

Chapter 19

The Big Picture

Final Comments

God has a plan for our lives. Scripture tells us that He wants to change us into His image, and the transformation is actually accomplished by the power of God. For instance:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:28-29).

And yet, we need to participate in this process. He doesn't just move in and change us, despite us. The problem is that we can't participate if we don't understand the provision He has made for this to happen through Jesus Christ. This book is intended to coach you so that you can cooperate with this process.

A Biblical Foundation Is Essential

Understanding how this process works is the first step, but perhaps you have encountered some concepts and scriptural realities that are new to you. In fact, some of what I have written herein may challenge long held beliefs about how you have been trying to live your Christian life.

In any areas that this is true, I encourage you to do your own study in the Bible to see if what I have said is true (2 Timothy 2:15).

There are some issues in the Bible that are not crystal clear, such as women wearing hats in church (1 Corinthians 11:5). Since these issues are not clear, we need to not be dogmatic about our position. They are "negotiable" because there is room in the Bible for diverse opinions that can be supported by some verses.

However, there are other truths revealed in the Bible that are clear and emphatic, and are thus "non-negotiable." I believe that the principles that I have taught in this book are clear in scripture; and wherever I think scriptural evidence would be important for the reader, I present it. That is the reason why I have included such extensive Endnotes where you can research further any difficult concepts

Some topics about which I have written, such as the presence of sin and the importance of forgiving, are probably familiar to you; but perhaps I have shed additional light on them. However, the following topics may be the ones you have found to be new. And yet some of these challenging concepts are real keys to your healing, and to you becoming all that the Lord wants you to be. The most crucial of these are the following:

- **Inner Healing**
- **Relationship With Yourself**
- **Loving Yourself**
- **Your Emotions: A Powerful Tool**
- **Keep At It**
- **It Is A New Way Of Life**

Inner Healing

Inner Healing is about healing the wounds that bind you and cause you so much emotional pain. Often these originate in childhood when you reacted to pain by judging and blaming. There is a way to remove the darkness planted in you by your Bitter Root Judgments, and to stop the reaping from the operation of God's laws. Jesus came and died to provide you with the way out of this darkness and bondage. When you forgive another, God and yourself, and are forgiven of your sin, Jesus cleanses that area of your heart, abides there, and takes upon Himself the just consequences of that sin. He actively has you on a journey to heal all of your Bitter Root Judgments.

Relationship With Yourself

Typically, Inner Healing has been focused upon bitterness towards other people. However, if your journey only goes this far, as it often does, you will remain crippled. The job is only half done. I have seen many people who only pursue their healing up to this point. They don't know that there is more. They find themselves still in bondage, and are anything but victorious in their lives.

These people have become stalled because there are still some powerful Bitter Root Judgments remaining. These judgments are against themselves and are the cause of the Big Hurt. These judgments against themselves are in fact the most disabling judgments, because they have resulted in a barrier that prevents them from being whole. These judgments have caused them to bury the treasure that God placed in them for their use, and they cannot be victorious in their quest to be like Jesus without living in communion with this treasure.

We have all buried our treasure to some degree. This process began from the very beginning of our lives. Your Treasure Inside is made in God's image; and through this faculty the Lord can speak to you and accurately direct your life. Often we have been taught not to trust anything inside us, and that we are rotten to the core.

The world around us told us that we were unacceptable just the way we were, and we believed this lie. We thus came to see that who we really are, our Treasure Inside, is bad. Therefore we needed to hide this part of us from view and to build a more acceptable "self" to present to the world.

But God never intended for us to be cut off from our Treasure Inside. We therefore need to be healed of these judgments against ourselves, so that we can be reconciled to that part of us that is made in the image of God.

Loving Yourself

The next part of your journey involves a step beyond no longer being alienated from yourself. No longer being your own enemy isn't enough. Your changed attitude towards yourself needs to be more radical than this. The change needs to be so complete that you positively love yourself and embrace who you really are. You are to see yourself as God sees you.

Therefore, being changed into the image of Jesus can only be done if you actively look for this treasure buried inside you. It is an exciting treasure hunt! God will lead you in this hunt to uncover your "birthright gifts." God placed in each of us a unique person with certain gifts and talents and abilities. This is the part of you that was created in the image of God. Only if you are unified with this part of yourself will you be able to become like Jesus. Only when you are living out of these gifts can you produce good fruit, feel joy, and fulfill your Divine design.

Eric Liddell was the 1924 Olympics gold medal winner in the 400 meter run. He was a Christian, and his sister was criticizing him for spending time preparing for the Olympics. In response he said: "I believe that God made me for a purpose: He made me fast; and when I run, I feel His pleasure. To give it up would be to hold Him in contempt. It is not just for fun. To run is to honor Him." ¹

Your Emotions: A Powerful Tool

Your emotions are your friend. In fact, they are a communication system that the Lord can (and wants to) use to direct your healing path.

Our transformation would be far too complicated if it was up to us to figure out the strategy, and what it is that we need to pray about next.

Fortunately, the Lord has given us a simple, moment by moment way to hear what is next: our emotions. Yes, our emotions are meant to be a guide to what is going on inside

us. We need a window into our inner man so that we can see what is going on.

Unfortunately, the typical wisdom in the church is that you shouldn't listen to your emotions. This view says that if you just get your faith lined up right, your emotions will follow; so most Christians have tried very hard not to listen to their emotions.

Listening to every negative emotion is your most practical tool for guidance in your healing.

¹ From the movie "Chariots of Fire," 1981, Enigma Productions.

Unfortunately, this then has shut them off from a very powerful communication system from the Lord.

In your daily walk of healing, diligently listening to your emotions and studiously trying to understand what they are telling you is the most practical and powerful thing you can do. Both your positive and negative emotions are directional; but your negative emotions are especially useful in your healing walk: they help you pinpoint your bitter roots.

If you will commit yourself to the exercise of listening to every negative emotion on pages 186-188, the Lord will be able to guide you on your unique walk of transformation. He is speaking, you just need to listen.

Keep At It

God's way works, and it is the easy yoke and light burden.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

However, even though it is an easy yoke, there is still work to do. For instance, imagine that you have a five acre lawn to take care of. In the past you have had to mow it by hand. That would be a heavy burden, and you probably couldn't do it. Then somebody gives you a rider mower. Now mowing the lawn is easy, but you still need to do it. You still need to set time aside for it, get on the mower, and operate it. The lawn won't get mowed if you take no action.

Since your "lawn" has been neglected for years, the first cleanup will be quite a project. Then, if you mow it whenever you can see that it needs it, the job is easy.

On the other hand, if you think one "mowing" is all that is required, you will be disappointed. The grass and weeds will again grow. If you neglect to observe this and don't mow whenever the lawn needs it, your lawn will again become a shambles. This is inevitable.

Our life is like that. After the Lord has helped us clean up our years of accumulated bitter roots, if we go back to our old way by

trying to do it ourselves in our own strength, or neglecting to pay attention to our negative feelings that can point to our bitter roots, our "Honeycomb" will again become a mess. New bitter roots will be planted, because that is the very nature of our "God-wannabe." We will again be reaping the same pain and misery as we had struggled with before. God told us about this.

But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:22).

The problem then won't be that your healing didn't work. Your difficulty will be a result of failing to walk daily with the Lord by forgiving and being forgiven. The way that Jesus provided for us only works if you act on it.

It Is A New Way Of Life

Your sanctification process therefore does not simply consist of a gigantic healing from the Lord, and then a return to your old ways. It is a whole new way of living, moment by moment, day by day. Persistence is required.

"So I say to you, Ask and keep on asking, and it shall be given you; see, and keep on seeking, and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking, and the door shall be opened to you" (Luke 11:9, Amplified).

Does this sound like a lot of work? It would be if we were alone and had to do it in our own strength. There is a hard way (living in our own strength) or an easy way (letting the Lord do it); but doing nothing is not an option. We are stuck in this world, which is a place of spiritual warfare. We can't escape from the battle zone. If we had to fight the battle alone, we would lose. Perhaps you are aware that you have been losing. Knowing our inability, the Lord came and made it possible for us to win. It is His strength and ability that will win, and He has the power and ability to protect us.

For I know who I have believed and am convinced that He is able to guard safely my deposit, entrusted to Him against that Day (2 Timothy 1:12, Berkeley).

But whenever we realize we have sinned and are therefore going to suffer, we need to repent, forgive, and be forgiven. We need to do our part. We need to get on the "rider mower."

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

A Leap Of Faith

To begin with it is difficult to let go of trying hard to act properly. Our human tendency is to try to make ourselves behave differently with our willpower, and our whole culture tells us this is how it has to be done. It takes a lot of trust to give that up and instead to trust God to change us inside as we pray. What a huge leap of faith! But His way works, and our old way doesn't. You probably know that.

When you live life this new way, you are living as God always intended. Then God is pleased and you are blessed. Who could want more?

What God Wants For You

But whenever a person turns (in repentance) to the Lord the veil is stripped off and taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty—emancipation from bondage, freedom. And all of us, as with unveiled face, (because we) continued to behold, (in the Word of God) as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; (for this comes) from the Lord (Who is) the Spirit (2 Corinthians 16-18, Amplified).

God wants you to be transformed into His image. That is His best for you. If you would like His best to occur in your life, then change your way of living into conformity with His ways.

Rewards

Not only did God provide a way for us to clean up our messes, He also made the experience rewarding. When we apply the blood of Jesus, we experience peace and liberty. The Holy Spirit then resides in that place in our heart, having washed us clean from our sin. Consequently, in this life, in place of bitterness and suffering, we then receive a rewarding experience:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Isn't this what we all want? Read the Appendix A, "Experiences And Testimonies" as an encouragement that the Lord is our healer, and He rewards us with peace when He sets us free.

The Book In Action

I would suggest that you use this book as an outline or workbook for your walk towards healing. The simple format of the book lends itself to an orderly, step-by-step development of understanding of how God wants to transform you. It then provides a practical guide as to how to pray about specific issues in your life.

While it can be a track for an individual to follow for their own healing, it is even more powerful when used in a group such as a church home group, a Bible study group, a counseling group, or just a group of your friends.

In addition, the layout of the book is the format for my seminars, with small group prayer time occurring after each teaching. The teaching places the concepts in the intellect, and often triggers memories and hurts. If the seminar ended with the teaching, no healing would result. (In the same way, your healing will not occur if you simply read the book but don't pray about your issues). Prayer must occur for the blood of Jesus to be effectual. The small group prayer time provides the opportunity for people to pray for one another.

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:15).

As a result of prayer in a group, not only does healing then occur, but faith takes hold. The person praying knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus provides healing, because He just did! All the other members of the group are also blessed and built up, because they have witnessed the transformation. You can do this same thing in your own small group!

Additional Resources

On our website, www.divinelydesigned.com, in addition to this book we have other resources that will help you in your walk with the Lord.

Free information - come and browse.

- Many chapters of the book that you can read online
- Chapters of the book in audio for you to listen to
- Articles and other resources of interest
- **Information on seminars** - I am available to travel to do live seminars.
- **Arrangements for personal counseling** with Ed or Kay Kurath

Products for sale

- This book in print
- **CD's** of many of the book chapters
- **DVD's** of many of the book chapters

Significance Of The Book Cover Design

When we are in harmony with ourselves, and we then live from the inside-out, then we have rest. Our yoke is easy and our burden is light, because the gifts that flow from the image of God dwelling in us explode out into the world. We are just "being" who we are inside.

As I am sure you have observed, if we are worried or upset, we don't have to tell people. They can tell at a glance. If we are contented or happy, we don't have to tell people. It is obvious from our countenance. We don't "try" to look worried or upset, or contented, or happy. We just are. It is effortless. What is projected forth from us is an effortless, accurate reflection of what is going on inside us at that moment.

Similarly, God wants us to be set free so we can let His life in us burst forth and pour out His light, life, and energy. **The book cover design symbolizes this explosion.**

To "rest" and yet shine forth seems like a paradox. However, it is only a paradox if we think we have to work hard to make it happen. If we are able to let Him shine through us, it is an "easy yoke."

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).² The underlining is mine.

² Commenting on the meaning of "let", "The disciples of Jesus are to allow the light which they received from the heavenly Father through Jesus to shine in the world in order that they may glorify God" (Rienecker, p.12). We are to allow it, not make it happen.