

Heart to Heart

*Bringing our hearts to Him,
Receiving His Heart for us!*

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Escape from Hell](#)**

This is the story that should never have happened. Now it is a story that has to be told!

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Dear,

Some things just happen--but never without significance, if we can commit to listening and learning. Recently, a very beloved pet of some very beloved family members entered into a terminal condition, lost all quality of life and began suffering significantly. The end was only a day or two away and that delay would have greatly increased the suffering. The decision--I believe the correct one--was made to put the animal out of her misery, but it was a hard decision to make and a difficult process to walk through as they sought to do the right thing by their pet. It did not put the pet's owners out of their misery, however, since such a loss can be very hard to bear. Even so, I firmly believe that it is better to walk towards grief than run from it, in this case by needlessly trying to prolong the inevitable.

The question seemed to naturally surface as to ***why euthanasia is OK for pets, since it is so wrong for people?*** It is a great question and it led me into some thoughts you might find very interesting!

See what you think--in the next article.

On the Euthanasia of Pets

This could explain some things...

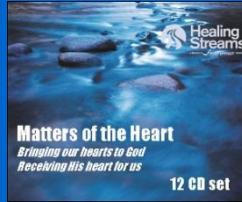
One of the places our hearts get entangled is in the lives of our favorite animals. ***Loving always sets us up for experiencing pain.*** No, I'm not being cynical, just playing the odds--especially where pets are concerned. Since we out live them, we are bound to suffer loss and perhaps, even face some very difficult choices. I hope these thoughts will help you.

Many people are genuinely troubled over the decision to put a much loved animal "to sleep." I honestly think this must be a fairly modern problem.

Consider what it must have been like for the vast multitude who once lived on farms: the cycle of life and death was always playing out before their eyes by natural rhythm and in mass quantities. Old age

Joyce fought Lupus and and abuse and won.

Resources



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Featured Video



Mercy of the Son with
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took many animals. At other times they had to put an animal down that got injured. Often enough they slaughtered animals for their own food-- and thought little of it except how good it tasted. In addition to these considerations all animals had a utilitarian function and, though they may have been loved, they were also used and were expected to "earn their keep." How different it is for people who have grown up far removed from seeing death as a normal and regular occurrence for animals and for whom the pet is not so much servant as family member. (If you actually grew up on a farm, let me know how close this comes.)

This change surely makes it difficult for moderns to choose euthanasia rather than extensive and expensive medical care at the end of a pet's life. But I suspect that a very significant boundary line becomes blurred--***pets are not people.***

Animals seem so much like us that we seem to be one of them: they have personalities; they can communicate; they have feelings; they seem to have thoughts or ideas that they pursue; they can feel pain; some seem to grieve; they can learn; some have an elementary language. Of course there are scientists who don't credit any of this to animals, but then behavioral psychologists don't credit much of it to the rest of us either.

But don't let the similarities fool you! There is a huge qualitative difference between people and animals. We have an opposable thumb (making us "handy" with tools) and a rational soul (enabling us to think logically). This much can be seen without Biblical revelation, but ***the Bible shows us a great gulf that separates us from animals.*** We are actually the crown of creation and hold a very unique position.

- 1) God created people in His image.** Animals as all of creation reflects aspects of His character--His "personality" is stamped upon His creation, but only we bear His image.
- 2) God gave us dominion over the animals** and made us stewards of the whole of creation--hence, we are rightly called the crown (authority) of creation. This isn't species pride; it is Reality.
- 3) Jesus died for people, not animals.** This shows the significance of human lives to the Lord and also reveals that we are the source of what is wrong in all of creation. Again we see by this that people are qualitatively different, even if part of that difference is our fallen-ness!

Putting this together we see as Christians that people live the whole of their lives in a process of being redeemed back into the relationship with God that we had fallen out of. ***The new birth only begins this process of redemption.*** Therefore the end of a person's life is hugely significant as an opportunity for them to grow spiritually into a relationship with God if they don't have one--by calling on His name under the duress of suffering and approaching death; It also gives Christians an opportunity to draw closer, to surrender up more of what they have withheld from Him, to open themselves wider to receive His life and love under the same conditions.

It is certainly hard for us to see it at times, but even the most difficult of deaths can be an opportunity for spiritual growth and redemption. ***Such suffering is not caused by God!*** But He can and will use anything that we offer to Him to help us to grow into our true personhood. ***For fallen humanity suffering always holds the possibility of becoming redemptive*** in every moment of our life and especially at the end of life--provided that by grace through faith we give what we are going through to God in trust and obedience.

The truly merciful thing for people to do who love the one who is

suffering is to lift as much suffering as possible and commit the person to God for the rest of whatever He may seek to do. We simply cannot see God's dealings deep in the spirit of a person, but God will not allow human suffering to be meaningless for those who put their hope in Him (Romans 8:28). **Euthanasia is a horrible idea for people**, because it robs God as well as the ones facing death of the hope of a redemptive passage through their suffering. For some people this could mean the difference between eternity in heaven or hell. I have seen many people finally open to God on their deathbed.

However with animals it is very different. They are not fallen creatures as we are and therefore they live the entirety of their lives connected to God by the Spirit in ways that He sustains. There is absolutely no need for them to be redeemed and therefore **suffering for animals has no redemptive benefit** at any time in their lives. Spiritual growth is as impossible as it is unnecessary.

For us to prolong the suffering of an animal that cannot be restored to a healthy, pain-free physical life is to raise the question, who are we doing this for? For the animal, or for ourselves? To relieve the pain we will feel over the loss of an animal by unnecessarily prolonging *their* suffering is surely a selfish decision on our part. This is why **euthanasia is a mercy for relieving the suffering of animals** as they approach death. How much suffering warrants it? Seek the Lord and let Him lead, but let's make sure it is for the animal's sake that we are asking the question.

OK, these are my thoughts--let me hear from you!

Change of Dates!

We have had to shift the date on our September Freedom Weekend due to a writing assignment (see next article). **The next weekend will begin on Friday night September 23rd at 7PM.** It continues on Saturday and Sunday from 9-5 both days and only costs \$50.00 which includes the 170 page workbook. If you are interested or know someone who could benefit please give us a call: 912-355-3532 or send us an email: info@healingstreamsusa.org.

From We to Thee

We are at it again!

Eunice and I will be heading up to the mountains again in **September--from the 8th to the 20th**--to give me time to write the second half of "the book that no one will believe, but I'm going to write it anyway." At least that is what I used to call it and in that frame of mind I went up to Cashiers, NC last month grousing on the inside, "Who's going to want to read this?" But after an incredible time in the Lord, I came back down the mountain, practically shouting in my spirit, "This could become a best seller!" Check out the Preface posted on [our website's Blog](#).



The working title is **Escape from Hell: The Adventures of a Modern Simpleton**. What came out of me has the feel of a comical romp through 60's counter culture, an expose of the dark side of the force,

and an action-adventure journey into a lost world--and back again: a cross between *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Dante's Inferno*. Insanity is scary crazy while you are going through it, but partakes of the absurd on the other side of healing. I was surprised by the amount of humor that kept rolling onto the pages. Best of all, I am certain that ***this is a story that will help many find hope for healing!***

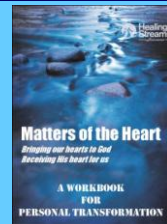
Please pray for this time coming up! I literally felt lifted up by your prayers into a place with the writing that I have rarely found before. One Irish friend had prayed for "***holy ease***" which described the flow of writing perfectly. So many emailed me to say they were praying. I'm here to tell you that ***this is a project worth praying for!***

I am looking for the Lord to use this book in a mighty way to ***rip the covering off spiritual darkness*** and give the Kingdom great advance especially into the realm of mental health. What the world offers through psychiatry and psychology CANNOT compare with the Lord's excellence at healing broken minds and hearts. I know. I was there. Now I have a story to tell--***pray that God will bring it forth!***

Steve and Eunice

Truths with Traction!

A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are "**truths with traction,**" guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with. All it takes is a small investment your time and treasure to have so many secrets of the heart opened to your understanding. In our seminars it is a constant thrill to see "**the lights go on**" for the students. Now you can have the seminar experience in the comfort of your own home! How can you resist?



Our Price: \$17.50

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Healings Streams is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping people find peace and freedom from troubling issues of the emotional life. Such deep roots often become the source for a host of stress related diseases, psychological disorders and addictions. Even so, our goal for people is not just escape from emotional stress and its consequences, but full entry into true Kingdom living--plunging into the river of Peace that flows all around us from the throne of Grace. ***Let's all jump in!***

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

Healing Streams Ministry

A branch of Forerunner Ministries, Inc.