

Heart to Heart

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

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

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What emotional stress does to your body.

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A life lesson learned on a Honduran road.

[A Warrior's Heart](#)
Joyce fought Lupus and and abuse and won.

Resources

Dear Steve,

I suppose there are people for whom the question of why God allows suffering is an academic one. But for me it was life and death. I had to get some understanding-or die trying! For a quick survey of the major issues of why suffering is allowed and how God works out His justice without recourse to punishment please link over to our Healing Lesson #2: [Truth or Consequences](#).

*This message is closely related-it deals with **the ongoing operations of the curse and God's redemptive work to overturn it**. I have noticed that people can be so astounded by how good the things are that God brings out of an evil happening, that they are tempted to think that the evil itself and the suffering it caused were part of God's plan all along. **God NEVER causes evil, instigates evil, or needs evil to accomplish His purpose and plans!** I will write at a later time about how it is that God can actually bring good out of evil. For now let's assume without question that He can do what He says.*

The Curse and God's Redemptive Work

This could get a bit tricky...

Can you agree with this statement?

God would surely much rather work creatively *through* us than redemptively *for* us.

The promise of Romans 8:28 ("all things work together for good") is a redemptive promise. It is only necessary because the enemy continues to cause evil to happen as he works against us.

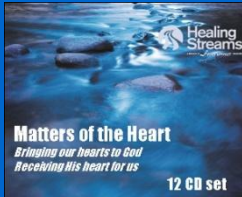
Working "creatively" means there is no sin on our part requiring repentance which has to be forgiven and redeemed--we are being led by the Spirit into life as the Father works in us and through us to accomplish His good purposes. This is Christian life as it is meant to be lived!

Working "redemptively" means that the enemy has brought the curse (usually through our sinful cooperation) and now it has to be overturned for the sake of the redeemed and their ultimate salvation, sanctification and glorification. It "has to be overturned" because God wants His redeemed blessed and not cursed. The curse is simply the opposite of blessing in any area of life you can name or imagine. This is Christian life as it is so often experienced.

How is it that the curse comes to us under the New Covenant?

(Let's leave aside for the time being the potentially thorny issue of Old Covenant curse and blessing-and consider only the new and better covenant He has made with us. There is a difference!)

1) Sinful choices of thought, word or deed, attitude, desire or



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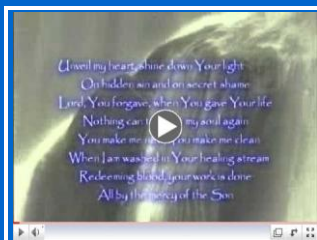
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motivation.

2) Ungodly beliefs held deep in the heart-beyond conscious choice (until revealed by the Spirit to us). They exert pressure and influence.

3) Passivity before the enemy-not resisting the enemy when he seeks to bring sin, sickness, poverty or defeat upon us.

4) Rebellion against the leadership of the Lord-not submitting and committing to Him in all things. This effectively robs us of peace and joy for starters.

5) All of these give the enemy the right to bring the curse upon us. **The curse is the negative consequences of sinful choices we make in a real world.** The curse is sin's consequence. Sin brings us under the enemy's power, under his rule and dominion. He who trips us up (by deception and temptation) doesn't hesitate to clobber us with the curse of the law he encourages us to break!

Why is it that the curse never comes to us from God under the New Covenant?

1) God hates both sin and sin's consequence-the curse. The Old Covenant proved that we cannot avoid either sin or the curse in our own power. Something had to be done.

2) We have been freely justified by the blood of Jesus under the New Covenant. God is not holding any sin against us-every imaginable sin has already been atoned for. **There is absolutely no need for anyone to be punished with the curse of the law to satisfy God's justice.** His justice and wrath have already been satisfied fully by the Blood of His Son. Meditate on this. This is HUGE.

4) The free will issue means that as long as we turn to Him, call on His Name, desire His salvation, salvation is offered to us. It cannot be received by the one who doesn't want it. Nevertheless **our Loving Father wants everyone one of us to get the full benefit of what He had Jesus do on our behalf.**

5) For those of us who already have saving faith, the moment we recognize any sin or the curse caused consequence of any sin and turn to Him to begin to be rescued and restored from it, we are immediately able to receive all that comes with our new status as justified believers. Nothing is withheld. **God has no desire to punish us, no need to punish us.**

6) God has justified us freely (Romans 3:25). He has declared us sinless-not guilty-and given us the status of already being a fully restored child through Jesus Christ with full favor and full inheritance. **We are set free from the curse of the law**-even though we continue to break it as imperfect believers. Jesus became the curse for us and ended its application by God to us.

7) God does not need the curse (and curse caused suffering) to grow us or He would have kept it in His power to put the curse upon us. His preferred way of growing us is by the revelation of Jesus Christ and by His Word, or in other words, by His Spirit and by belief in the Truth.

8) Therefore it is never God under the New Covenant who sends sickness or disease, poverty or defeat, or sinful states of any kind (He has not given us a spirit of fear or of bondage). God does not tempt us. God does not put the curse of the law upon us.

9) The enemy tempts us and then seeks to put the curse of the law upon us whenever we give way to temptation. God restrains a lot that the enemy would curse us with, but has to allow some of it-since the curse is the rightful consequence of our own sins. Were He to do otherwise He would be violating both our free will and His justice (the laws by which both the moral and physical universe function). Another way of seeing this is that Jesus death removed the punishment for the curse, but not its natural consequences.

Why it is necessary for God to work redemptively?

1) If we could avoid both sin and the curse, there would be only one thing left that needs to be redeemed-the unrighteous attack of the enemy against those who walk in true righteousness. ***This is what Jesus suffered-He suffered because of doing right.*** This was redeemed for Him through the cross or, rather, on the other side of the cross as God overturned the evil done against His sinless Son and raised Him to the highest place.

2) Much of the evil of the curse the enemy brings against us is "righteous" evil in that it is the "natural" consequence sin. ***We mostly suffer because of doing wrong.***

3) Because so much of what we actually offer to God is our sins, our consequences, our weaknesses and failures, God takes the offering and works with it for our good. But He doesn't need it to grow us. He could grow us a whole lot better if we would heed His Word and let Him work through us (through faith and trust) as fully as He desires. I would take His "creative" working over having to experience His redemptive working every time. But ***since I can't stop falling short, I am tremendously grateful for His powers of redemption!***

Mediate on these New Covenant truths:

1) God has never wanted any of us to be sick (or defeated by the enemy in any way). He has never sent sickness to us or wanted us to remain sick-whenver by our own sin or the enemy's sins against us the sickness was allowed by God to take place.

2) God wants us well! In every moment of our times of sickness, God is hating it and is present with us, ready and willing to remove it. Jesus healed everyone brought to Him! He is the same yesterday, today, forever. He desires above all else that we be in health and prosper-body, soul and spirit.

3) Sickness is the enemy's work in us: it can come to us through our own temptation, sin, curse and consequences or is present in our world due to the sins of others. See our Healing Lesson #1: [The Spiritual Roots of Disease](#).

4) God has given us authority and power to heal sickness. He has committed this work to us. This has "limited" His sovereign use of His own power, but has not altered His desire to see all of us healed. Eventually the Lord worked through medical science to reveal the cure for small pox-He has given great powers to us in the natural realm and has chosen to work through us as we learn to access knowledge. Our powers in the spiritual realm are even greater. However, we may still be just as ignorant as medieval doctors were regarding their field of operation.

5) We are to resist the devil and drive him out. Passivity allows the devil great inroads. Satan will always try to find a reason or a line of reasoning to make the curse stick to us, especially by getting us to agree with its right to be stuck to us in our own minds.

6) The curse has no right to remain-we have been justified freely by His blood.

So take heart! Perhaps you are dealing with some aspect of the curse, even some well deserved consequences of your own sins. God is still "on your side" wanting to help you get entirely free of the curse and its consequences. ***He punished Jesus and has no desire or need to punish you!*** Surrender and submit fully to Him and then look with confidence to His leadership. He intends for us to press in to gain "glorious liberty" and experience complete redemption. The sky isn't even the limit.

Has this blessed you? Has it clarified some issues? Or raised others? Let me hear from you!

What is the Problem?

We all know there is a problem, but it's not what you might think...

The problem is

Not you
Not God
Not others
Not the world
Not your flesh
Not the devil
Not your sin
Not your past
Not your circumstances
Not your weaknesses
Not your 'personality'
Not your addiction

The problem is the "disconnect." The problem is what you choose to believe in your heart of hearts about yourself, your God, and your world. Believing the truth will always work to set you free. ***Believing a lie, any lie, will always work to destroy you.*** That's the disconnect--believing some version of the enemy's lies as if they were the truth. It will disconnect you from peace and joy and the power of the Holy Spirit as quickly as pulling the plug on an electric drill.

What you choose to believe determines:

- **Your immediate and future emotional state** (your inner world). Realize this truth: your present emotional state is built upon your past beliefs; your future emotional responses can be built upon your new beliefs.
- **Your level of contact with REALITY** (others, all of creation, God--your outer life).
- **Your consequences.** You are not the only player: God, the devil and all of creation are responding to choices you make based upon what you deep down believe.

Live in the full Son-shine of your Father's Heart of Love!

Begin your day by awakening to the full glory of His love (see Healing Lesson #10: [The Father's Love](#)).

Your Father is always and in every moment:

- Loving you with a full heart of affection
- Forgiving you with an abundance of mercy
- Eager and able to help and save you
- Making great, good plans for you to enter into
- Making everything in your past and present work for your good

Who is in the driver's seat when it comes to your emotional state? **You are!** He has given us the power to choose life or death. What we choose to believe in our heart of hearts will either produce life or death in us. (see [Negative Emotions](#)) That is surely why He tells us in Proverbs 4:23:

Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life.

From We to Thee

We are at it again!



The Book. *Rescued from Hell* is so close to being finished! All of the writing is done. Now begins the rewriting. Eventually, I hope to find an editor and that may mean even more revisions. Nevertheless the vision itself is more clear than ever: this is a story of Descent into hellishness, Rescue, and Return to "normal" living.

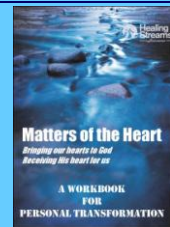
From my perspective the Return is just as unbelievable as the other 2 parts. I'm the guy who once got in the Lord's face demanding to know if He had EVER brought someone back from the place of deep insanity he had allowed me to experience. I guess I forgot about the Gadarene demoniac. It was a temporary loss of memory and a definite lack of good manners, but He is an amazing lover of us as we are. I want to grow up and be like Him one day, don't you?

Thank you for your prayers for the project and God bless,

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?



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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

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