead say?" Again the answer came, "He said nothing, he is dead." The minister then said to him, "It means to be crucified with Christ and to live no longer." Yes, dear reader, we have died to applause, criticism and wounds. | |
| | | Words and situations cannot influence you any longer. | |

| Nehemiah 8:10: "Be not grieved, for the joy of the Lord - that is your strength." The devil and the world cannot deal with a joyful Christian. How do you treat or injure someone who is always glad and joyful? The Bible tells us that when people revile and persecute us and speak falsely all kinds of evil against us, we should rejoice and be glad, because great is our reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11, 12). We could avoid much heartache and hurt if we lived by this text. We must learn to rejoice when someone attempts to hurt us. Paul encourages us to do so: Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." There's something about being cheerful. It changes your whole mood and outlook on life circumstances. Proverbs 15:15: "All the days of the afflicted are evil, but a merry heart hath a continual feast." 3. Walk in love There is armour against injury in the Christian's lifestyle that is very effective. This principle in God's Word is walking in love towards our neighbour. Colossians 3:13, 14: "forbearing one another and forgiving yourselves, if anyone has a complaint against any. As Christ forgave |
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| you, so also you do. And above all these things put on love, which is |
| the bond of perfectness". |
| Jesus wants to teach us how to handle inner wounds. He is well |
| acquainted with it because He himself experienced every possible rejection, humiliation and trauma (Isaiah 53:3, Hebrews 4:15-16). How |
| did Jesus handle hurt and rejection? On the cross He cried, "Father, |
| forgive them for they know not what they do." Forgiveness is also a shield against injury when used in love. The moment you are hurt by |
| someone by word or deed, it is important to forgive that person and to |
| acquit him by speaking aloud. This will prevent any hard feelings or bitterness in your heart taking root and will also protect you against |
| injury. Sometimes you do not need to say it out loud, but it is important |
| to say it with a decision of your will. |
| If you apply these four principles in your life every time you are in a wounding situation, it will help you to successfully deal with the matter. |
| The next time you get hurt, withdraw or get angry, you must ask |
| yourself: "Why do I react this way? Establish the cause of your behaviour and apply these four principles to the situation. |
| If you are aware that in certain circumstances you will be exposed to |
| injury you should avoid such situations. Proverbs 22:5: "Thorns and |
| snares are in the path of evil, he who would keep his soul shall be far from it." |
| Handle inner wounds and walk in freedom! |
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