

The Wonderful Concept of Wholeness

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)

Since the beginning of time there has existed an undeniable conflict between good and evil. God's established order both involves His immutable sovereignty and the free will of man. In the Garden of Eden man was given the choice to obey God or to follow his own inner dictates; dictates which were subject to the influence of Satan. It was God's expressed will that man should not sin. When Adam did sin the conflict of good versus evil became an inherited part of every person. Jesus alone, by being born of a virgin, escaped the automatic curse of sinfulness. God in His mercy provided a way of escape from the power and penalty of sin through a faith response to blood sacrifices. God revealed His sacrificial plan of redemption through the prophets of old. **The final and perfect sacrifice was the predetermined death on the cross of His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, validated by His resurrection from the grave.**

According to I Thess. 5:23 God's plan is that man become wholly sanctified (separated from evil) in body, soul and spirit. In the prophetic revelation of Isaiah 53:5 it was predicted that Jesus' sacrificial death would provide *healing* for mankind. This Hebrew word translated *healed* (Raphah) means to be whole. Jesus' death provides for the possibility of wholeness to every person: spiritually (*justification*-at the point of salvation), in our souls (*sanctification*-the ongoing process that begins at salvation) and physically (*glorification*-perfection not fully realized until the end of the age). Jesus' command to His followers in Luke 9 and 10 was to preach the gospel (for spiritual restoration), to heal (for physical restoration) and to deliver (for restoration of the soul). His great commission to the church was to go into all the world and continue this proclamation and ministry.

According to John 10 Jesus came that every person might have LIFE, but that Satan's plan was to kill, steal and destroy. As it has been from the beginning, man has a choice (Deut. 30:15, 19). The purpose of this brief teaching is to present to you a biblical process through which you might begin to walk in the wholeness that God has provided. God wants you to be whole in every way! When inner spiritual issues are resolved there is a corresponding effect in our bodies. Not all sickness is because of sin, but sin is an open door to the enemy. There is no way to give an exhaustive overview of this subject in this hand-out. However, many scriptural references are given. Check them out. Other materials and teachings are available through Master Your Disaster. You are urged to prayerfully consider this scriptural information. We pray you will believe and obey God's Word.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry He made a proclamation of His purpose and intent (Luke 4:18-19, see page 1). Obviously, this must be understood in the fuller context of the spiritual realm. In this proclamation (based on Isaiah 61) He says He came to proclaim the "acceptable year of the Lord" understood by the Jewish hearers to be the Year of Jubilee described in Leviticus 25. During this fiftieth year celebration all slaves were set free, all debts cancelled and all land sold to another (to satisfy a debt) could be reclaimed by the original owner. In a spiritual context, that is what the church, and each person, should pursue. This is the divine intention of God for each person, restored wholeness.

Satan, by God's established law, can only do his evil and destructive work in a person's life through a granted legal right. It is the hope of this ministry that you will discover and remove this right from him and walk in the wholeness of real LIFE through Jesus Christ. Jesus openly defeated Satan through His death and resurrection. God will not pour His blessing on top of the cursing in your life. Remove the spiritual roots and watch what God will do!

TEN BIBLICAL STEPS TO WHOLENESS

Step 1 - RECOGNITION

Before a person can deal with the spiritual issues of their life they must first understand their creation in the image of God. Each person has a spirit (capacity to know God—intrinsically related to our souls), a body (capacity to relate to the world around us) and a soul (who we are—mind, will and emotions). Because we are all born under sin (Rom. 5:12) and Adam's sin brought spiritual death, every person is born with a dead spirit that must be born again through Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Satan has a right to areas of our life through the open doors of **sin** (I John 5:18), the **occult** (Eph. 4:27) and **generational curses** (Pro. 26:2 and Ex. 20:5-6). Sin, sickness and dysfunction are the devil's calling cards. While we do live in a fallen, cursed world and there are diseases common to man, each person should seek to understand any way they are allowing these things in their life through granting the Devil an opportunity. He is likened to a roaring lion seeking people to devour (I Pet. 5:8). All disease and dysfunction is related to a person's separation on three levels: from **God**, His Word and His love, from **others** through bitterness, unforgiveness and fear and from **themselves**. That is where we begin.

Step 2 - RESPONSIBILITY

Each person must accept responsibility for their lives. No one can determine the course and freedom of your life, but you. It is the land of YOUR heart on which the enemy operates. You determine what happens to you. God has given you a free will to choose life and not death (Deut. 30:19).

Step 3 - REPENTANCE

Steps 3 and 4 go hand in hand. There must be repentance over your sin towards God and other people. You must change your mind about the direction of your life and the ways Satan has gained an opportunity over you through your disobedience and that of your ancestors (Neh. 9:2-3). Only through repentance can you have refreshing (Acts 3:19) and deliverance (2 Pet. 3:9) and salvation.

Step 4- RECONCILIATION

If we do not deal with our broken relationships we limit what God can do in our lives spiritually, emotionally and physically. He will not over-rule our disobedience. In fact, our failure to forgive opens the door for what Jesus called in Matthew 18:34-35 the "tormentors." The choice is yours to forgive and release those who have offended you and to attempt to reconcile with those you have offended. Choose to forgive NOW! If you are not a Christian, begin with salvation. Please see a simple prayer of faith at the end of this teaching.

Step 5- RENOUNCING

The enemy has set up strongholds in our lives on the land of our hearts through the open doors of our sins, our inherited tendencies (generational curses) and through participation in the occult. You must verbally and willfully reclaim this spiritual land. Because of Jesus' proclamation in Luke 4:19 you can do this! At this point you must recognize the spiritual entities in your life that are operating in opposition to God's Word. In I John 3:8 we have the wonderful promise of victory over the forces of evil that are effecting us. Not every problem can be blamed on the enemy, but prudent consideration of scripture reveals this reality. Take authority!

Step 6- RECITATION

As you specifically and verbally renounce the enemy's right to your life, as an act of your will, you must at the same time pronounce God's Word. It is our weapon (Eph. 6:17; Luke 4:1-13) against the spiritual forces that attack us and that have already gained an advantage over us. Recitation of scripture should be as specific as possible in relation to our arena of attack. If our area of failure is our inability to forgive, for instance, we should recite Ephesians 4:32. If our area of attack is our self esteem we should quote verses that describe our spiritual standing in God's eyes such as 2 Cor. 5:17. The Names of God are listed at the end of this teaching. Everything you need--God is. He loves you. Prayerfully accept God's attributes into your life. *Although not dealt with in this teaching, many families of diseases tend to have certain common spiritual roots. The most common being fear, unforgiveness and bitterness. Additional information is available.*

Step 7- RESISTING

In this step the person must purpose to continue to walk in submission to God and continue to refuse the enemy's deception and influence (James 4:7-10). The enemy's power is broken through faith and obedience. But, **Wholeness is not an event, it is a process!** You do not have to sin or to believe a lie. Walk in the power of God's might by choice. Give no room to the Devil. Remember, you have walked in a certain pattern in your life. Even if the power of the enemy is broken, there is still a tendency to walk in that pattern.

Step 8- RECEIVING

It is very important to receive into your life the good things of God in place of the wrong things that have been displaced. If you breath out, but not in, you will suffocate. We are warned of this reality in Matthew 12:43-45. You should seek to receive now (and daily), by faith, the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), the Word of God (James 1:21) and the love of God (I John 4:16). Many times it is helpful to allow mature believers to pray for you and agree with you in this pursuit.

Step 9- RELATIONSHIPS

Not only is it appropriate to have others pray with you and for you, each person should have an accountability partner as they continue their walk towards wholeness. Part of the secret to the healing of James 5:14-15 is the confession and prayer of verse 16. Men are encouraged to have a man as a partner and a woman with a woman. It is impossible to fully walk in wholeness without being rightly related to a local church group that will encourage, teach and help you.

Step 10- REJOICING

Another secret to walking in wholeness is to maintain a daily walk with God expressed in prayer and praise. You must seek God first (Matt. 6:33) and delight in Him (Psalm 37:4). The addition of music that uplifts the soul is valuable. The company you keep should be, if at all possible, those who help lift up the Lord's Name in your life and encourage you to rejoice in the Lord.

The Names of God

JEHOVAH-JIREH

"The Lord our provider" - This is also the name Abraham gave to the place where the Lord provided a sacrifice in place of Isaac.

(Gen. 22:14).

JEHOVAH-NISSI

"Our banner, a banner of love and protection" - Also the name Moses gave to the altar he built after defeating the Amalekites

(Ex. 17:15).

JEHOVAH-SHALOM

"Our perfect peace" - Also the name Gideon gave to the altar he built at Ophrah.

(Judges 6:24)

JEHOVAH-TSID-KENU

"The Lord is our righteousness" - The name is applied to a future Davidic king who would lead his people to do what is right and thus bring peace (Jeremiah 23:6) and to the restored city of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 33:16). The name is possibly a play on the name of Zedekiah ("Righteous [is] the Lord") who reigned from 597 to 587 B.C..

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH

"The One Who is with us everywhere for He is Omnipresent" - The Jerusalem of Ezekiel's vision (see Ezekiel 48:35 margin) was known by this name. Compare text at Isaiah 60:19-20 and Revelation 21:3.

JEHOVAH-SABAOTH

"The Lord of Hosts, our Protector." C.H. Spurgeon said this about the phrase "The Lord of Hosts:

The Lord rules the angels, the stars, the elements, and all the hosts of Heaven; and the Heaven of heavens is under His sway... [the Lord] is on our side -- our august Ally; woe unto those who fight against Him, for they shall flee like smoke before the wind when He gives the word to scatter them." See text at Psalm 46:7.

JEHOVAH-RAAH

"Our Shepherd Who tenderly leads us, loves us and will keep us safe." - the famous Psalm 23 tells us that "The Lord is our Shepherd and we shall not want...." Being illustrated as a shepherd implies a relationship with His sheep (His believers). The term shepherd appears approximately 80 times in the Scriptures, denoting meanings of: feeder, keeper, companion, friend, pastor and herdsman.

JEHOVAH RAPHA

"I am the Lord Your Physician or I am the Lord Your Healer - this name especially was a Name God prophetically spoke about Himself, not one that someone gave Him.

Exodus 15:26.

Do You Know...

- GOD LOVES YOU
- SIN SEPARATES PEOPLE FROM GOD
- JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS
- YOU CAN RECEIVE JESUS NOW AND KNOW GOD'S LOVE

" If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Pray this prayer out loud:

Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name I repent of my sins and open my heart to let Jesus come inside of me. Please forgive me. Jesus, You are Lord and Savior. I believe you died for my sins and you were raised from the dead. Fill me with yourself. Thank You Father for saving me in Jesus' name. Amen.