

Who Am I? Why Am I Here? : Spurring You On To Maturity

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Some of the prayers are taken from
Dr. Mark Virkler's writings on
Prayers that Heal the Heart

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Questions People Ask about Life

- The questions people ask about life are basically spiritual questions:
 - Who am I any way?
 - Why am I here?
 - Why is my life so difficult?

God's Major Purpose for Us

- God's first and foremost purpose for us is that we become mature sons of God while still in the flesh in this life.
- God's foremost purpose for you is that you become like Him, conformed to His image and likeness.
- In the midst of all the work we do for the Lord here, the prime purpose is not in what we do for Him, but it is in what we are becoming.
- To become like Him is our destiny here on planet earth. Romans 8:29 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

We Must Enter The Kingdom as Children

- Jesus said
 - And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18: 3
- Brian McLaren, our contemporary, suggests in "*The Secret Message of Jesus*" that the words "born again" in Jesus discussion with Nicodemus means not what we might generally think, but rather mean this
 - "No, Jesus was saying, "Nicodemus, you're a Pharisee. You're a respected teacher yourself. But if you are coming to me hoping to experience the extraordinary life to the full I've been teaching about, you are going to have to go back to the very beginning. You're going to have to become like a baby all over again to unlearn everything you are already so sure of, so you can be re-taught."

Isn't the Kingdom Really "Heaven"?

- Well, what did Jesus say?
 - Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."
Luke 17:20 -21
 - But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matthew 12:28
 - He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables. Mark 4:11

Isn't the Kingdom Really "Heaven"?

- Well, what did Jesus say?
 - Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' Luke 10:9
 - Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5
 - I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:17
- Paul said:
 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Corinthians 4:20

The Problem: Remaining a Child.

- When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. 1 Cor. 11:13
- We need to learn God's language, God's perspective, God's ways – and they are not mans ways. We need to seek His Kingdom.
 - "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin . . . For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6: 28 - 33

About Righteousness

- Babies are given milk. – The church has been on milk.
- Heb 5:8 Although he [Jesus] was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered Heb 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him
- Heb 5:10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Heb 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.
- Heb 5:12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

About Righteousness

- Babies are given milk.
- Heb 5:13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Becoming a Son - A “Mature Man”

- God’s language is different than ours; remember there is no male or female in Christ. So men can be the bride and women can become sons or a “mature man.”

Gal 3:26 For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:29 If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring and heirs according to promise.

Why Grow into Maturity?

Because children are no different than slaves – we are still in slavery under the basic philosophies of the world and are not yet trusted to manage the estate which is our inheritance – remember we don't have to wait till heaven to experience the Kingdom of God.

- Paul taught:
 - What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. Gal 4:1-3
 - Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again ? Gal 4:8-9
 - Or, in our case, we could say still enslaved by them because we generally have not understood these things.

What are the basic principles of the world that we are still enslaved under?

- Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: Colossians 2:20
- These basic principles are the different systems of thought found throughout the world, another word for them are “strongholds” as they hold our mind captive and keep us from believing God’s word is really true or really applies to us. They are often subtle and we do not even realize we believe them because they are hidden to us – we just believe it – we are deceived.

What are the basic principles of the world that we are still enslaved under?

- McLaren gives some examples, things like
 - “like team spirit or school spirit,
 - the soul of a nation or corporate culture,
 - the crowd mentality or feeding frenzy
 - terms that express how a kind of groupthink can emerge in a group and then take over, “possess” it, drive it.
 - We've all heard stories or had experiences in which people were caught up in an evil “spirit” - often expressed in terms of ending in -ism such as Nazism or terrorism.”
- My Comment: It seems that our “human way” is that once we finally recognize and label an “ism” and its problems and hidden evils, we then reject it develop another to replace it.

Jesus exposed the fallacies of the world's systems and invites us into His Kingdom – the one that will never end.

- McLaren describes how Jesus drew out and exposed this covert/hidden evil
 - “By drawing out covert evil so that it manifests itself, Jesus exposes the dangerous "spirits" that can inhabit the most respected of institutions
 - government (the Roman Empire, Herod's puppet kingdom), *political movements* (Zealots and Herodians),
 - religious parties (Pharisees and Sadducees),
 - religious structures and hierarchies (chief priests), *professions* (scribes), and
 - family systems "Do not call anyone on earth "father" and "let the dead bury their own dead," Jesus says of these systems (Matthew 23:9, 8:22)

Evil Even Infected Jesus' Disciples.

- McLaren continues:
 - Perhaps most striking of all, he shows that evil can invade even Jesus' own band of disciples, and it can do so at the least expected moments. For example, Satan enters Judas, we are told, while he sits at what we call the Last Supper (John 13:27).
 - And no less significant: Jesus says to his lead disciple, Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" immediately after Peter has been the first to correctly identify Jesus true identity (Matthew 16:23)"

So how do we get out from under these basic principles of the world?

- For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.
- The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.
- On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
- We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and
- We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Pressing Ahead into the High Calling in Christ

- The Apostle Paul spurs us on for that which Christ purchased for us to become mature sons in the kingdom and to do the things on earth that Jesus did – to be conformed to His image and function from a place of resurrection power.
 - Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-

My story . . .

- God began speaking to me in 1999 many things I had never heard before. (About the Kingdom, Manifestation of Sons of God, Priests in the Order of Melchizedek and more. Some people call what He taught me “Apostolic teaching”)
- After God showed me in His Word many things to confirm that it really was Him speaking to me, I took the Lord at His Word and decided to believe Him. I became a child and sat at His feet, like Mary Magdalene and the disciples that He might teach me.
- My eyes were opened when I read Galatians - the biblical forerunner for this kind of learning is the Apostle Paul. He was taught by the resurrected Jesus in the desert in Arabia - and not by the other disciples.

My Preparation took SEVEN YEARS

- I sat His feet and learning from Him for seven years before He released me to minister. He has been healing me and teaching His ways. I have been tearing down the strongholds and lies I have believed that kept me from hearing his voice and following Him.
- Releasing Destiny World Wide was officially established on 04/05/06 because of an invitation to go minister in Pakistan.
- The Lord had a birthday party for the ministry in Pakistan on my birthday as we ended our first trip to the nations on 9/29/06

Here I Am in Pakistan



- Pastor Muazzam John, the man who invited me to come over the internet.
- We had to discern if this was from God or a joke or a hoax or what!
- Pauline teaching 130 Pastors and Christian Leaders – in a two day seminar - something I have never done before.

But, why do we struggle so?

- Have you noticed that when we are under stress, who we “really are” comes out and is expressed in the situation? Yet we are told we can have peace. Phil 4:4-9
 - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
 - Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
 - And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What is in our heart – comes out

- Mat 15:18 But the things which proceed out of the mouth come out of the heart, and they defile the man.
- Mat 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimony, and blasphemies.
- Mat 15:20 These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands doesn't defile the man."

Why do we struggle so?

- **The devil is involved**
 - The devil prowls like a roaring lion. Resist him. 1Peter 5:8-9
 - The devil is the father of lies. John 8:42-43
- **Jesus is our answer**
 - I am the gate; enter for salvation.
 - My sheep know me
 - I have come to bring life to the full (this means living beyond the gate and in the kingdom) John 10:9-18
 - Have we been stuck at the gate?

Scripture Reveals Insights to the Process

- **Submit yourselves to God; Resist the devil and he will flee.** James 4:7-10
- **Do not search your heart without God and don't give your heart over to others to search for you.** 1 Corinthians 4:3-5
- **Search Me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.** Psalm 139:23-24
- **Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love and great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart O, God.** Psalm 51: 1-19
- **Our spirit is regenerated, but we must renew our mind.** Romans 12: 1&2

What to do?

- First, we must gain personal freedom – the focus of this talk
- Then to change a city or region or nation - Join together in corporate journey in fellowship with others- perhaps a small group a journey of intercession, repenting of the sins that defile the land and declaring and decreeing as God speaks to your hearts of how to pray against the powers and principalities at work around you.
 - His [God's] intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3: 10 -11

Barriers to knowing, believing, and becoming who God says we are:

- There are several common problems that keep us bound to our “old self”.
 - Generational sins/ iniquity coming down the family line
 - Negative Beliefs/Lies
 - Unresolved emotional wounds
 - Cultural beliefs and wounds from family, friends, social interactions
 - The basic principals of this world
 - Judgments
 - Psychological defenses/ Inner Vows

Barriers to knowing, believing, and becoming who God says we are:

- There are several common problems that keep us bound to our “old self”.
 - Curses and spells
 - Spirit/Soul ties
 - Personal Sins
 - Demonic oppression

Demonic Oppression?

- You might be surprised by this idea of demons
 - Some Americans do not believe in evil or even that there are such things as demons.
 - And if they do believe there are demons, they think they are only found in third world countries.
 - Many Christians think that demons cannot effect Christians and yet we have no trouble realizing that sin can still effect Christians.
- These are examples of our philosophical systems of belief that have established themselves up against what God says.
 - God's word clearly describes demons and demonic encounters.

Open Doors/Legal Ground

- Each of the previously mentioned problems or barriers to our experiencing the full life of the kingdom on earth have been called an “open door” by some or “legal ground” by others.
- Pro 26:2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.
- The devil is very legalistic and he knows the laws of God and what legally gives him access to harass people.

Open Doors/Legal Ground

- These things are also reasons why we can experience oppression.
- Oppression is the work of satan and his demons.
- These are things that open the door to demonic oppression which I will discuss more after I have discussed each of these “open doors”.

Let us explore the open doors

Generational Issues

- Just like in the physiological/genetic systems, there can be generational influence in the spiritual dimension in family lines.
- Have you noticed that first generation Christians tend to have so many more experiences with oppression and troubles than those who are in a long line of Christian heritage?
- And yet a long line of Christian heritage can also have generational issues particularly where sin was hidden and nurtured in the family systems such as addictions, abuse, incest, etc.

Generational Issues

- We first read about this concept of generational transmission in the Old Testament where God reveals His laws and ways to His people through Moses. This transmission involved sin, transgression and iniquity. Exodus 34:5-9 NKJV
 - Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.
 - And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”
 - So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. Then he said, “If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance.”

Generational Issues

- Blood was required to atone for sin – we need to apply Jesus blood to our sins and those of our family line.
 - Leviticus 17:11 NKJV 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.
 - Isaiah 59:1-2 NKJV 1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Generational Issues

- Sin = an offence
 - The root word (#2398) is a verb which means = missing the mark, missing the way, missing the goal or missing the path.
- Transgression = rebellion
 - The root word (#6586) is a verb which means = to rebel, transgress, revolt, to offend, to choose to be misguided, to break away (from just authority)
- Iniquity = perversity, depravity, condition of guilt, fault or guilt, consequence for sin, punishment for sin. - The root word (#2398) is a verb which means = to BE bent, BE twisted, BE perverted and to BE bowed down, it also means to twist, crooked amiss.

New Testament Verses: Versions of Bible use different words – iniquity is not commonly used any more

- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [iniquity]. 1 John 1:9 NKJV
 - *(6 of 25 times it was translated iniquity in the KJV.)*
- For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness [iniquity] in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 NKJV (Stop blaming people)
 - *(1 of 7 times it was used; it was translated iniquity in the KJV.)*

Some people do not believe if we are saved that we can be affected by generational sin, so I asked the Lord

- “Why do we need to do generational confession of sins?”
- His reply: *You don't have to keep struggling with this [these sins and consequences of sins]. What you do when you do these things [the repentance prayers we do] is that you pull from the heavenly realm that which is rightfully yours.*

Some people do not believe if we are saved that we can be affected by generational sin, so I asked the Lord

- *You can choose to live at the lower level in bondage to elemental things (basic principles), but you are an heir and there is more that has been purchased for you.*
- *Your freedom and blessings do not have to be locked up in heavenly places unless you choose not to apply for and press in to what is rightfully yours. When did I give Israel the promised land? When did they take possession of it?*

Some people do not believe if we are saved that we can be affected by generational sin, so I asked the Lord

- *You can have possession of your promised land while you are yet in the earth if you pull from what is given and awaits in heavenly realms to be released to you. My Son's blood, life, death and resurrection have purchased salvation for the entire world – the whole of humankind and yet are all saved [yet]? Have all reached up into the provisions in heaven that they might be saved through the WAY, who also is the TRUTH and the LIFE?*

Some people do not believe if we are saved that we can be affected by generational sin, so I asked the Lord

- *I want freedom [manifested here in this life] for all My children, but it comes through daily communion and relationship with Me – that I may transform them. For I am coming for a pure and spotless bride, a company of sons who will rule and reign with Me. That is the reason to keep up the good fight to continue to press in to the prize which is the High Calling in Christ Jesus. It is a joy for Me to love you and set you free – would you have it be a “drive by picnic” or can we fellowship together – you and I?*

Some people do not believe if we are saved that we can be affected by generational sin, so I asked the Lord

- *I came to fulfill the law, not abolish it. The law remains and the law established for the iniquities and sins to travel to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, who walk not according to the provisions I have given throughout the generations past for the forgiveness of sins. I want to free your family line through the confessions you make and release to you the blessings I have had to withhold from your family line due to their unconfessed sin and iniquity. This is MY mercy and grace.*

Some people do not believe if we are saved that we can be affected by generational sin, so I asked the Lord

- *Apply the blood, apply the blood, apply the blood. This releases not only you, but it impacts My body in ways you do not yet know and understand. For whatever happens to the weakest, to the least, happens to us all. Adam sinned and all died, but I am the second Adam and I have made provision for all.*
- Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. Mat 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Generational Issues

- The solution to dealing with generational sins and iniquities is
 - Seek the Holy Spirit to show us what these are for our family line
 - To repent for ourselves and our entire family line for these sins.

Three steps: Confession – Forgiveness – Cleansing

- I. Break generational sins and curses
- 1. I confess and repent of the sin of my ancestors, my parents, and my own sin of _____, and of my anger and resentment against You, God, for allowing this to happen in my life.
- 2. I forgive and release my ancestors for passing on to me this sin and for the resulting curses of _____ (be specific). I ask You to forgive me, and I receive Your forgiveness. I forgive myself for participating in this sin.
- 3. I place the cross of Christ between my ancestors and myself, as a baby in my mother's womb. I command the sin of _____ and all accompanying curses to be halted at the cross of Jesus Christ, and for freedom and release to flow down from the cross of Christ to that baby in the womb.

Negative Lies and Beliefs

- **Emotional wounding as a result of traumatic life event**
 - (inner healing, let go of oppression, ask God for truth in the inner parts, agree with God)
- **Things learned from family, friends, community, organizations, church, social structures, cultures**
 - (renounce beliefs and come out of agreement with them, tear down strongholds, ask God for His truth)
- **Basic principles of the world over regions influencing thought patterns of people**
 - (a work of the corporate body - identify, renounce, come out of agreement with them, tear them down in self, ask God for His truth, join with others in prayer that these things would be removed and replaced with God's truth in the peoples living in the region)

Example of Cultural Lies – Common American Beliefs

- Achievement and Success: The American culture is competition-oriented, and it places much value on gaining power, prestige, and wealth.
- Activity and Work: "Americans" firmly believe in everyone working, and they condemn as "lazy" those who do not work.
- Efficiency and Practicality: Solutions to problems are sought through the quickest and least costly means.
- Progress: A belief that technology can solve all of the problems. This includes an optimistic future outlook.

Example of Cultural Lies – Common American Beliefs

- Material Comfort: The American Dream of a high standard of living and owning many material goods is shared by many.
- Equality: As an abstract ideal, Americans believe in relating to each other informally, as equals.
 - (By the way this, along with democracy, causes difficulty for us in knowing how to relate to our King and what obedience means in a kingdom)
- Individualism: Americans emphasize personal rights and responsibilities, giving the individual priority over the group.
- Racism and Group Superiority Themes: Americans place higher value on some racial, religious, or ethnic groups than on others through their attitudes and actions.

Cultural Lies – What to Do?

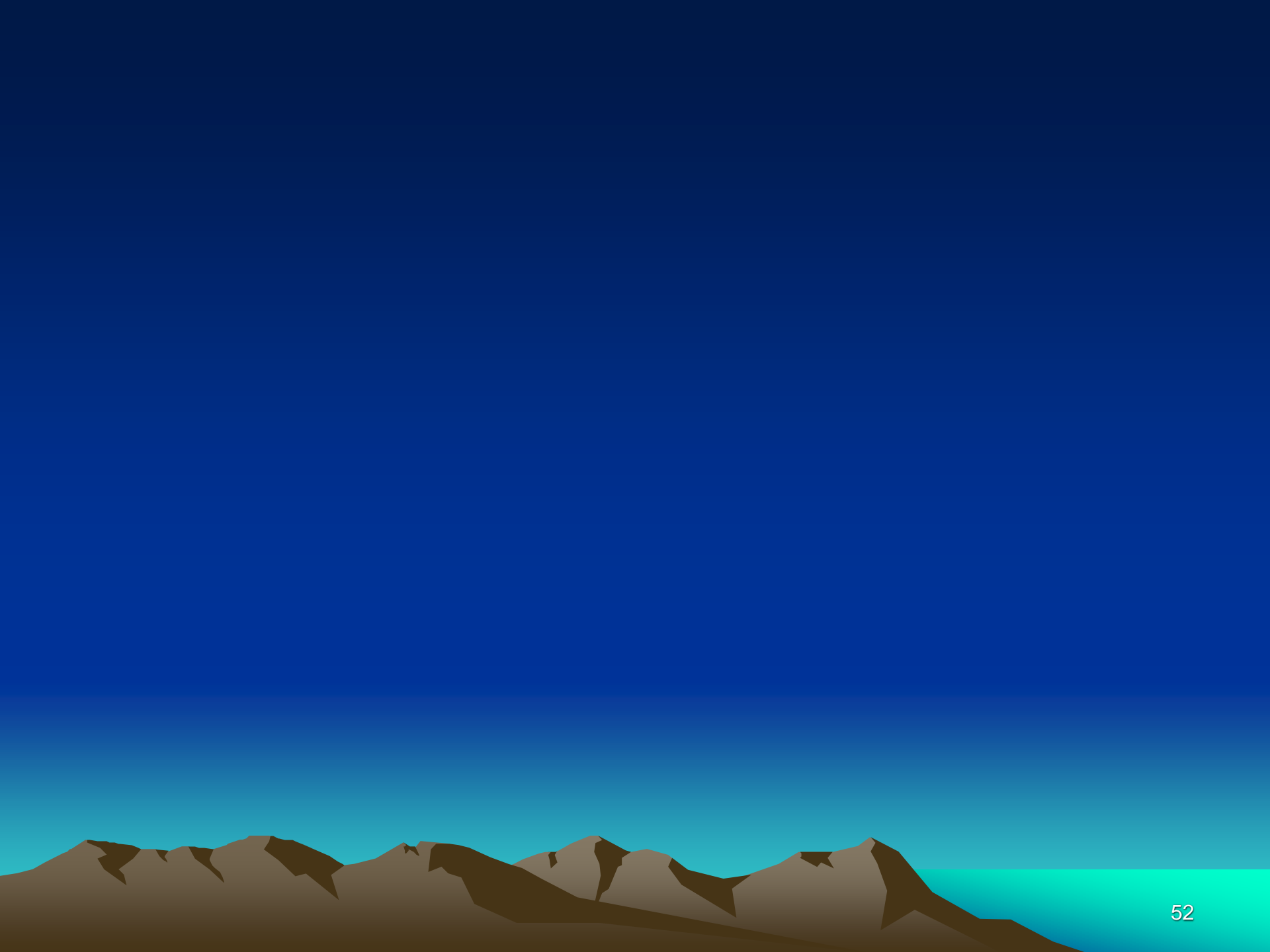
- These cultural ideas/lies can also be called strongholds, basic principles or ideologies of the world.
- They must be recognized, repented of, renounced and torn down in us (using spiritual weapons) because they have established themselves up against the knowledge of Christ and we must take each of these thoughts captive to make them obedient to Christ. We must replace them with Truth from the Spirit of Truth, Christ Jesus.
 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2Co 10:3-5

Example of Cultural Lies-

What are some examples from your culture?

Replace negative beliefs

- 1. I confess and repent of my sin (and if appropriate, my ancestors' sin) of believing the lie that _____ and for the ways I have judged others and/or institutions based upon this negative belief.
- 2. I forgive _____ for contributing to my forming this negative expectation/belief. I forgive myself for believing this lie.
- 3. I confess the countering divine truth that _____. (seek from the Word of God and ask God also what is His truth).



Curses & Spells

- To curse someone is to wish calamity upon them, or to speak negative things concerning them or their future. These are like judgments that are spoken forth.
 - Typical unintentional curses might be: “You are stupid/ worthless, an embarrassment to me.” “You’ll never amount to anything.” “Why can’t you be like your brother?”
- These curses can be spoken out loud or in the heart
 - How long will you assault a man? Would all of you throw him down—this leaning wall, this tottering fence? They fully intend to topple him from his lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse.

Ps 62:3 -4

Curses & Spells

- We can curse God, curse ourselves, curse others, or experience an occult or witchcraft practitioner cursing us or others. Our sin can cause God's curse to fall on us (the law of sowing and reaping). We ourselves can be cursed by others.
- Proverbs says an undeserved curse does not come to rest. Pr 26:2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.
- Experience shows that even believers have been affected by others' curses.
- Witchcraft and curses and spells are one of the biggest problems for Christians in many nations since many members of their family were still practicing witchcraft and cursing them.
 - Today in our culture, children are reading Harry Potter and other books and playing violent video games in which they learn the basics of cursing and casting spells. We are often unaware of the potential dangers.

Curses & Spells

- **INDICATIONS OF A CURSE - Derek Prince**
 - MENTAL AND / OR EMOTIONAL BREAK DOWN
 - REPEATED OR CHRONIC SICKNESS (ESPECIALLY IF HEREDITARY)
 - BARRENESS, (IN ANY AREA OF LIFE)
 - A TENDANCY TO MISCARRY, OR RELATED FEMALE PROBLEMS
 - BREAKDOWN OF MARRIAGE, FAMILY ALIENATION
 - CONTINUING FINANCIAL INSUFFICIENCY
 - BEING ACCIDENT PRONE
 - A HISTORY OF SUICIDES AND UNNATURAL OR UNTIMELY DEATHS
- **Additional indications - John Eckhardt**
 - ABUSE AND MISTREATMENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE
 - VAGABONDISM AND A WANDERING LIFESTYLE

Curses & Spells

- The way to freedom from curses is to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal if there is a curse and why (the open door) it came to rest
- Once revealed, then confess anything that may have given rise to the curse, and
- Break the power of it in the name of Jesus who “redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us” (Gal. 3:13).

Judgments : Sinful Responses

- If we were hurt when we were young, often we respond by judging our parents, peers, siblings, those in authority or those who hurt us.
- When we are older we can make judgments about our own children and about others, looking down on them and feeling superior to them.
- We also can feel judged by others.
- These judgments can give the enemy influence in our lives and the lives of others (we form ourselves to what they believe and they become what we believe them to be as we reflect that belief on them)
- But with the authority of Jesus we are able to destroy the power of judgments in our lives.

Judgments : Sinful Responses

- Scripture for further study:
 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue ...
Prov. 18:21
 - Do not speak against one another. The one who speaks against another, or judges that person, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it. James 4:11,12
 - But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you ...for I am conscious of nothing against myself ... the one who examines me is the Lord. 1 Cor. 4:3-5

Judgments : Sinful Responses

- Scripture for further study:
 - Jesus is the Judge; Gal. 6:7
 - Whatever you sow, this you will also reap. James 5:9
 - Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. Rom. 14:10
 - But you, why do you judge [condemn] your brother? Rom. 14:4
 - Do not judge [condemn], lest you be judged ... Mat. 7:1, 2
 - Honor your father and your mother (instead of judging them). Ex. 20:12

Judgments : Sinful Responses

- **Personal Reflection Activity: Prayer for release from judgments**
 - Make two columns label one “people who have judged me and the next, people I have judged.
 - Ask the Lord to reveal to you in your heart those people who have judged you and those you have judged. Write the names that pop into your mind down on the proper list.
 - Then take time to pray the prayers.

Judgments : My Own Sin

- God, I don't want to hide my sin of judgment against _____ (state name) by thinking or saying _____ (state in which way you judged this person). Forgive me.
- I renounce this sin, in the name of Jesus. I confess that You are the Righteous Judge over _____ Release _____ (state name if person) over the effects of being judged by me, and instead bless this person with _____ (name several blessings). Likewise, release me, Father, from the results of my sin of judging another.
- Show me any heart wounds which contributed to my judging this person.

Prayer for release from judgments/curses

- **Example Prayers - Being Judged By Another**
- **God, I feel judged by _____ (state name) when this person says or does _____ (state what it is they say I do).**
- **In the name of Jesus I destroy the results that this judgment has had in my life. Help my heart be ready to forgive _____ (state name).**
- **You are able to make me stand. You are my Judge. Thank you that you have welcomed me (Ps 27:10-14).**
- **Reveal to me any hurts in my heart associated with this judgment. I open my heart to You and release these hurts to You. Speak truth into my heart about these things.**

Prayer for release from judgments/curses

- **Thank You, Jesus, for dying that I might be forgiven. By an act of my will I now choose to express the desire of my heart and forgive those who have judged me. (Name out loud the people who need to be forgiven [it is most preferable to do this out loud if you are in a setting where you are able]).**
- **I release each and every one of these people into the freedom of my forgiveness. In the Name of Jesus and by the sword of the Spirit I cut myself free from this false judgment/curse of (name the judgment) and declare it null and void.**

The Lord Receives Me- Meditate

- Psa 27:10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.
- Psa 27:11 Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
- Psa 27:12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.
- Psa 27:13 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Psa 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psychological Defenses/Inner Vows

- Defenses are God-given physiological responses for our protection; however these can become ingrained patterns or structures if they are over-used or overly relied upon for survival as in situations where one had been brought up in an emotionally, verbally, physically, or sexually abusive home, a neglectful home or has experiencing multiple traumas.
- Once we become an adult it is time to bring these painful memories and destructive response patterns into the light so they can receive healing. This is done with inner healing prayer and deciding to turn from the destructive response patterns.

Psychological Defenses/Inner Vows

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- Some common defenses are:
 - passive aggressive actions; seeking help but rejecting it and complaining; acting out; rationalization; projection; denial; undoing; repression; reaction formation; intellectualization; dissociation; displacement; suppression; sublimation; self-observation; self-assertion; humor; anticipation; altruism; affiliation. Some of these are much more problematic than others.

Inner Vows

- **Vows are self-defensive decisions**
 - They create spiritual fences and walls. They are barriers that we construct with our own words or inner thoughts in order to protect ourselves.
 - Unfortunately, we often do not remember making these vows and are unaware that they are even working in our situation.

Inner Vows – Karl Lehman

- **Why are vows destructive, and how do they block the healing process and growth?**
 - **When we make a sinful vow, we are using our God-given free will to make a choice to take a certain position. . . .**
 - **We give psychological authority to the choice in the vow, we limit the Lord's authority to work within the jurisdiction of the vow, and we give spiritual authority to the enemy within the jurisdiction of the vow.**
 - **Choices/vows such as “I will not feel, I will not remember, I will not tell” provide a good example.**

Inner Vows

- The choices/vows provide the psychological foundation for the corresponding behaviors of disconnection, denial, and deception and other ingrained psychological defense patterns (hiding certain memories, thoughts, feelings, and emotions from oneself and others).
- These choices/vows limit the Lord's authority to work in a persons life and gave the enemy authority to infect us to the extent that the chosen position was outside the Lord's best plan for connection, light, and truth in our life.

Inner Vows

- Vows also interfere with our ability to give and receive love and care to others.
- Vows are often hidden in childhood experiences and they need to be located, identified and a decision made to “come out of agreement” (renounce it) with the vow because it limits your ability and freedom to respond and to turn and now be open to new ways of approaching things according to whatever the Lord would have you to do based upon the needs of each situation that presents itself.”

Inner Vows – What do we get from the enemy?

- being in control (appearance/illusion/feeling)
- justice, fairness (appearance/illusion/feeling)
- being stronger, more secure, etc. than we really are (appearance/illusion/feeling)
- safety (appearance/illusion/feeling)
- self-protection, self-sufficiency
- superiority (appearance/illusion/feeling)
- avoidance of responsibility for _____ (our needs, other's needs, our behaviors, etc.)
- avoidance of/protection from pain.
helplessness, powerlessness,
embarrassment, humiliation, shame
- legalism

Inner Vows – What aspects of ourself do we give away to the enemy?

- ability/freedom/option to make current, adult choices in each situation
- experiencing and expressing emotions, including painful ones like fear, shame, etc.
- remembering traumatic events
- appropriate transparency and vulnerability
- appropriate trust in relationships
- appropriate intimacy in relationships
- appropriate initiative
- appropriate participation in taking care of ourselves
- appropriate anger

Inner Vows – What aspects of ourself do we give away to the enemy?

- appropriate confrontation
- appropriate responsibility for _____ (ourselves, our families, others, etc.)
- creativity
- ability/freedom to take risks, make mistakes
- Seeing, knowing and telling the truth
- freedom/option to forgive
- freedom/option to reconcile
- ability/freedom to be who we really are
- ability/freedom to have and express your own opinion
- ability/freedom to ask God/others for _____ (advice, help, love, etc.)
- community
- internal parts of ourself that have been exiled by this VOW

Inner Vows - examples

- “I won’t let God heal me until/unless _____ (He promises it will never happen again, replaces what I lost, admits He was wrong to allow it to happen, etc.)”
- “I will never be like _____ (my father, my mother, my family, etc).”
- “I will never let my son/daughter/children see me _____ (lose, weak, humiliated, be wrong, etc).”
- “I will never express an uncontrolled emotion or act on an impulse.”
- “I will always be in control.”
- “I will never get angry.”
- “I will never enjoy sex again.”

Inner Vows - examples

- “I will be cool at all costs.”
- “I will never be _____ again” (poor, hungry, weak, beaten, lost, etc.)
- “I will not feel _____.”
- “I will not see _____ (what my grandfather is doing to my sister, this memory, ‘problems,’ etc.) ”
- “I will not remember _____ (what my father did to me, what I did to my brother, etc.)”
- “I will forget _____ (what my father did to me, what I did to my brother, etc.)”
- “I will never tell _____ (what happened to me, what I saw, what I did to _____, etc.)”

Inner Vows - examples

- “I will never love _____ again.” (Dad, Mom, a man/a woman, myself, etc.)
- “I won’t care about _____ (being excluded, being ignored, myself, anybody else, etc.)”
- “I won’t make another mistake.”
- “I will never make a mess.”
- “I will never be conspicuous.”
- “I will never disagree.”
- “I will be invisible.”
- “I won’t cause trouble – I won’t say or do anything that will cause trouble.”
- “I will never ask _____ (God, men, my parents, etc) for _____ (help, money, love, advice, etc)”

Inner Vows - examples

- “I will never try _____ again”
- “I’ll just keep my mouth shut.”
- “I will be good/I will never be bad.”
- “I’ll do it myself.”
- “I won’t do it myself.”
- “I won’t grow up.
- “I won’t cooperate
- “I won’t _____ (grow up, cooperate, forgive, etc.) until/unless _____ (he apologizes, they admit I was right, she makes restitution, this need gets taken care of, they agree to do it my way, etc.)”
- “I won’t get better until/unless _____ (they admit they were wrong, they take responsibility for causing the problem, they agree to do it my way, etc.)”

Renounce inner vows

- 1. I confess and repent of my sin of vowing that _____.
- 2. I forgive _____ for contributing to my forming this vow and myself for making this vow.
- 3. Instead, I now purpose by the power of the Holy Spirit to _____.

Renounce inner vows

- “In the name of Jesus, I give back anything I have gotten from this vow. I give back anything I have gotten from the enemy through making this vow.
- “I specifically give back, release, and renounce _____ (name any specifics, for example, “the feeling of being in control”) that I have gotten from this vow or from the enemy through making this vow.

Renounce inner vows

- “In the name of Jesus, I take back all psychological and spiritual authority I have given to this vow, and I take back all psychological and spiritual authority I have given to the enemy through making this vow.
- “I specifically take back from this vow and from the enemy _____ (name any specifics, for example, “the freedom to feel and express my emotions”).

Renounce inner vows

- “I take back all internal parts that have been exiled by this vow”
- “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth who came in the flesh, I sever all ties of darkness connected to this vow in any way.”
- This prayer from Dr. Karl Lehman’s work

Spirit and/or Soul Ties

- Spirit and soul ties are bonds that hold us into relationships with other people.
- Spirit and/or soul ties are formed when two or more persons become bonded together.
- It is the joining or knitting together of the bonds of a relationship.
- Godly soul ties occur when like-minded believers are together in the Lord: friends, marriage partners, believers to pastors, etc.
- Godly soul ties are founded upon the law of love, which the Bible calls "the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2), and "the royal law" (James 2:8).
- The spirit and soul ties approved by God represent the bonding of persons together in *agape* love or *phileo* love.

Spirit and/or Soul Ties

- Relationships that lack this godliness can result in ungodly soul ties between friends, parents and children, siblings, marriage partners, former romantic or sexual partners, domineering authorities, etc.
- An unhealthy attachment with another can bring about a control that can adversely affect lives:
 - a mother who refuses to relinquish her hold on her children (tied to her apron strings),
 - a person who refuses to release to the Lord the memory of an old romantic flame (withdrawing into nostalgia in times of loneliness),
 - a person who holds bitterness or a judgment against another,
 - someone who uses spiritual forces to control others (witchcraft),

Spirit and/or Soul Ties

- **Examples of possible ungodly spirit/soul ties:**
 - **Sex outside of marriage – forms a one flesh bond**
 - Excessive physical touching and lust
 - Sex with one person – have sex with every person they've had sex with – this is according to the medical profession as well.
 - Emotional affairs
 - Soul ties from past relationships need to be cut before you can really be married to your partner
 - **Ties with animals**
 - **With friends who practice evil**
 - **Perverted family spirit/soul ties**
 - Sexual perversions
 - Ancestral worship (certain cultures)

Spirit and/or Soul Ties

- **Examples of possible ungodly spirit/soul ties:**
 - **Soul ties with the dead**
 - Prolonged mourning
 - Building a shrine to the person who died
 - With aborted baby or miscarried baby
 - **With people who use occult power (sometimes unknowingly) to exercise control**
 - Fear of the person
 - Unresolved anger
 - **Parent/child**
 - **Child/parent**
 - **Persons we used drugs with/ drug dealers**

Spirit and/or Soul Ties

- **Examples of possible ungodly spirit/soul ties:**
 - **Wrongful contact or agreement**
 - Fraternities
 - Secret societies
 - Blood pacts
 - **People who have physically assaulted us or with whom we have had accidents or experienced trauma**
 - **Teachers and others who have taught us lies**
 - **Demonic linkage to inanimate objects, fetishes, carved images, idols, buildings– especially when false religions or the occult are involved**

Spirit and/or Soul Ties

- **Prayer to break ungodly spirit/soul-ties:**
 - I confess, renounce and repent of participating in ungodly soul ties. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I break all ungodly soul ties (sometimes spirit and/or body ties as well) that have been established between myself and (speak out here the name of the individual and/or organization/ or thing involved).
 - I ask You, Lord, to return to me every part of myself which has been wrongfully tied in bondage to (again name the person/org/thing).
 - I ask that You return to (name the person again) every part of themselves which has been wrongfully tied in bondage to me and remove from me all ungodly influence of (name the person again).
 - I ask You, Father, to place the cross of Jesus and His shed blood between me and (name the person again) and stop the flow of anything ungodly between the two of us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Traumatic Memories

- Some memories are very traumatic and they need the healing of seeing Jesus in the memory or knowing what He has to say about it. Getting His truth in the inner parts of you.
- This can happen as you hold the memory up to him and invite him to minister to you in the memory.

Traumatic Memories

- “Lord, what negative pictures [memories] of people or experiences am I holding which are contributing to the heart problem of _____?” [Focus on the feeling and words of the heart problem and ask the Lord to take you to the place it first started.]
- Healing the initial scene underlying this problem is foundational. However, if that scene is too intense to address initially, then allow the Holy Spirit to take you to other scenes and heal them first. Stay tuned to the Holy Spirit’s flow.

Traumatic Memories

- For each scene, affirm what you know to be true, “Lord, I know You were there [He is omnipresent] in that troubling scene[memory picture]. [Jesus please walk through this memory again with me.] Jesus, please show me where You were and what You were doing” [focus on the feelings and beliefs together with the memory and ask, “ Lord, would You give me Your perspective, Your Truth? What do you want me to know about this scene/memory]?
- Watch, [listen], and see what Jesus does and/[or] says as He appears [or brings truth or insight to you] in the scene. Stay tuned to the Holy Spirit’s flow and vision as you write.

Traumatic Memories

- **Do not manipulate the scene yourself. Follow Jesus' lead. Submit any questionable scenes [words or impressions] you receive to the Bible and to your spiritual counselors to ensure they are from God. [NOTE: Not everyone sees or hears Jesus at first, many just gain insight from Him.]**

Traumatic Memories

- Receive divine visions for healing
- 1. I confess and repent of any anger and bitterness I have against You, God, for allowing this event to happen in my life. I ask You to forgive me, and I receive Your forgiveness.
- 2. Lord, please take me back to the appropriate memory that is underlying this issue in my heart. (See the scene. If a rape or other extremely traumatic scene, you may go back to just after it is over.)
- 3. Lord, show me where You were in this scene. (Look and see where Jesus is/was.) Holy Spirit, take over this scene and give me a vision, showing me what Jesus was doing. (Respond to what the Lord is showing and doing.)

Sins – Missing the Mark, Missing the Path

- **Some common sin problems – not all inclusive**
 - Unforgiveness
 - Self-hatred
 - Gossip
 - Holding offense towards God or others
 - Pride
 - Making judgments against others
 - Idolatry - New Age or other Non Christian Activities and Superstition
 - Ungodly vows to fraternities, sororities, clubs, organizations
 - Rebellion against authority
 - Criminal activity
 - Abusing others
 - Control and manipulation
 - Unwholesome entertainment - pornography
 - Fantasy
 - Christian Witchcraft – trying to control and manipulate through prayers (praying my will for someone – not seeking God's will for them and agreeing in prayer with that)

Sins – Missing the Mark, Missing the Path

- One way of defining sin is “anything we do that grieves the Lord”. Sins are things that we do which are contrary to the will, plans, and purposes of God. We commit sins because we have a sinful heritage and Satan has lies or hooks in us.
- Sin is also rebellion against God. Satan began that rebellion in heaven when he sought to take for himself the glory that was the Father's alone. Satan continued that rebellion on earth by tempting man to join with him and commit sins.
- The ongoing practice of sin, which remains unconfessed and unforgiven, will inevitably give rights to the demonic to enter and control a person in specific areas of his life.
 - It is not unusual for an apparently isolated instance of a particular sin to have opened the way for demonization.
 - Satan is no respecter of persons and he will take advantage of every opportunity that is presented to him to dominate and control people - especially those who are seeking to live for Jesus!

Remedy for Sin

- There is a remedy for sin. It is detailed in.
- Confession - Forgiveness -Cleansing, in that order.
 - If we confess our sins to God, he is faithful to his promises. He is also just, in that the price which has already been paid by Jesus is sufficient to cover every sin.
 - So he will forgive - he has to be true to his own word. But the promise goes on to say that not only will he forgive us, but
 - He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - Where the demonic has entered through sin, then the cleansing process should also include deliverance by commanding the evil to leave in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who came in the flesh once the sin has been confessed. 1 John 1:9

Focus on the Sin of Unforgiveness

- Isn't this a problem for all of us?
 - What does the Scripture say about forgiving?
 - And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.“ Mark 11: 25
 - Why did Jesus ask the Father to forgive those who crucified Him?
 - When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." [they are deceived] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. _Luke 23: 33-34

Focus on the Sin of Unforgiveness – What does God Say?

- Matthew 18: 21-35
- Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."
- "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go."

Focus on the Sin of Unforgiveness – What does God Say?

- "But when that servant went out,
- "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured [tormented], until he should pay back all he owed.
- "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."
- Matthew 18: 21-35

Focus on the Sin of Unforgiveness – What does God Say?

– Matthew 6:9-13

- "This, then, is how you should pray:
" 'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

- For if you forgive men when they sin against you,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
- But if you do not forgive men their sins, your
Father will not forgive your sins.

Focus on the Sin of Unforgiveness – What does God Say?

- Anger is usually a part of unforgiveness.
 - In Ephesians we read that if we let the sun go down while we are still angry we give the devil a foothold.
 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
 - and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
 - Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.
 - "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4: 22 -27

Unforgiveness-

How to help someone forgive from the heart

- People often struggle with forgiveness in one of the following ways:
 - They have tried to forgive, but negative feelings (either anger, hurt or bitterness) still keep coming back about the person they forgave, so they aren't sure if they truly forgave or not.
 - They have tried to forgive, but they just cannot because they still feel so hurt by the person they know they should forgive.
 - They want to forgive, but they cannot because what the person did was so bad and wrong – they are afraid that if they forgive, the person will never receive the justice they deserve.
 - They believe that if they forgive that means they have to go back to a deep level of relationship with that person and extend trust to them.

Unforgiveness-

How to help someone forgive from the heart

- It is not true that when you forgive you have to go back to deep relationship or even have a reciprocal relationship with the one who harmed you.
 - In order for ongoing relationship - in many abusive situations would require repentance on the part of the other person and reconciliation which reflected enduring changes in the relational pattern that are real.
 - Forgiveness can let the other person off of your hook without meaning that you can or should trust them not to hurt you again. In some cases the reality is that they will continue to hurt you.
 - You are not accountable for what the other person does nor can you change them, but you are accountable for your response and forgiveness, even one-sided holds a key to your own freedom and health.
 - God will help you set appropriate boundaries as you seek Him on it.

Unforgiveness-

How to help someone forgive from the heart

- People really struggle with the whole area of forgiveness
- Most of the time us well-meaning folk tell them that they **NEED** to forgive, so they just have to do it.
- So they pray a prayer of forgiveness, but often it doesn't touch their heart, and they don't know if it was real or not.
- How can we help people to forgive really from their heart, and to experience freedom from the emotions that come up when they think about the person who offended or hurt them?

Unforgiveness-

How to help someone forgive from the heart

- **First, we have to understand that the enemy wants us to stay in bondage – he does not want us to forgive and receive freedom from negative emotions and hurt.**
- **But God does want us to be free and healed, and he provides a way, but it is completely dependent on receiving truth and healing from Him and NOT our self effort (just our willingness to be made willing to forgive).**

Unforgiveness-

How to help someone forgive from the heart

- True forgiveness is a natural result of a person receiving truth from God, and the presence of genuine compassion.
- These two ingredients provide the substance for forgiveness to flow effortlessly from the restored heart and mind of the person who was wounded or hurt.
- When God extends (shows) His grace and compassion to us, and restores our heart and heals our wounds, we can then freely show grace to the people that have hurt us.

Unforgiveness-

How to help someone forgive from the heart

- It doesn't depend on our human effort and strength, it is a natural outcome of us having first received from God.
- Then it is His grace, power and love that flows through us and gives us the true power and grace to forgive the ones that hurt us.

Unforgiveness-

Let us Practice

- I would like to lead you through a healing time for unforgiveness you are carrying in your heart.
- I would like for you to
 - Quiet yourself down,
 - Fix the eyes of your heart on Jesus and listen for what He will say to you or show you as you pray.
 - Look for spontaneous thoughts, images or words that pop into your mind as we do this meditation.

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- Father, I know that you are here with us. Jesus, I am coming to you. Holy Spirit, will you search my heart today and reveal the one place in me that I am holding unforgiveness which you want me to forgive today. I may or may not be aware that I am holding this unforgiveness, but I will listen to see what you will show me. I ask you to help me.

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- I give you permission to remove my hard heart and my anger and whatever other bad feelings that are there. Enable me to forgive those people deeply from my heart that I have not been able to forgive in the past. I do not want to give the devil a foothold or a stronghold in my life. I want to have more freedom. I want the Father to forgive my sins.

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- Now, I focus my eyes only on Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith. Holy Spirit, will you bring to mind the one situation or person or persons that you want me to forgive now?
- When you receive these thoughts and images and memories, keep yourself in this meditative listening posture. Look and listen for what God wants to show you. You may see pictures. You may remember memories. You may hear words. Or you may just have an awareness of what He wants you to know. [wait a few minutes]

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- 1. Now, focus on the person/ people/ memory/situation that God brought to mind and concentrate on the negative feelings there too.
- 2. God wants to heal you of the hurt you felt, but first you need to be willing to give these revengeful emotions to him and let Him carry them away for you.
- 3. Are you willing to RELEASE these emotions to Him, and to let Him carry them for you? He died to heal you of your pain, He told you to “cast your burdens on Him, for He cares for you.” He *wants* to take them from you, so you don't have to carry them!

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- 4. Now, allow yourself to feel the anger and hurt and pain of the incident say this prayer out loud.
- Prayer of confession:
- *“Lord Jesus, I confess to You that I am very angry and have many other bad feelings about this situation and the people involved because of what happened there. I am tired*
- *of carrying this anger and other terrible feelings. I give You permission to take them from*
- *me. Please take these feelings away from me now. I ask you to also lift off all the hurt that is underneath the anger.*

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- 4. Now, allow yourself to feel the anger and hurt and pain of the incident say this prayer out loud.
- Prayer of confession:
- *I ask you to help me to see this one who hurt me from Your viewpoint. I choose to forgive them, releasing them from my heart, my thoughts and my imaginations in the same way that you forgave those who crucified you.*
- *Your blood was shed for my sin. I am sorry that I have not brought this sin of unforgiveness to you sooner. Help me to follow in Your way. Fill me with Your light, \ Your love, \ and Your compassion. Give me your view in this matter.*

Unforgiveness- Let us Pray

- 4. Now, allow yourself to feel the anger and hurt and pain of the incident say this prayer out loud.
- Prayer of confession:
- *If any tormentors have been sent to me because of this sin, or because of what happened to me I ask you to release me from their torments and let me out of this jail I have been in.*
- *I now command all evil that was in or around me because of this unforgiveness and because of what was done to me to go directly to the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth who came in the flesh for His judgment. You will not harm anyone on the way out and you will not return. Amen*

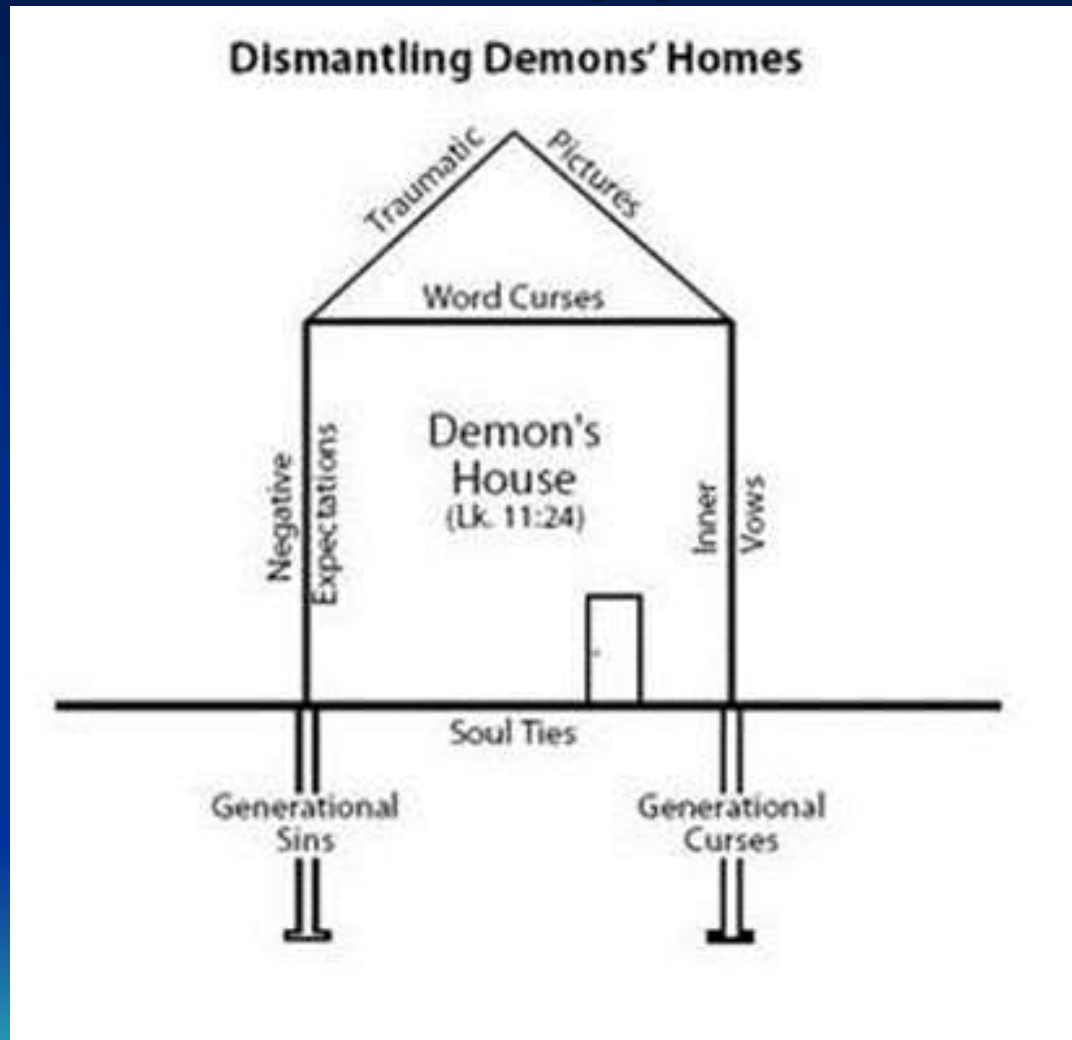
Shame and Pride and a Caution

- Shame and pride are from the enemy and they often prevent us from sharing with others – this keeps our problems and sins hidden in darkness
- There is good reason for caution as some people cannot be trusted with your heart because they are gossips and slanderers or hold judgments against others – but that is not true of all people
- Do not let shame and pride keep you bound. Ask God to reveal someone you can share your heart with – someone who has His perspective and His love.

There are several reasons for confessing our sins to each other .

- **Everyone of us will be blessed by knowing that there is at least one person who knows the worst about us and still loves us.**
- **One of the best deterrents against future sin is the fact that someone already knows about our weakness.**
- **Healing and deliverance ministry will be strengthened by the scriptural principle of two or three agreeing together in prayer (Matt. 18:19).**
- **Self-deception is not such a danger when another Godly and Spirit-filled person knows about the sin and is willing to help the person with accountability if necessary.**
- **Sin is very often at the root of a demonic stronghold that is being tackled, and help in overcoming this can sometimes be needed for deliverance.**

Demons/Oppression



Demons/Oppression

- After our discussion so far, perhaps you can begin to appreciate that even Christians can become oppressed by demons because of “chinks or holes in our armor” due to the many things we have discussed so far.
- Sometimes, the demonic spirit is present totally apart from any wrong- doing of the person. Some of you will find this hard to comprehend. Many have been taught that in order to have a demon in our mind we have to do evil or be evil.

Demons/Oppression

- The truth is, many times a demonic spirit is present as a result of evil being acted upon the person rather than the person having done or been evil. You may be thinking this is unfair and unjust. You are right.
- But many demonic spirits entered into a person's memories/ mind during a time in which he was innocent, being victimized. The spirit entered the mind not due to wrong actions or choices on the person's part, but rather as a result of evil being acted out on him.

Demons/Oppression

- There are some cases where people invite demons into their lives either knowingly or not. People who are a part of the occult do this consciously and continually, as a way of gaining presumed power.
- The power they gain has a great price tag: their very soul.
- Some invite demonic spirits in their lives through apparently ignorant involvement in occult practices, such as some of the popular video games with evil in it, demonic thematic movies and TV programs, occultic computer games, and books. These things are an entry point for many demonic spirits.

Demons/Oppression

- Some demons are passed down through generational lines. These spirits are transferred more by sin than biological lineage. If the grandfather was man inhabited by demons doing evil things and wounding his children, then these demons may very well pass down through this woundedness.
- In turn, the child of this man may grow up and wound his children and the same demons might pass down to the next generation.
- Generational spirits are also passed down by the parent not providing spiritual protection and the household is "plundered."

Demons/Oppression

- Demonic spirits also enter in when there is a lack of spiritual protection over a person's life. This is primarily true in the life of children.
 - God has set up a system of protection where a parent stands between the child and the evil one. It is the same principle Jesus was referring to concerning the "strong man" standing in the doorway.
 - If the strong man is bound up, then the robber can come in freely and "plunder the household." But if the strong man is in place, no robber can come in. When a parent fails to stand in the doorway, the evil one has free access to plunder the household.
 - This is especially true when a parent not only fails to protect the child, but becomes the one who plunders. When this occurs, demonic infiltration is common.
 - Pornography; sexual and physical abuse and neglect

Demons/Oppression

- We believe that the Christian does not have the evil lodged in their spirit as this is made new in the new birth, but the mind and body still need to be renewed after we are saved and this is where demons are often hidden.
 - Paul's prayer for the church in Thessalonica is that it would become completely sanctified in "body, soul and spirit."
1 Thes. 5:23.
- Having a demon influence you or inhabit you does not mean you are bad.
 - It means there is some reason it is there
 - The Holy Spirit can reveal why
 - Through prayer the open door can be closed
 - The demons will no longer want to be there and they will very easily be told to leave without a fight.

Demons/Oppression

- Demons actually are not the real problem, they are an attachment or symptom that can reveal there is a problem.
- Once we are wise to their ways and how to find them and the prayers necessary to apply that freedom which Jesus purchased for us, the demons will want to leave.
- We have been given authority in Christ to command demons to leave and when we know our authority we can easily deal with demons without them manifesting.
- Many stories have been told and movies made about Christians battling demons in deliverance battles.
 - This is not necessary and does not happen when the demons are separated out, bound and set aside during the prayer session until the legal ground is revealed by the Lord. Then after prayer, the demons will easily leave without harming anyone or anything.

Demons/Oppression

- You may never encounter a demon that manifests as they really do not want to be found.
- On the other hand, you may have encountered demons and not realized it, but now you have been made aware of it. Such as someone who is full of Road Rage.
- Another example can be when someone says, “I did not even want to do that or intend to do that – It is like something came over me and took over. “

Demons/Oppression

- The truth is demons don't manifest in us unless we are agreeing with and participating with them and they try to stay hidden.
 - Like if we get angry and they then release their rage through us. We often think it is us and our own thoughts – that is part of their deceptions.
 - Demons speak in first person like, “I am just such a hopeless failure, I might as well give up.” This is why it is so difficult to recognize them.
 - They offer you a “reason” and you think it is your own thought and choose to believe and agree with it.
 - This is why the Scripture tells us to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ.

Demons – We have authority.

- Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

Mark 6:7

- I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10:19

Demons leave – no fight

- Once the legal ground has been removed (found and repented of) demons can easily be removed without a fight.
- Knowing your authority, giving them commands not to manifest, and removing the legal ground leads to respectful deliverance.
- Often you can do self-deliverance.

Demons – We have authority.

- **"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. John 17:20 – 22**
- **Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:11-12**

Cast out the Demons

- 1. Make sure the demon's house is thoroughly dismantled and his anchors completely pulled up by praying through the above prayers. If the demon does not come out, go back to the above prayers - something has been missed.
- Ask God what has been missed and honor what flows back in response.
- 2. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce and break all agreements with the demons (strong holds) of _____, _____, etc.
- 3. I take authority over the demons (strongholds) of _____ and I bind you and command you to leave me now in
• the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ go directly to Him for His judgment.

An Important Note about Free Will

- Perhaps the most precious creation gift that God gave to mankind was free will. The fact that man used his free will to turn his back on the God who had made him (sin) did not cause God to take away man's freedom to choose.
 - God does not want to have relationships with people who are compelled to relate to him, whether they like it or not.
 - He gave us free will to choose whom we should relate with and how we should spend our lives.

An Important Note about Free Will

- The fact that man used his free will to turn his back on the God who had made him (sin) did not cause God to take away man's freedom to choose.
 - His desire is that we should choose to re-enter the covenant relationship with Him, which was destroyed by sin, through faith in Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection.
 - We are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and, among many other things, that must mean we should have the same attitude towards others that God has towards us.
 - We must respect the free will of others and choose NOT to dominate or control them against their will. To do so runs directly contrary to God's creation ordinance and is in direct rebellion against God's plans and purposes for mankind.